

Glyde-In Annual Report from the Chairperson 2023-24

“I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, Fremantle (Walyalup). We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters, and community.”

I welcome the Mayor of the Town of East Fremantle, Jim O'Neill, and thank him for attending here today. Councillor Cliff Collinson, our Council representative to the Glyde-In management committee, has sent his apology, as he is unable to attend today.

I welcome Jane Harwood, from Linkwest, and thank her for agreeing to act as our returning officer later today. I also acknowledge and thank Linkwest for the great information, advice and support provided to us throughout this year.

It is hard to believe that 12 months has passed since Gordon MacNish stepped down, and I stepped up as Chairperson of the Glyde-In Management Committee. Fortunately, the disruption and drama caused by COVID in 2021, 2022 and into 2023 is well behind us. I am pleased to report that in 2023–24, the Glyde-In is again a busy and vibrant not-for-profit organisation. Happily, we continue to deliver on our vision to enhance quality of life and reduce social isolation in the community through lifelong learning.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the importance of the support we receive from the Town of East Fremantle (TOEF). Since our beginnings in the 1970s, the Council has been a good friend, supporting the Glyde-In journey to become a stable and vibrant community learning centre. The TOEF continues to provide us a secure and comfortable premises at low cost. Over many years Council staff and Councillors have shared their knowledge and experience to help us mature and grow into a welcoming, inclusive and professional community learning centre. We are grateful that the Council continues to contribute to our sustainability through a 3 year funding agreement. On a practical note, this year we worked with the Council to replace the dilapidated asbestos boundary fence. This was a big project for both the Council and the many hard-working volunteers that made it happen. We are truly lucky and grateful to have such a supportive Council. Thank you to the Town of East Fremantle.

This centre recognises that our community is very diverse, so our program aims to be as inclusive and welcoming as possible. Hence, we work very hard to offer a wide range of activities. We produce a new term program every 10 weeks or so, for 4 terms across the year plus a Summer School. Each new program is a mix of ongoing courses, and new activities aimed at showcasing new ideas, skills or activities.

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As this is an annual report, I invite you to reflect on the scope and diversity of our program and how it has been delivered this year:

Speakers Unlimited – our expert and topical speakers share thought provoking, inspiring and colourful knowledge, based on their own expertise, experience and research. They give voice to the many issues, challenges and joys happening all around us.

Not So Trivial Pursuits – focuses on developing deeper knowledge or mastering skills such as ukulele, singing in harmony, creative writing or philosophy.

Mind and Body – teaching ancient or contemporary forms of mind and body coordination or general wellness. This year has included Tai Chi, meditation, yoga, Alexander technique, Biodanza and sound healing.

By Hand – an ever-changing program of creative arts and crafts; everything from Japanese floral art, watercolour painting, mosaics, outback in pastels and alcohol ink painting. We all delight in seeing the joy that comes from these creative groups.

Languages – currently Spanish, French, Italian and Latin are taught at beginner to advanced levels and remain popular.

Computers and Technology – covers a wide range of guidance about how to operate in our electronic world, presented in small highly interactive classes. Topics include using apple or android devices, making photo books, WhatsApp, using Google maps and e-Safety. Also, individual “help desk” sessions are available.

Culture Club – offers discounted group bookings to live theatre, concerts, ballet and symphony performances. This provides opportunities to access live performance with the comfort and safety of fellow Glyde-In participants.

Out & About – is an ever popular program of group excursions to interesting or beautiful destinations near and far, some by bus and some meeting there. This program is run by an extremely energetic and creative group of dedicated volunteers who continually surprise us with great places to visit. The camaraderie and enjoyment generated through the Out & About program is a delight to see.

Our summer school, held over two weeks in January, continues to be popular; in January 2024 there were 583 enrolments across 25 courses.

In addition to the term program, we have a range of ongoing group activities, generally run by volunteers. There are groups or clubs such as walking, cycling, quilting, book club, choir, Mahjong and Scrabble.

We have a lovely garden and a very active gardening group who grow and nurture gorgeous plants. Anyone who wants to develop their green thumb and assist with preparing plants for sale will be warmly welcomed.

Snapshot of Key Outcomes July 1 2023 to June 30 2024:

4,306 course enrolments; increased by 300 enrolments from 2022-23

264 different courses: increased by 5 courses from 2022-23

140 new members; increased by 16 new members 2022-23

While membership varies as a reflection of programming it has been stable at around 600 members for the last two years.

This year approximately 100 speakers and tutors helped facilitate the learning program. They come from all walks of life, from many parts of the world; some are just passing by and come once, many return year after year. However, they all share a deep knowledge of their topic or skill, and a passion to pass their knowledge to our members. I extend our heartfelt thanks to all our speakers and tutors who work so diligently to provide our learning content and look forward to their contributions in the future.

The Glyde-In in has two part-time paid staff. Jacqui Reeves, our high achieving Coordinator, works 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday. Celine Brun, who joined us last year, is our much-valued Assistant Coordinator and works 3 days per week, Monday to Wednesday. Office hours are 9am to 3pm but activities at the centre consistently extend to evenings and weekends. Glyde-In has a small number of contracted services including a bookkeeper and cleaner. Sadly, we recently thanked and farewelled Lesley Cotter, our cleaner for the last 7 years. I thank all staff and contractors for their great work this year and look forward to their continuing contribution.

The Glyde-In has around 60 volunteers who generously give their time and experience in a multitude of ways. We could not maintain our diverse program of activities without them. As already mentioned, volunteers lead many of our ongoing groups or clubs. In addition, the Glyde-In is honoured to have wonderful people who donate their time to do important things like cooking sumptuous food for events and fundraising, assisting with promotions and publications, providing technical support for IT systems, organising books for sale, undertaking building and equipment maintenance, working to maintain the garden and our plant and jam sales, setting up and packing down for classes and events, and managing working bees for specific projects. Each year we host a volunteers Christmas party, in 2023 this included a fabulous sing-along with the Glyde-In Choir and ukulele group. Last May, we hosted a splendid afternoon tea to honour our volunteers during the official Volunteers Week. On behalf of the Management Committee, I thank all our volunteers for their contribution in 2023-24.

I recently asked Jacqui and Celine to share their view of some of the year's highlights:

- Out and About street art walks in Fremantle and Perth, and heritage walks through out Fremantle and East Fremantle
- James Cameron Deep Ocean Exhibition at the Maritime Museum. Who knew that living creatures could look like that?
- Cliffs and kayak tour on the Swan River.
- Jafar's talks on Palestine, providing a perspective of the current conflict which doesn't tend to be shared in mainstream media.
- Friday Glyder participants were buzzing about the beautiful spots they found in the suburbs that they didn't know about.
- Hans Hug's Classical Music series got rave reviews!
- Digby's Voices in Harmony Summer School was superb.
- New language teachers – Gavin as an additional Italian teacher and Anne-Marie, who is volunteering her time for conversational French on Fridays. Both are great additions to the language and culture groups.
- The reintroduction of Latin and the dedication of a small group of students continuing to learn with Ruperto.
- The Scottish Stramash - bringing Scottish music and food and a picnic in the park to the program, along with Scottish folk dancing.
- Various talks and activities related to native birds including a screening of Black Cockatoo Crisis and a trip to Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Centre
- The popularity of the sound healing meditation sessions with Sian - we have had really great feedback from participants.

The 2023/24 Management Committee had 12 members; Jane Vallance – Chairperson, Julie Robertson - Vice Chairperson, Mal Christison – Secretary, Kerry Donovan – Treasurer and general members Gordon MacNish, Jono Farmer, Rod Harris, Terry Mercer, Vivica Rains, Robert Potts, Bronwen St John-Stevens and Barry Ross. I thank our Committee members for sharing their talents, wisdom and experience throughout the year. Robert Potts, Vivica Rains, Rod Harris are retiring so I offer a very special thanks to them and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

The Committee established a small working group to take on the task of reviewing the 2017 Glyde-In Rules of Association or constitution. This matter will be addressed in Item 9 of this agenda.

This year our Committee completed senior first aid training together which gave us an entirely different perspective of one another as we bandaged arms and legs or applied CPR. It is a great skill to have when we are around the centre, and it certainly drew us closer as a group.

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Another highlight for the Committee was the great number of members who participated in the Murdoch University Lamb Tasting fundraising initiative for the second year in a row. This raised valuable funds and I thank all those who gave up their Saturday morning to support it.

We have many smaller ongoing fundraising projects such as sale of plants, jams and pickles, cakes and biscuits, books and Containers for Change recycling. These activities may seem small but the benefits are substantial. I want to thank all our volunteers who generously give their time for fundraising projects. This year I wrote about a possible fundraiser afternoon tea musical event. Unfortunately, there were some hurdles, however, shortly we will send members an invitation to a ukulele singalong high-tea planned for Sunday 3rd November.

Lastly, it has been an honour and privilege to serve as the Glyde-In Chairperson this year. I have certainly learned a lot about how much grit and dedication it takes to keep an organisation like this running smoothly. The very best thing about the Glyde-In is all our wonderful members who continue to show their approval and appreciation by participating and volunteering to support us. I wish the Glyde-In every success in the coming year.

Jane Vallance

Chairperson 2024

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