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Community Learning Centre (Inc.)

THE GLYDER - A NEWSLETTER February 2020

Dear Glyder

Welcome the first edition of The Glyder. for 2020. We hope you enjoy it. In this issue:

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Enrolment Day

Last Wednesday saw another hectic enrolment morning. Although you can book online, it really was a case of the early bird catching the worm. Saturday morning yoga, for instance, booked out within the first 30 minutes. The Middle East is obviously something we are all trying to understand and all three talks on this subject were booked out. We have arranged a second talk on Palestine/Israel. The new enrolment forms certainly made it easier for the volunteers doing the enrolments, especially when kind people had highlighted their choices! It really is a very sociable and pleasant morning chatting with members old and new. A total of 383 people made 953 enrolments and we signed up 50 new members.

Our Out and About trips fill quickly (especially the trip to the Buddhist temple), but there are still vacancies for the Koombana Bay dolphins and the Bassendean Train Museum.

For something more for the mind, try Ruperto's spiritual exploration of Gnosticism, from the word Gnostic, meaning knowledge. Storytelling for Grandies still has spots, as does The Keys to Spelling. Some computer course are still available.



Kerry and Jono in front of our new yellow door.

Summer School

Our Summer School programme for January 2020 was our most successful yet. We had hoped for income of \$10,000 but instead we took \$14,000! A range of activities and courses was on offer and 522 students booked into 27 courses. Forensics, Russian history, health, French, Spanish, Cartoons, Portraiture and our Out and About cruises were all booked out. Since Summer School was initiated 4 years ago, it has gone from strength to strength, indicating no-one wants a rest from the Glyde-In over the summer holidays!

Healing the River Excursion

Congratulations to Terry Mercer who receives a \$30 discount off Glyde-In courses for this contribution . We offer this discount to the best report submitted for each newsletter.

After a short drive in the bus, ably driven by John Cardew, the Glyde-In group was met by Margaret Matassa at Troy Park in Alfred Cove. Margaret is President of the Swan Estuary Reserve Action Group Inc., a volunteer organisation dedicated to improving the foreshore in the Swan Estuary Marine Park and specifically in three ecologically important areas: Alfred Cove in Melville, Pelican Point in Crawley and Milyu in South Perth. This latter area is not being worked on at the moment due to roadworks on the freeway close to the Narrows.

Margaret and two other volunteer helpers took us first to a viewing platform close to Troy Park and explained how invasive weed species have been affecting the native coastal vegetation and showed us examples of remediation work that has allowed samphire and other plants essential to the health of the mudflats and coastal sand banks to return and thrive. This then benefits bird and water wildlife and creates a healthy river and coastal area which allows

local and migratory birds to populate the edge of the river once again.

We walked to other locations in the vicinity of Troy Park before boarding the bus to view work carried out by volunteers at the head of Alfred Cove and then on to Tompkins Park where a big surprise awaited us. Here were more volunteers with tables and chairs set out and drinks, sushi rolls and scrumptious cakes laid on for us.

After a pleasant interlude Margaret took us along the foreshore of Tompkins Park where we saw both good work completed and problems caused by non native bullrushes and Eastern States Sheoak trees which both form mono-culture areas, not allowing local WA species to thrive.

The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group (SERAG) is a community-minded organisation whose work benefits the whole area and population surrounding the river. They are actively seeking members, not just to assist with the practical work, but simply to have a bigger group to provide support when they apply for grants and funding. Membership is extremely reasonable at \$5 per year and even cheaper for concession holders. <http://www.swanestuaryreserves.org.au/>



A big thank you to Margaret and other members of SERAG for a most informative and enjoyable morning around our wonderful river.

Thanks Gordon

Our Monday cycle group is ably led by Gordon Whitmore. To thank him for his guidance throughout the year, in December the group presented him with a gift token and thank-you card. The group celebrated with breakfast cooked on the barbie at John Graham Reserve, near Woodman's Point.



Beginners' Ukelele

We had 18 people eager to learn the ukelele with our wonderfully patient teacher Shirley Guy. Each week we learnt new chords and new songs. After the first session we left with stinging fingers, unused to the strings. Shirley promised us the more we practised the less it would hurt! As it was approaching Christmas we learnt several Christmas carols and with the help of some tuneful singing you could even recognise the tunes! As we mastered basic chords we became more confident. The group atmosphere makes ukelele fun and as Shirley says, you can always just play the chords you know when they come up! Luckily the classes continue this year in term 1. So if you did the course last year or if you have a little experience there are still some places left.

Support for CARAD

You may have noticed our collection box for CARAD - the Coalition for Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Detainees. Glyde-In is a collection point for non-perishable food for these people who have no income source. Rice, lentils, tinned food, coffee, anything edible and non-perishable is very welcome. Support for Bushfire affected Communities Glyde-In has been collecting money for communities directly affected by the bushfires. The funds will go directly to those small Victorian rural communities devastated by the fires – Mallacoota, Bruthen, Orbost and others - through the East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses. **\$17, 695** has been raised.

Quilt Raffle

Our Glyde-In quilting group raffled one of their gorgeous quilts on Enrolment Day. The money raised is going towards wadding to make even more quilts to donate to people who've been so badly affected by the bushfires in East Gippsland. Our lucky and very happy winner was long-time member Frances Honig.



Volunteers

You may have noticed several new faces on our enrolment desks this term. Dina Cinquina and Fay Gerhard stepped in while several regulars were off overseas. Thanks to them both for a smooth transition and very satisfied customers. Regular volunteers Nell Shaw, Carolene Readman and Christine Roberts skived off into our south-west forests.

Kandy James and Barney Clarkson were volunteering at a residential school in Shanti Bhavan, India. They've been doing this for over a decade now, and Barney recently wrote to say: "All going well in India at our residential school for socially and economically deprived children. We are all into the swing of teaching and feel so welcomed that it is like coming home. An amazing feeling. Children all smiles and questions - younger kids growing and becoming more manageable each year. Our fellow volunteers are from Lithuania, Canada, Germany, Mexico, US and UK.

This year the volunteer support team has grown with the appointment of a Teaching Fellow (French) — and she is excellent — to match two On-Site Administrators from US and Portugal. They are tenacious at follow-thru and Google sheets, data analysis, Scope and Sequence records are keeping us on our toes. I've seen very few schools setting such high standards, it is amazing and challenging all at once!

Some Highlights of Term 4 and Summer School

