



Chair's Report

Financial Year 2019 -2020 has been an exciting and challenging time at the South Perth Learning Centre (Centre).

Last year you experienced a change in staffing after Valerie Wayland left the Centre after a great deal of effort towards the Centre. Her resignation brought a suit of new challenges for the Centre in finding her replacement. In January 2020, after two acting managers, we eventually appointed Danielle Desvaux as the Centre Coordinator. Previously one of the French Teachers at the Centre, Danielle has a great connection with the Centre and is proving to be a great fit for the position and longevity of the Centre. I would personally like to thank Stefanie Collette and Teresa Lukan, and all of the volunteers for assisting us through this transitory period, as well as our great Administration Officer Didi Mudigdo, who thankfully stuck with us through all of the changes. Didi and Danielle make a great team and the Centre is lucky to have such dedicated, creative and enthusiastic staff.

Through the COVID restrictions, the Centre was forced to close its doors, for Term 2. This forced us to be more agile and adapt quickly to providing new ways of learning. Danielle and Didi did not waste any time in setting up facilities for online learning, and on Government instruction in 'COVID-safe' classrooms, which saw some of our classes continue through the restrictions. However, regardless of our actions, the COVID epidemic had a significant effect on our financial situation but I will leave this for Alan our Treasure to discuss.

The Executive Committee was also challenged during this time, we moved to meeting via Zoom and unfortunately saw two of our E members step down from the Executive Committee due to competing external commitments, namely: Secretary, Eryn Dale and General Member, Annette Crabbe. I would like to thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm during their time on the Executive Committee.

Now I'll turn to the more exciting and positive news, In our perspective, the future of the Centre is promising and the Executive Committee are continually working hard to generate more long term success of the Centre. A few notable achievements over the last year include:

- The BeConnected grant award that enabled the Centre to loan out \$5000 worth of digital devices with internet, which assisted us in keeping the community, connected over the COVID period.
- Strategic recruitment of Curtin University students as volunteers, which is fostering cross-generational partnerships, providing professional experiences for the students whilst utilising the skills and knowledge that millennials hold to revitalise the Centre.
- The award of a Community Engagement Grant, which resulted in the installation of external window decals. These decals were designed by one of the Centre's Curtin University Volunteers – Pete Chuang and have made the Centre's appearance more visible and inviting.

- Obtaining new furniture in the Courtyard through a Department of Social Services Volunteers grant, which provides further opportunities for outdoor fellowship, learning and events.
- Providing First Aid Training for the Centre volunteers through a St John Ambulance Australia grant.
- Revising at the Centre's Constitution to ensure that it is fit for today's purposes.
- Yet to be published but, establishing a new Strategic Plan for the Centre, which sets out achievable and aspirational goals and visions for the Centre's future.
- Establishing new programmes, class models and ways of learning, and looking into possible collaborations with other community groups and not-for-profits to provide new learning opportunities for our members and provide support to other organisations within our Community.
- Further diversification of offerings to include Gardening, Reflexology and forms of Art Media.
- Securing another 5 year Lease with the City of South Perth to ensure that we can remain in our amazing location.
- Lastly, you may have also noticed that the Centre has been repainted and revitalised with some new décor.

Looking into FY 2020-2021, the Executive Committee and Management team will focus on strategy, and work towards establishing the Centre as one of the 'best adult learning centres in Western Australia' and in time, potentially one of the best in Australia. We are in a unique position in that we offer an incredible amount of variety to our members, but we have realised we need to do this more sustainably and profitably to ensure the longevity and future success of the Centre.

As part of this, we are continually seeking fresh perspectives on the Executive Committee through strategic recruitment of the Executive Committee positions. Excitingly today, we are nominating Lisa Anstis, as our new Secretary. Lisa is a retired Senior Federal Public Servant and ATO employee. She comes with a wealth of knowledge holding a Master of Business Administration, a Master of International Taxation, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Law and a Bachelor Degree in Business. Lisa also has experience in governance as past Treasure of the South Perth Historical Society and Cat Welfare Society and Chair roles at the Cat Welfare Society and currently the Peninsular Ladies Golf Club. We look forward to Lisa's contribution to the Executive Committee.

Also being re-nominated is Julie Bain, Janet Renner and Wayne Muller who are longstanding members and contributors on the Executive Committee. We are incredibly fortunate to retain their deep understanding and knowledge of the Centre within the organisation. The Executive Committee is constantly evolving and learning, but through all the changes and challenges, we keep the best interests of the Centre at the front of our minds and we will continue to work towards ensuring the Centre has a successful future. Personally, I would like to thank all of the current Executive Committee members for their commitment, dedication and contributions to the Centre over the past year and make a special mention to Cleve Main, the Deputy Chair who has supported the Executive Committee and myself immensely since taking on the Chair position.

To close my report, I, on behalf of the Executive Committee, would like to thank our incredible team of volunteers. The Centre's good works would not be possible without your efforts and commitment to the Centre. I am always amazed and so grateful when Danielle informs me of how much of your own time you dedicate to the Centre, how hard you all work and your continual willingness to do so. With the support of Danielle, Didi and yourselves – I know the Centre is in good hands.



Clementine Kohler
Executive Committee Chair
South Perth Learning Centre Inc.