

AVP WA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026



Upcoming Workshops

- Mar 17 – 19: Bunbury Regional Prison T4F
- Mar 24 – 26: Bunbury Regional Prison PRU Basic
- Mar 28 – 30: Acacia (Mainstream) Basic
- April 13 – 15: Wooroloo Prison Farm T4F
- April 21 – 23: Karnet Prison Farm T4F
- May 2 – 4: Acacia Prison (Mainstream) Basic
- May 11 – 13: Wooroloo Prison Farm Basic
- May 19 – 21: Albany Regional Prison Basic
- May 23 – 25: Acacia Prison (Mainstream) Advanced





 Date: Saturday 18 April

 Time: 10:30AM - 2:30PM

(10AM for Morning Tea)

 Location: Quakers Meeting House
35 Clifton Crescent, Mt Lawley

AVP Facilitator Day

AVP WA facilitators are warmly invited to come together for a Facilitators Day of connection, learning and reflection.

This will be an opportunity to catch up with fellow facilitators, share experiences and strengthen our facilitation practice. The day will include discussion, shared learning and time to reflect on our work with AVP workshops.

Featured session: Trauma-Informed Practice

Presented by Toni Tomlin, Registered Psychologist from Colour My World Therapy Services

This session will explore how trauma-informed approaches can support facilitators to create safer, more supportive workshop environments.

Topics will include:

- What trauma is and how it may affect behaviour and communication
- Key principles of trauma-informed practice
- Practical ways facilitators can apply these ideas in AVP workshops
- Creating environments that support safety, participation, and connection

RSVP:

Please RSVP to Selene at avp.wa1@gmail.com by 16 April, and include any special dietary requirements.

Bring a Friend Day and AGM

On Saturday 21st February, we held our annual Bring a Friend Day in Mount Lawley. We welcomed many of our current and past volunteers as well as a few newbies.

We looked at the importance of teams and feedback, processing workshop exercises, plus lots of fun, food and general sharing.

Being Chinese New Year, we donned a couple of dragon dress-ups, and in a very dragon-like way, we paraded around the room...accompanied by lots of laughter and singing of Puff the Magic Dragon.



On a slightly more serious note, we topped off the day with our AGM. Jo Vallentine once again acted as returning officer, and the following nominations were gratefully accepted.



Jim Thom (Chairperson)
Sue Mulholland (Deputy Chairperson)
Sallie Hosking (Secretary)
Collette Chesters (Treasurer)
Jacob Gunnink
Bheena Sewnarain
Selene Moonbeams

Sally Herzfeld who has served on the committee for many years, has decided to retire from her position on the committee. We all expressed our gratitude for Sally and all her contributions over the years. She will be greatly missed.

Acknowledgement of Country

This has been adapted from an article in Cultural Studies Review (September 2015) titled "Welcome to Country: Acknowledgement, Belonging and White Anti-racism" by Emma Kowal.

I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk Noongar people. I wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region.

I would like to also acknowledge our own ancestors and all the diverse places they were born in and journeyed to. I would like to acknowledge the injustices committed by many of our ancestors who journeyed to new lands, as well as the injustices that caused many to journey from their homes. I honour the courage it takes to make a new life in a new place, and to welcome newcomers.

I also acknowledge the ancestors that we share with others in this room, whether those shared ancestors are hundreds, thousands, or tens of thousands of years in the past.

I particularly acknowledge all of those, past and present, including our Indigenous communities, whose love of this land has made this a place we treasure and a country we all seek to nurture.

AVP WA GOING FORWARD SURVEY

Jim Thom

AVPWA is doing an awesome job at the moment and we would like this to continue into the future. To this end we circulated this survey in February to about 180 people associated with AVPWA. We had only 10 responses which is, in itself, significant information. We are all deluged with surveys these days but it reinforces the difficulty of reaching people.

I have summarised the responses for easier reading but if anyone would like the raw data please contact me jjathom@bigpond.com

Are we providing a worthwhile service? What could we do better?

All respondents believed that we are providing a worthwhile service. A few suggested that we could engage with academia to provide evidence based information of the value of our work. It was also suggested that we be more thorough with our follow up of workshop graduates.

How can we grow and better retain graduates of the T4F?

Most agreed that this is a difficult issue. Suggestions included listening to their hopes, motivations and fears soon after the T4F, re-instating our mentorship program, perhaps liaising with the Social Reinvestment group. Maybe have more facilitator days.

How can we do better succession planning?

Again a tricky one. Profiling for the appropriate audience, eg younger people. Head hunting those we think would do well. Have more people involved in roles outside of the committee.

How can we ensure our financial viability into the future?

Look for suitable donors and ask for bequests. Government funding was suggested but it was acknowledged that this might lead to them having some control over our content and delivery. Payments from the prisons could be considered but again this might lead to similar issues. We could develop a more professional marketing pack to help us seek support from business or academia.

Any other ideas or comments on the future of AVPWA?

There was agreement again that we are doing a good job and should perhaps celebrate more. It was suggested that a student could do a study on our long term viability. We could have an annual plan with clear goals and perhaps we should charge more for community workshops.

Many thanks to all who completed the survey. If anyone has any additional thoughts or ideas about funding, or any of the other issues raised in the survey, please let us know.

Editor's note

An AVP WA newsletter is published monthly. If you have any news, photos, inmate contributions or new things you've tried in workshops, please send them to our newsletter editor Selene.
selenemoonbeams@gmail.com

Need more information?

For details of upcoming workshops or facilitator days, to volunteer to help facilitate a workshop, or just to find out more about AVP, please contact our Coordinator Selene.
avp.wa1@gmail.com