

## Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

---

Last year I opened my report recalling that in 2001 I led a workshop for Glenside residents in which we identified the matters that were important to us and to our community. These were

- Getting to know the neighbours
- Making Glenside more visible, including the Glenside name
- Retaining and enhancing the character of Glenside
- Traffic safety and other safety issues.
- Educating people about the history of Glenside

In writing this report, I find that much of the volunteering we do crosses over these thematic areas and through these activities, we get to meet and know our neighbours.

#### **Visibility of Glenside – The Halfway House**

**Official Opening of the Halfway House** The opening was held on Sunday, 29 October, with a great turnout and 331 signing the guest book. MP Greg O'Connor was present as were the Richardson family, former occupants, who had flown in from Australia for the event. The Deputy Mayor Jill Day and I cut the ribbon in the opening ceremony. The Association hosted tours through the house with donations raised that will be put towards historic pictures for the public rooms. The Onslow Historic Society sold books and the Heritage Gardeners had a sales table from which they raised sufficient funds to buy nine heritage roses for the garden. I submitted a 28 page report to Joel De Boer at Wellington City Council comparing the 2017 and 2003 Open Days, which helped him to understand the community's desired future use of the house for the Council's lease. The lease is with Challenge 2000, who moved into the house in the first week of July.

**Board Games Night and Devonshire Tea** Two events were held in the house. The Board Games night was an initiative to get neighbours together, and was low key. It was great to have Cnr. Peter Gilberd call by during supper. The Devonshire Tea was held to thank donors and was well attended, with people travelling from as far afield as Waikanae. MP Greg O'Connor was present.

**Guest register** The guest register for the Halfway House records a total 508 guests (331 for the Open Day and 117 to the end of June 2018). The house has been made available to portfolio holders in the Association. However, the Council, Challenge 2000 and myself (for the Association) are working toward October to make the public rooms available to be booked by others. Many thanks to the Wellington City Council for making the house available for meetings. It has been greatly appreciated.

#### **Visibility of Glenside – Communications**

**Newsletters** The Association develops and distributes a regular newsletter by email and by hard copy for the letterbox drop. A total of seven hard copy newsletters were designed for distribution in July, August, October, November, March, April and June. This is two more than 2017. A total 200 newsletters are hand delivered to letterboxes, to ensure every household in Glenside receives one. Sincere thanks to Marg Ellis and Steve Rush for their support in the delivery of this

newsletter. The email newsletter is distributed by MailChimp and is a 'long version' enabling us to include more images and details about activities. Since our last AGM, I have designed the newsletter and maintained the email group. Due to low uptake I have been working to update the email distribution list and our best uptake was when 56 of the 76 recipients opened the June 2018 edition (74%).

**Website** Rex Johnson maintains the website from his home in Cromwell and we are very appreciative of his support, which he has provided since he launched the website in 2007. This year Rex asked the Association for ways to improve the website, and he has been implementing these ideas. Rex and I have found that people associate our Association so strongly with the Halfway House that they believe the address of the Association, is the address of the Halfway House. A new Facebook page has been created in Johnsonville, 'Johnsonville Memories Old Friends' and this has resulted in people directing others to our website to read its history pages.

**Facebook** The people following our *Glenside- The Halfway* Facebook page increased from 176 to 217 in the last year. It is great to see the interest from contractors working in our community, to the posts about the work that they doing, which widens our visibility and reach. Thanks to Marg Ellis who manages the Facebook page.

**Liaison Meetings** When possible, I attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville. This monthly meeting provide us with the opportunity to connect with our local MP's and Councillors, in addition to communicating our own activities to a wider group.

#### **Retain and enhance Glenside character - ecology**

**Glenside Restoration Group** Barry Blackett's leadership to re-vegetate the Stebbings Road streamside has transformed the stream banks - from the early plantings of the Glenside Streamcare Group at the dam - down to the bridge by the roundabout. He is well supported by Sabah Ahmad, Marg & Barry Ellis, the Bond family and the Bartlett family. We are deeply saddened by the passing of Niven Bartlett, who has been a loyal supporter in this project. Barry is organising a memorial stone for Niven on the Stebbings stream bank, with the support of resident Esther Kiernan, who is providing the rock, and Matt the Park Ranger.

**Old Mans Beard** Barry Blackett has been implementing his plan to eradicate Old Man's Beard in Glenside. He has eliminated many of the initial 45 sites (and others identified) that are accessible. He has been consulting with Kiwi Rail and Katrina Merrifield of Regional Council, both of whom have worked the rail corridor, and this will continue in 2018-2019. He says we will need to do regular monitoring for a few years. Many thanks to residents who give Barry access to their properties.

**Eels** Last year at the AGM, we welcomed Dr Don Jellyman, eel expert, as our guest speaker. He undertook a streamside visit and encouraged us to get a student to study our suburb on barriers to fish passages. We have yet to progress this work.

**Predator Free Trapping** This year Suzanne Hendry provided support in collating trapping tallies. From 1 January 2018 to end June 2018 the pest tally is Possums- 14, Rats- 68, Mice- 40, Hedgehog- 1. This project has high enthusiasm and participation but requires an outcomes focus so that we can measure what success means to us as individuals and collectively.

**Water Quality Monitoring** Liz Gibson of Mountains to the Sea trained myself, Barry Blackett, Marg Ellis and Donna Sherlock on water quality monitoring in Stebbings Stream. Barry, Marg and Donna have continued to participate in the programme, working in the Glenside Reserve stream.

### **Retain and enhance Glenside character – heritage**

**Heritage Gardeners** The Heritage Gardeners are in their fourth year of developing a colonial farm garden at the historic Halfway House and are grateful for the grants they have received to carry out some big projects.

The Mayoral grant enabled the purchase of eight totara trees to line the driveway. The wind-affected crab-apples were redistributed in the community. A grant from The Trusts Charitable Foundation enabled the large macrocarpa and gum tree to be felled and the dead branches of a lawson tree to be removed, making the garden safer. Park benches were purchased, which are currently being installed, and a rose arbour was built.

Thank you to the Heritage Gardeners, Sabah Ahmad, Patricia Apperly, Paul Bicknell, Joan Garman, Carolyn Lutter, Hazel Murphy, Lorna Webb, and myself, Claire Bibby. Thanks also to Matt Robertson, Park Ranger, Wellington City Council, who helps with difficult tasks, and the Association who look after the finances.

**Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council** The Association is now in its second year as a member of the Heritage Promotion Council and fully engaged in utilising their excellent newsletter to share information about heritage in our community. We had four articles published in the July 2017 to end June 2018 period. One article about Victorian Furnishings, and another about heritage dahlia, resulted in people donating items and plants for the house and garden.

**The Memorial to the unknown woman** – On the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 the Association hosted Joyce Brown and her son at the memorial in Glenside on the anniversary date of Bishop Selwyn's prayer over an early settler burial site he visited in this locality in 1842. Joyce believes the woman buried may be the wife of Adam Reid. Joyce has since published a family history and in it, she acknowledged our Association's work to protect the burial site and the memory of the woman.

**Heritage and archaeology in Upper Stebbings/Glenside West** Early in the year I supported Elizabeth Cox to research her Historic Heritage Study for the Upper Stebbings Valley and Glenside West area. This followed on from the first Structure Plan meeting held with Council representatives at Hannah's house. Her report has since been published as part of the Upper Stebbings – West Glenside structure plan.

### **Safety**

**Wellington North Community Patrols** There has been several changes of leadership for the community patrollers with Kerri Sargent, then Barry Williams and now Cheryl Austin, chairing the group. We were informed about a residential burglary, and a burglary at the Glenside Reserve sheds however this knowledge came from locals, not the community patrol. The shopping trolley man has been sleeping in our locality, and Wellington City Council undertook to locate him and assess his well-being. Thank you to Sabah Ahmad for volunteering on this patrol since its inception in 2007. Outstanding.

**Emergency Water Supply** The Association met with Council and contractors several times to manage the exploration for an emergency water supply. The first exploration, on the reserve on Middleton Road opposite the Needham's, did not produce results. The second exploration, in the horse paddocks at Glenside Reserve did produce results, and infrastructure is currently being built to manage the site beside the Halfway House historic reserve. This has been an intensive process and taken up volunteer time in meetings and consultation however the final outcome appears to be positive.

**Walking School Bus** Andrea Wilson is leading a project in partnership with Council to get children to school safely with the Walking School Bus. This year it resulted in safer walking access, such as kerb crossing and school signage at Dormar Place, and relocation of a bus sign to enable pram access on Halswater Drive.

### **The Year Ahead**

Last year I encouraged our residents to focus on activities that maximise our visibility in the community and contribute to our character but do not require major effort to achieve. Several of my suggestions were followed through with, such as the highly successful Open Day at the Halfway House; the forthcoming Wellington Region Heritage Week from 22-28 October in partnership with Challenge 2000 (and the spinners and knitters from Onslow and Tawa); and the restoration planting along Stebbings Road and in Glenside Reserve.

- This year I encourage the Association to use the Upper Stebbings Valley-West Glenside planning process to get Glenside Gorge declared a "Streambelt" (similar to a Greenbelt) with District Plan protection for the springs and streams feeding into it and to champion the recommendations in the consultants heritage report, including walking tracks and access to the survey peg and view down the centre line of New Zealand's longest double-track tunnel.
- We must continue to protect Glenside's history by following up on our written submission on the naming of reserves in Churton Park and Glenside. We sought that the historic names of Glenside, such as Stebbings, Morepork Valley and Marshall be used and for Stebbings to be registered with LINZ for the Stebbings Stream and for a trig. There will be further community consultation throughout this process from Wellington City Council.
- I would like to see us working in partnership with Challenge 2000 to get the first walkway into the regenerating bush land area of the Glenside Reserve.

Thank you to the Hannah's and to the Ellis and the Ahmad families for making their homes available for the larger meetings. A big thank you to the hardworking office holders. It has been an especially big year for Marg Ellis, who took on the role of secretary in addition to Deputy President, and who, along with Jan and myself, undertook a significant increase in voluntary hours to manage the Grant funds we received.

All the best for the 2018-2019 year ahead.

Claire Bibby, President,  
29<sup>th</sup> August 2018