

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 JULY 2016 – 30 JUNE 2017

In 2001 I led a workshop for Glenside residents in which we identified the matters that were important to us and to our community. I believe that the matters we decided then are equally as relevant and important to our suburb today. Accordingly, my report address our activities under the following headings:

- 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

Getting to know the neighbours

The Blackberry Feast. Glenside hosted the first Neighbours Day event in the year, with our big Blackberry Feast on Sunday, 19 February 2017. This ‘blackberry’ afternoon tea under the marquee was held at the Halfway House, on Glenside Reserve, beside Twigland Gardeners World. Attendees paid \$5 a ticket and brought along something to eat made with blackberries. There was great support from 21 volunteers including our young adults who served the food, Madison McCardle, Steven Beechey, Zaynah Ahmad, Karl Davidson, and Buddhima Wickramachchi, the organising committee comprising the Bond, Bibby, Ellis and Hendry families and other supporters such as Wellington City Council, who contributed \$500, Fletcher Construction, who provided parking, Twigland Gardeners World, who provided decorative plants, and the Johnsonville Premier Rugby team who played games with the youngsters, and our Master of Ceremonies, Alan Brosnan. We banked \$360 for ticket sales and \$124 in donations which contributed toward the cost.

Visibility of Glenside

Newsletters A total of five newsletters were designed for distribution in September, October, February, April and June. Each time we distribute 200 newsletters by letterbox, to ensure every household receives one. The newsletter is also distributed to the e-mail group, and our most recent IT report is that 36 of the 76 recipients opened it. Many thanks to Andrea Wilson, who designs the newsletter and maintains to the email group, and to Marg Ellis and Steve Rush who deliver the newsletter.

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 ten years ago. We strive to include a new article every month. This year one of the most popular was an article about the Fitt Family, and memories of David van Weede, who came to live in Glenside in 1936. Descendant Lloyd Hassed, continues to live locally and operates the Service Station on Ohariu Road.

Facebook This is a wonderful initiative of Andrea Wilson’s and has significantly widened the visibility of Glenside. The site has received 176 likes and proved to be a highly effective means of communicating landslides and road closures, in addition to community activities.

Liaison Meetings Residents attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville and the Churton Park Liaison meeting. These monthly meetings 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.

Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council The Association became a member of the Council. One article has been published about the Heritage Gardeners and the Halfway House. The Editor has stated that she is keen to include more articles about our suburb, which the Association should consider for their upcoming heritage month in September.

Retain and enhance Glenside character

Heritage Gardeners The Heritage Gardeners are in their third year of developing a colonial farm garden at the historic Halfway House. In 2016 they raised over \$800 to plant a heritage orchard, which included fruit trees named by the Stebbings family in their original farm orchard. In 2017, a Council grant of \$5000 has enabled the purchase of big trees, and shrubs and other heritage fruits. The Gardeners are grateful to Donna Sherlock, who donated snowdrops from Max Dorset's garden and to the curators of the historic Golder cottage at Upper Hutt for donating cuttings. The gardeners have been challenged by pukeko's which ripped up the thick clover in the herbal ley. This year the heritage gardeners will be planting up the flower bank. Thank you to the Heritage Gardeners, Patricia Apperly, Paul Bicknell, Lorna Webb, Joan Garman, Carrie Lockwood, Claire Bibby and Wellington City Council who provide mulch and the Association. which looks after the finances.

Glenside Restoration Group Barry Blackett is undertaking a wonderful project restoring the stream sides from the early plantings of the Glenside Streamcare Group at the dam, down to the bridge by the roundabout. He is ably supported by the Bond family, the Bartlett family, Marg Ellis and others. Through his leadership, he has transformed Stebbings Road into a beautiful site that is worthy of showing visitors. He attended the Regional Council Restoration Day at Pipitea College to network with like-minded people and keep abreast with the latest restoration news. This year he hopes to extend the planting site down Glenside Road, and I encourage more Glenside Road residents to help out.

Old Mans Beard This year Barry Blackett put a big effort into working with local landowners and residents to identify patches of Old Man's Beard in Glenside. He then worked with Regional Council to ensure these 45 sites were mapped, so that a plan can be put in place for removal and eradication.

Eels Andrea Wilson took the lead on behalf of residents when she learned eels had been senselessly killed in different sites around Glenside. It appears several different groups of people were accessing private property. As a result of Andrea's actions, Wellington City Council erected advisory signs not to kill eels at Willowbank and Otari-Wilton Bush Reserves. Andrea produced a report for the Association about legal protection for eels and landowners.

Predator Free Trapping Over the summer Barry Blackett and Claire Bibby did a stocktake of traps and trapping progress, with Barry providing a trap maintenance and repair service. Thanks also to Allan Brown for his trap management support to local residents. We have a total 25 families trapping, with one new family coming on board bringing the number to 26.

Protecting Glenside This year the Assn. made oral submissions to Wellington City Council to protect our suburb name from the Churton Park development on Reedy Block. We made a

submission to support the development of apartments beside Stebbings Dam, with the proviso that water run-off goes behind the dam. Barry Blackett and I met with Council CEO David Chick and Cnr. Peter Gilbert to express our displeasure at the earthworks that Council approved for Stebbings Farmlands on the Reedy block, which will result in streams being piped, encroachment on the ridgelines and felling of remnant native bush for housing. On behalf of the Assn. Barry wrote a submission for Wellington Regional Council Pest Strategy, outlining the pest management we do and making seven recommendations including better partnerships and communication about the roles and responsibilities of Kiwi Rail and NZTA.

Daffodil planting The Association paid for daffodils which have been planted at the Glenside entry signs to the suburb.

Safety

Wellington North Community Patrols This year we said farewell to one of our founding patrol members, Jaqs Bligh, who has moved to Wainuiomata. The Assn. provided a \$60 farewell gift of petrol vouchers to Jaqs, thanking her for her assistance. Local resident Sabah Ahmad continues to volunteer for the patrol, and Kerri Sargent is the new Chair for the group. Issues this year have been burglaries and Twiglands and the Café, graffiti on the Westchester Drive retaining walls and a car dumped on Stebbings Road. The youths involved in the graffiti and car dumping incidents were spoken to by the locals before running off.

Glenside/Churton Park Community Emergency Plan Andrea Wilson and Claire Bibby have put a lot of effort into this community plan on behalf of the Assn. in consultation with Churton Park Community Assn. and the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. A key benefit has been encouraging the local businesses to think about how they might respond in a major emergency or natural disaster. A hard copy of the plan will be held at the Churton Park Primary School, which is the Community Hub where the emergency radio is.

The Year Ahead

This year the Association needs to make a decision on whether it wants to support the Glenside Show 2018 or put our effort into other areas of interest, such as the upcoming heritage events, which could also be held at the historic Halfway House. I would encourage our members to focus on activities that maximise our visibility in the community and contribute to our character but do not require major effort to achieve. For example:

- An Open Day at the Halfway House for Heritage Month in September, or the Wellington City Council Heritage Week on 23-29 October.
- The development of a rural sculpture on the milk-stand on Glenside Corner
- An avenue of trees down Westchester Drive,
- Supporting the restoration planting on Glenside Road and in Glenside Reserve.

Thank you to all the hardworking office holders - Jan Voss as Treasurer, for establishing a new banking system, Steve Rush as Secretary, for providing minutes and photocopying reports, Marg Ellis as Deputy President, for keeping everyone calm and on an even keel. I wish us all the best for the year ahead.

Claire Bibby, President,
26th July 2017