

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2022 – 30 MARCH 2023

HELD 11 JULY 2023

My report is for the 1 April 2022 - 30 March 2023 reporting year, to align with our annual Performance and Financial report.

Building and strengthening community

The Association provides leadership and guidance for our community in the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of Glenside. We are the umbrella group for the Halfway House Heritage Gardeners.

Our Association and our community projects and activities are our way of bringing neighbours together so that we know each other better. Knowing our neighbours helps to build community resilience and community response in an emergency.

1. Events

In December 2022 the Association hosted a farewell for Margaret Schuch and Liz Bartlett of Glenside Road. This was held at the Halfway House.

A “Meet the New Neighbours” afternoon tea was hosted at the Halfway House.

2. Recreational walking and Glenside Reserve track

The second Glenside Reserve loop track was formed and opened in 2022 by Wellington City Council (WCC). This ten-minute loop track extends the short loop track to a total 20-25 minute walk. These new tracks are popular and used every day. There is a staged spray programme to remove pest plants.

3. Halfway House

Lease

There has been a further change of staff at WCC and Parrish Evans, Community Recreation Leases Advisor is now managing the lease. The WCC was hosting regular joint meetings with Challenge 2000, the Glenside Progressive Association and Heritage Gardeners, however these dropped off with changes of leadership at Council and Challenge 2000. New tenants have moved into the Halfway House. A request was made for the meetings to be reinstated.

Furnishings/Interior.

The Assn. hung several pictures and a mirror was installed in the hallway, following earlier suggestions of William Cottrell. WCC will be removing the hand towel and soap dispensers in the bathrooms as the locking mechanism makes them unable to be replenished.

Access to the public rooms

This is the first year the house was available all year after Covid restrictions were lifted. The users are mainly the Glenside Progressive Association and the Heritage Gardeners, who use the rooms for meetings, events and garden working bees.

Visitor numbers in the guest register

Month	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2018-19	40	18	26	37	63	17	121	31	5	31	21	54	493
2019-20	22	28	54	78	14	37	97	65	9	18	48	33	503
2020-21	0	0	5	41	50	23	59	96	61	36	21	48	440
2021-22 Covid	18	31	27	21	5	0	0	0	3	16	3	0	124
2022-23	14	17	16	12	12	2	20	42	26	35	23	56	275

4. Recognising Glenside/Making Glenside visible

Signage

The directional sign to the Halfway House installed on the light pole at the driveway entrance last year, was removed when the light pole was replaced. Park Ranger Denise Clements is arranging for its return.

Submission suburb boundary

Our suburb boundary along Stebbings Road was not progressed due to the Association being busy with District Plan submissions and hearings, however this is something we have asked Cnr. Ben McNulty to take up on our behalf, which he is going to do.

Cycle-walkway

In December the Association hosted an onsite meeting with the Cycle planning team to discuss future opportunities for the cycleway through the Glenside Village areas.

This was a follow up from the May 2021 Long Term Plan submission we made that Council consider an alternative plan and alternative funding for walking and cycling for Middleton Road rural in Glenside to make it affordable and possible.

District Plan submission

The Assn. made several submissions on the Proposed District Plan opposing the Future Urban Zone (FUZ) in Glenside West and associated issues including earthworks, removal of Hilltops and Ridgeline overlay and support for the protection of bush and streams through Special Natural Areas in Glenside West. Barry Blackett has led most of this work. Barry Ellis has been proactive in communicating with Council officials and Councillors about the impact the FUZ and hosting site visits on his property. Our Councillors are asking questions of officials and keeping us briefed.

McMud issues

Thank you to our Councillors for asking questions of Council officials about the operation of the so-called landscaping business at McMud, which is essentially a dump site for moving massive loads of earth with no end date and no noise or dust controls. Council officials have sent a list of questions off to the operators, who are seeking a resource consent to expand the site. Cnr. McNulty has made strong representations the consent should be publicly notified.

Northern Suburbs Liaison Meetings

Claire Bibby continues to attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville, which connects our Association with our local MP and Councillors and enables our Association activities to be communicated to a wider community group.

Wellington Residents Association Network (WRAN)

When possible, Claire Bibby attends the Wellington Residents Associations support network via a Zoom meeting.

5. Retain and enhance Glenside character - Ecology

Glenside Restoration Group

The Restoration Group, led by Barry Blackett, has essentially completed planting along Stebbings Stream from Stebbings Dam to the Middleton Road Roundabout and along Glenside Road. Some additional planting on the steep south bank would be beneficial but this must be done by Council's planting team. The whole area continues to be maintained by removing odd bits of gorse, wild cherry and selected broadleaf weeds. Blackberry has been completely eliminated from the planted areas. Plant growth over the years has been excellent throughout. Notable is the growth of medium sized trees along North Bank below the Farm Track and in the Dell area north of Stebbings Stream. The main focus now is on keeping the grass tidy along Stebbings walkway and within areas most recently planted. It is anticipated that the Restoration Group will devote most of its time from now on to the Glenside Reserve working with Council to remove weeds and pest animals, plant some gaps in the bush near the new track loops and encourage the community to enjoy what is on offer.

Old Man's Beard

Barry Blackett leads this project. A vine removed on private property and KiwiRail contacted for their annual spray. Discussions were held with Anita Benbrook about the Glenside Reserve loop track infestation – her plan is to focus on Glenside Reserve loop track entrance first.

Predator Free Trapping

Barry Blackett coordinates this project. The Glenside Predator Free Group has 17 households involved with trapping. Totals for the year April 22 to March 23 (previous year in brackets) are: Possums: 50 (40); Rats: 187 (216); Mice: 76 (180); Hedgehogs: 7 (10); Stoats: 2 (0).

NZ Bird Survey/NZ Bird Atlas

Claire Bibby has been doing the annual national bird survey at the Glenside Reserve and the Halfway House since 2016. This is to measure whether the ongoing streamside and garden planting is increasing/changing the birdlife. This year Claire signed up with NZ Bird Atlas, which enables bird survey data to be collected at any time. Of the 23 birds identified during the 2022-2023 year, 13 are Native/Endemic and six are ground/bank nesting birds.

In March 2023, The Association supported a NZ Bird Atlas Induction session at the Halfway House, for local residents, hosted at no charge by NZ Bird Atlas coordinator Keegan Miskimmin.

Moth and Butterflies

The Heritage Garden at the Halfway House is a certified Butterfly habitat. In the 2021-2022 year, 12 different butterfly and moth varieties were identified in the garden. This year two new ones were identified, a Xyridacma moth and Glade Copper butterfly. Will Brockelsby from the Department of Conservation has continued to assist with identification.

6. Retain and enhance Glenside character – Heritage

Heritage Gardeners

This year the gardeners welcomed new member Maree Goodall from Churton Park and 16-year-old Keira from Churton Park. The highlights for the 2022-2023 year are as follows:

- Undertook 570 volunteer hours, including 3 meetings and 81 working bees.
- Bernice Dingwell, head gardener from Waitangi Treaty Grounds visited the garden (with thanks to Suzanne and Paul Hendry).
- Dr Richard Davies, husband of the Governor General, planted a rimu to commemorate The Queens Platinum Jubilee. Jay Street Nurseries, WCC mowing team and park rangers attended.
- Four 'Walk 'n Talk' garden visits were hosted at the Halfway House. These were Heritage Roses Wellington, the Serendipity Garden Group, Churton Park School and Onslow Garden Group.
- Eight presentations were made about the garden to community groups. These were the Johnsonville Garden Group, Heritage Roses (Wgn), Johnsonville Rotary, Serendipity Garden Group at Hataitai, Newlands Friendship Group, the Brooklyn Garden Group, Hutt Horticultural Society, and Miramar Garden Club.
- The garden was registered as a site for people to visit during the Wellington Heritage Festival.
- Adrian Liner and family visited from the UK to view their commemorative tree.
- Claire Bibby met with Clare Shearman of Wellington City Council Botanic Garden to take cuttings from heritage camellia from the Drake Reserve, on the south side of Wingfield Place.
- Paul Bicknell and Claire Bibby went on a road trip to look at a heritage rose at Ongaonga.

Heritage sites

The Assn. submission to have the milk stand become a registered heritage site appears to be supported by Wellington City Council, who commissioned a Heritage evaluation of it. This submission was led by Claire Bibby.

7. Communications

Newsletters

The Association develops and distributes a regular newsletter by MailChimp e-mail and a hard copy for the letterbox drop. A total of 10 Mailchimp news and eight letterbox drop newsletters/flyers were distributed.

Glenside Website

Rex Johnson maintains the website from his home in Cromwell which he has done since he launched the website in 2007. This year Rex supported a major upgrade to the website platform, which took many hours of preparation beforehand, and he devoted a whole day to the changeover. The new website has larger font and is easier to read. The transition was smooth and we are very grateful to Rex for his support. The website attracts a lot of readers and researchers.

Facebook

The *Glenside- The Halfway* Facebook page has 379 followers, up from 303 last year.

Newspaper

There were 14 articles about Glenside in the local paper, the Independent Herald.

8. Safety

Wellington North Community Patrols

Sabah Ahmad continues to volunteer for the patrol, which he has done since its inception in 2007.

9. Going Forward

Appreciation

I would like to pass on my appreciation to Laurenson Accountants for reporting on our finances and to our Councillors, elected in October 2022, who take an active interest in Glenside issues.

This year our focus will be progressing Glenside Reserve as a natural park; clearing and planting around the milk stand; the McMud resource consent; submissions on the District Plan about the proposed removal of the hilltop and ridgeline protection on Callender land and the District Plan imposing building heights on the historic Halfway House and garden.

All the best for the 2023-2024 year.

Claire Bibby.

President.