Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2025 – 30 MARCH 2026

13 JULY 2026

My report is for the 1 April 2025 - 30 March 2026 reporting year, to align with our annual Performance and Financial report.

It was with great sadness that received news in January this year, that our trapper John Parfitt had passed away. Committee members Aaron and Georgia Freeman and Claire Bibby attended his funeral and hosted an afternoon tea for his family. John attended meetings of the Association and the Heritage Gardeners and did handyman jobs for us. He was greatly valued for his contribution and is missed. Bruce Tustin (a fellow 4WD member with John) volunteered to clear John's traps, and is helping out with handyman jobs.

From left: John Parfitt, seated beside Cnr. Andrea Compton at a committee meeting, John checking his traps with Lachie McCardle, and the family afternoon tea at Halfway House.

1. Building and strengthening community

The Assn. 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 Assn. and our community projects and activities are our way of bringing neighbours together so that we know each other better. Knowing our neighbours contributes to building

community resilience and community response in emergency situations and reducing crime and disorder in neighbourhoods.

1.1 Community event

Farewell Twigland 13 April 2025

It was devastating to learn last year, that Twigland garden centre was closing and the land would be sold. The Assn. partnered with Café Thyme and Twigland management and community donations to put on a farewell feast for the Twigland staff. This was a well-attended event, with Glenside residents, the Halfway House Heritage Gardeners and our Twigland friends enjoying one last time together. The site has been bought by Kindercare, based in Auckland.

1.2 Halfway House

Heritage Gardeners at the former table, and the larger sturdy new table

The Assn. cares for the community rooms at the Halfway House, which is the centre of our activities and is used as a central meeting point for community events and meetings. The Heritage Gardeners use it weekly for working bees. The committee visited Katherine Mansfield House to learn more about furnishing in the Victorian style. This year the Assn. bought a good-sized Victorian dining table and chairs for the meeting room, and some antique glassware to brighten the mantlepieces.

We are still waiting to hear from the WCC lease team when the Assn. can take over management of these rooms.

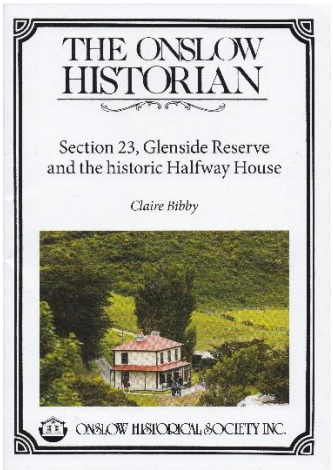
2. Recognising Glenside - Making Glenside Visible

Video promotion of a great walk in Glenside

In the summer, Claire Bibby helped George Walter of Onslow Historic Society with the history aspects of his video walking from Halfway House down Glenside Road and up to Stebbings Dam. His popular videos are published online under the *By George* series.

History of Glenside Reserve and Halfway House

At the end of November 2025, The Onslow Historic Society published *Section 23, Glenside Reserve and the Historic Halfway House*, written by Claire Bibby. It was publicised it in the local newspaper, and at a public talk hosted by the Historic Society. The Assn. invited the Society to sell copies at the Glenside Reserve planning day in 2026.



Onslow Historic Society publication, and John Galloway (left) selling it at Halfway House

3. Retain and enhance Glenside character – Ecology and landscape

3.1 Birds

Throughout the year 36 entries recording 39 different birds in Glenside Reserve were recorded on the NZ Bird Atlas. The annual Landcare NZ Garden Bird Survey at Halfway House was undertaken by Claire Bibby on 5th July 2025.

The committee also contacted residents on Glenside Road, Middleton Road, Rowells Road, Glenside rural and Richmond Hill to find out what birds they had seen. All of the bird sightings were passed to Wildlife Management International Ltd. who are putting together the *Safe Haven for Birds Glenside Reserve* plan.

3.2 Water Quality

It's been a big year for our Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) team checking on the health our local streams, and discovering the unexpected presence of fish.

Pictured left to right: DNA testing in Glenside Reserve with Helen Bond, Abbey Hurwai, and Shelby Lockwood taking the water temperature at Stebbings Stream.

DNA testing on Glenside Reserve stream was undertaken by Abbey from Mountains to the Sea, Helen Bond and Claire Bibby. The sample above the ford found the presence of long fin tuna, kōaro, kaharore bully and short fin tuna. The sample below the ford recorded kaharore bully, long fin and short fin tuna, bullies and banded kokopu.

Water quality monitoring On 16 May 2025 Abbey Huriwai, Helen Bond and Claire Bibby undertook WQM on Glenside Reserve and Stebbings stream. This was followed up on 26 August 2025, with Shelby Lockwood and Claire Bibby doing Drake Reserve stream and Glenside Reserve, and on 3 September 2025 Helen on Bond joined in at Stebbings stream.

On 18 October 2025 Abbey Huriwai from Mountains to the Sea, and local residents Sabah Ahmed, and Marg Ellis did WQM on the Ellis's private stream.

3.3 Glenside Reserve

Glenside Reserve – The Water Plan

Morphum, Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington, and the Glenside Assn.

Wellington City Council funded a water plan (the Wai Plan) for the Glenside Reserve. Morphum were contracted to develop the plan and visited the site several times.

Daniela Biaggio, WCC Urban ecologist, and Stu Farrant, Morphum ecologist and Claire Bibby undertook a site visit on Glenside Reserve on 14 April 2025. On 14 August 2025, Assn. committee representatives Claire Bibby and Barry Blackett joined WCC, GWRC and Morphum on a site walkover. Further WCC meetings with Assn. committee representation were held on 15 December and 6 January. The Wai Plan is now completed and on the Glenside website. It will help inform the future restoration of the reserve.

Glenside Reserve Safe Haven for Birds plan

The committee were thrilled to receive a grant from the Johnsonville Charitable Trust to fund a *Safe Haven for Birds on Glenside Reserve* plan. Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL) are undertaking the work.

An initial meeting was held on 10 September 2025 between WMIL, WCC Manager Parks, WCC Urban ecology and the Assn. This was followed by a meeting held with all stakeholders including Ngati Toa, Greater Wellington, and Wellington City Council, at Halfway House. Shelby Lockwood and Claire Bibby attended on behalf of the Assn. The two on site workshops were held on 5 & 7 March 2025 with about 88 attending.

It was pointed out to WCC (by the Assn.) that they have not supported our previous submissions for a) safe access across Middleton Road, b) the purchase Twiglands for a carpark site c) access over or under motorway from Seton Nossiter park and d) safe walking and cycling along Middleton Road rural. As there are 26 bus stops every 30 minutes between Johnsonville and Porirua that stop right outside Glenside Reserve, the Assn. felt the focus should be on encouraging visitors to Glenside to travel by train, bus and on foot.

The Assn. also reminded everyone of the number of reserves available to Churton Park residents such as Lakewood & Churton Park 7.5 ha; Callender 9.4 ha; Stebbings Dam upstream 7.3 ha; Edward Wilson/John Walker 3.6 ha Drake Reserve 3.9 ha and all of Ohariu and Marshall ridgeline.

3.4 Glenside Reserve Restoration sites

We met the new Berhampore Nursery manager Joakim Liman, on 12 February 2026. He visited the Glenside Road-Stebbings Road revegetation sites with Barry Blackett, then walked over Glenside Reserve with Barry, Claire Bibby, and Keira Bosch, Duke of Edinburgh participant.

Bird and bee bank

- The bank behind the Red Shed at Halfway House, which has been planted for birds and bees is growing well and is now being maintained with some infill planting. Robert Gentejohann, Aman Hunt and Claire Bibby cleared grass around the plants.

Driveway alongside Halfway House

- The hillside above the Halfway House driveway is growing well. Some pest plant work continues as required.

Loop Tracks

- The Wellington City Council Horticulture team planted the tracks in June 2025. The Community Conservation Volunteers returned in summer to clear around them.
- Residents Helen and Keith Bond, Robert Gentejohann and Claire Bibby planted flax and other native plants around the park bench in memory of Helen's parents, Theo and Margaret Schuch. Claire and Robert returned to weed release in the summer.
- Residents Aman Hunt, Robert Gentejohann, Barry Blackett and Claire Bibby removed honeysuckle, cherry and blackberry along the loop tracks.
- Wellington City Council sprayed Old Mans beard and pest weeds at the rubbish dump on the loop tracks in preparation for planting in May 2026.

Westchester Drive

- The revegetation programme started in 2023 is moving south and focussing on removing blackberry, cherry and periwinkle in readiness for planting large growing trees such as kahikatea and pukatea.

3.5 Predator Free

Table 1 records the Predator free catches in Glenside. The community continue to provide backyard trapping tallies to Assn. member Barry Blackett on a quarterly basis however we are looking toward encouraging online reporting. Bruce Tustin traps the Glenside Reserve loop tracks.

Table 1. Glenside Predator Free tallies 01 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Pest	Glenside Reserve	Community
Possums	1	15
Rats	51	167
Stoats / Weasels	4	2
Hedgehogs	2	4
Mice	60	115
Feral Cats	0	2
Rabbits	2	32
Total	**121**	**337**

4. Retain and enhance Glenside's character - Heritage

Heritage garden

This year we had a few gardeners come and go however remain steady at ten volunteers.

Many thanks to Claire Bibby, Pat Lakeman, Minka Bupha-Intr, Paul & Heather Bicknell, Lorna Webb and Claire McDonald for co-hosting our Walk & Talk guided tour events.

- 14 October, Kilbirnie Genealogists
- 26 October and 2 November, Wellington Heritage Festival
- 29 January, Waikanae Garden Group
- 13 February, Pauatahanui Garden Group

During the year Challenge 2000 helped plant several hundred daffodils which made a great show in spring. Other support came from Paul Davidson who dug a hole in compacted rocky soil for a totara tree and Maddy McCardle, who helped get rocks from Kiwi Quarry to go around the orchard trees.

The gardeners fundraise for all their plants and this year in addition to seed sales and garden tours, they sold plum jam made from old Glenside orchards.

In March 2026, the gardeners went on a road trip to Wairarapa and visited Rototawai and Llandaff gardens for some inspiration.

Historic Halfway House Heritage Garden

Pictured top row: Heritage Festival visitors to the garden, 2025. The Heritage Gardeners relaxing after working in the garden. Second row: Challenge 2000 planting daffodils. Summer marigolds.

5. Communications

Newsletters

The Assn. develops and distributes a regular email newsletter and a hardcopy in the letterbox. Eight e-newsletters and eight letterbox drop newsletters were distributed to residents.

Glenside Website

The Assn. is very grateful for Rex Johnson's commitment to our website, which he does at no charge from his home in Cromwell.

Facebook

The Glenside – The Halfway Facebook page has 503 followers, up from 475 last year.

Journals and Newspapers

There were a total 17 articles written about Glenside in newspapers. There was a lovely article in the *Listener* by Nikki Saker, remembering her 1960 era childhood in Woodlawn, the big grand house which once stood where Monterey is today.

6. Community Safety – Traffic, Crime and Disorder

23 July 2025 (left) and 22 April 2026

Middleton road crashes – As a result of two crashes on Middleton Road onto the railway line, the Council is investigating safety measures.

Crime and disorder – There were disorderly behaviours and driving offences associated with the occupancy of the flats at the north end of the village. Much to the relief of everyone, these people have moved on. During this time there were copper thefts at Café Thyme, a burglary in the adjacent office building and several thefts from cars at the end of Glenside Road. This is unusual for Glenside and attributed to new people moving around the area.

7. Other matters

Railway encroachment and shipping container issues

NZ Rail constructed a tall fence without consent, on Rowell's Road. The Assn. supported the residents seeking to have the fence removed. It was taken down at the request of WCC. The Assn. also made representations to Councillors and WCC compliance team to have the non-consented shipping container removed as it is not secured to ground. It has been removed.

Association Submissions

- To the Department of Conservation that feral cats will join rats, stoats, possums, ferrets and weasels on the national eradication list. This was agreed by Government.
- To WCC, a follow up written and oral submission supporting Council's decision to end the grazing lease on Glenside Reserve.

8. Thanks and appreciation

I would like to pass on my appreciation and thanks to the following people:

- Our committee, Claire Bibby, Georgia Freeman, Barry Blackett, Aaron Freeman, Santiago Bernhardt, and the late John Parfitt.
- Avril Hillind and Kaye Francis from Laurenson Accountants for reporting on our finances and Santiago Bernhardt and Heidi from the community for approving payments.
- Gillian Cross from The Collective for sponsoring the newsletter.
- Rex Johnson for managing the website.
- The Heritage Gardeners - Claire Bibby, Paul and Heather Bicknell, Pam Brown, Pat Lakeman, Claire McDonald, Nico Ritmeester, Minka Bupha-Intr, Lorna Webb, Russell Brodie and new gardener Nico Van de Meys.
- Our environmental volunteers, Barry Blackett, Shelby Lockwood, Sabah Ahmad, Helen and Keith Bond, Aman Hunt, Paul Davidson, Robert Gentejohann and Bruce Tustin. A special acknowledgement for Barry's environmental work along Stebbings Road and Glenside Road.
- Northern Ward Councillors Tony Randle, Andrea Compton and Ben McNulty for representing the community, attending Assn. meetings and providing guidance.
- Our Park Rangers Denise Clements, Frank Williams and Rachel McLellan.

9. Going forward

In the coming year the Assn. will continue to focus on the ground bird restoration strategy and landscape plan for Glenside Reserve. With new planting, this would be a good time to join the Red Admiral Butterfly project of the Moths & Butterflies of NZ Trust.

We will support the Heritage Gardeners 10-year celebration of the first orchard trees being planted in the garden in 2016.

We need to consider the development of the former Twigland site and any archaeological investigation for the 1846 Halfway House.

We will keep watch on roading improvements and developments.

Thank you to those in the Glenside community who provide donations and support the work of the Assn. Your assistance, engagement, and positivity is valued and appreciated.

Claire Bibby
President, Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.
13 July 2026