

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010-2011

It is with pleasure I provide this report for the year July 2010 to July 2011. Our activities are listed under the headlines:

- Getting to know the neighbours
- Visibility of Glenside
- Retain and enhance Glenside character
- Traffic safety and other safety issues.

Educate people about Glenside

These headlines refer to the matters important to residents at the community workshop in 2001.

Getting to know the neighbours

1. **Newsletters:** Eight newsletters were delivered over the year to the whole community to a combined total of 1760. We appreciate the services of OfficeMax and Geoff Warren of Remax/Leaders Johnsonville for photocopying these on alternate months. Geoff has moved on from Remax/Leaders and the Assn. will need to meet with the new manager to ascertain if the sponsorship will continue.

At times people ask why the newsletter is not e-mailed and is hand delivered. Firstly, not everyone in the community is on the e-mail group so whether it is e-mailed or not, we still have to deliver to every street. It's easier for the person delivering to put one in every box instead of trying to remember who wants what; secondly, hand delivering helps residents to get to know the suburb and its people and finally, many residents say they prefer to get it in their street mailbox.

A recent newsletter initiative has been to invite a resident to talk about their time in Glenside and what they do. Feedback is that this is a popular column which should continue.

2. **Glenside Community E-mail group:** We have about 50 addresses on the e-mail group and these people receive additional news about Glenside and keep the secretary and myself informed of matters of importance to the community.
3. **Support from others:** I would like to thank Ted Neylon of Glenside Road who has been faithfully bringing me the local newspapers almost every weekend for several years now. I clip items about Glenside and these are held in folders for historic reference. I have ten years of newspaper clippings however I am not going to be able to undertake this service in the future and would like someone else to do it for us.

Thank you to Rex Johnson, a former Glenside resident and our website administrator, who helped establish our website and maintains it from his home in Cromwell.

Thank you to Joan Garman and Eileen Doile of Burdendale Road who support our meetings with their attendance and contribute to discussions. Joan has been coming along to monthly meetings for many years now and is very well informed about our community.

Thank you to the families of Ahmad, Bell, Hendry, Voss, Barnett, Blackett, and Barnett-Davidson for making their homes available for meetings.

Thank you to all the residents and business who donate financially to our Assn. every year.

4. **Social event:** The Hendry family of Rowells Road did a tremendous job for the community in organising the guest speakers for the Star Party, hosting the Glenside Music Festival fundraiser which raised over \$2600 for the Christchurch earthquake and also hosting the Memorial Service for Max Dorset. Another Rowells Road resident, Donna Sherlock, organised an afternoon event of activities for children and a BBQ down at the Halfway House to celebrate Children's Day.
5. **New residents in the community:** Usually I meet and greet each new family to the community (except Monterey, where tenants change regularly) and provide them with an information pack about Glenside, brochures and pages from the website and a tree to plant from the Streamcare Group. With permission, a little about the new family is put in the newsletter. I have not done this for two years now as I have returned to work full time and find the weekends very busy. It is important to meet new people in our community so that they feel welcome and for ourselves, so that we know who is sharing our space with us. I hope that the Street Coordinators will take on this role in the future and share information back to the rest of the suburb in the newsletter.

Visibility of Glenside

Website: This year we have posted the regular outcomes of the Westchester Link Liaison Group on our website. Churton Park Community Assn. have put a link from their website to our Westchester information so that their community is kept informed of Liaison Group activities.

The most popular sites on the website are the Glenside Progressive Assn. followed by the Westchester Link. and heritage. The website e-mail address continues to be used by family historians, local residents and other people seeking information about our suburb.

6. **Newspapers:** About 15 articles on Glenside were published in local newspapers. This is half those published last year. Last year had a lot of news about the Westchester Link road.
7. **Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting:** I continue to attend the monthly Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting held at the Johnsonville Community Centre. This lunchtime meeting is very important for our suburbs visibility and the Assn. should continue to commit to it so that our suburb is not forgotten. The local Police, the MP's representatives, the local newspaper reporters and a host of interesting community groups attend. I present our newsletter and provide a brief summary of activities in our community which is then typed up and emailed along with everyone else's briefs to a large e-mail group across the Northern Suburbs.
8. **Our Members of Parliament:** We have a good relationship with all three members of Parliament in our electorate. I provide them with our newsletter and meet with the MP reps at the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting.

Retain and enhance Glenside character

Protection of heritage

9. **Heritage daffodil:** Susie Fitzgerald, who is a volunteer at the Katherine Mansfield heritage garden, recovered some daffodils from an original Glenside garden for the Mansfield Garden. It is a common early settler daffodil in NZ however it is no longer available in catalogues. It has been identified as *Telamonius Plenus*, origin pre 1620. It is hoped that in future this daffodil will grace our Halfway House heritage garden.
10. **Halfway House:** Onslow Historic Society, the Early Wellington Settlers Assn. The Historic Places Trust and our own Assn. were invited to write a letter of support to the Lotteries Board for grant money to restore the exterior of the Halfway House. This is an initiative of Wellington City Council. Our Assn. has led the development of a Halfway House and Garden Trust Deed to restore the house and gardens. I am grateful to Cnr Justin Lester who attended a meeting with myself and Wellington City Council to help find a way forward on this project.
11. **Gravesite:** The contractors working on the Westchester Link are aware of the 1841 gravesite and an archaeologist is working alongside them to monitor the earthworks.
12. **Archaeology:** The report on the Glenside Road/Stebbing Road corner archaeological site has been provided to the Historic Places Trust and The Trust have registered the site on their archaeological database.

Protect living streams

13. **Glenside/Stebbing Road planting project:** The unstable pine trees and macrocarpa's on the corner of the Glenside Road and Stebbings Road stream banks have finally been felled by Wellington City Council. This was after ten years of Glenside Road residents writing letters and having meetings with Council. The Glenside Road community are getting together to plant the slopes in native plants to enhance the biodiversity and beauty of the area.
14. **Halfway House planting project:** The Halfway House stream banks have been planted with flax, toitoi, cabbage tree and wine-berry. This year we have kowhai and some replacement trees to get in the ground. The plants have taken really well and are flourishing.
15. **“Umbrella” to Glenside Streamcare Group:** The Association continues to manage the Streamcare Group funds and champions the group's activities through the newsletter and website.

Input into Council planning and projects/overview of Council developments

16. **Interchange signs:** Grenada Village Assn. has been lobbying Council and MP's to have Grenada Village on the motorway signs and there has been a suggestion from NZTA that Glenside or Churton Park could be removed. This is unreasonable as Grenada Village's reasons for wanting the signs are the same as ours – for informing drivers where our suburb is. Fortunately City Council do not agree that any suburb on existing signs should be removed and have offered numerous solutions to NZTA including financial assistance to build

additional signage. NZTA have refused all suggested solutions and things appear to be in a stalemate right now.

17. **Middleton Road Walkway:** Cnr Justin Lester advised us that Wellington City Council is exploring the concept of a walkway beside the railway as this may be cheaper and safer than having it on Middleton Road. It is only an idea and may not be feasible for a range of reasons.
18. **Westchester Drive East: Liaison Group:** Mike Bell has been leading a small team of residents in regular meetings with contractors building the Westchester Link Road. This was an outcome of the Assn. Environment Court hearing.

Traffic safety and other safety issues

19. **Community patrolling and police:** The regular “Community Patrolling Corner” in our newsletter is a good initiative. Jacqueline Bligh does a great job in her role coordinating the North Wellington Community Patrol. Our community has benefitted with offers of water canisters, landline phones, advice and her role in ensuring the community get the feedback they want after reporting a crime or suspicious activity.

Educate public about Glenside

20. **Onslow Historic Society:** This Society supports the Assn. and has published several histories about Glenside. They supported Council with a letter seeking restoration of the Halfway House.
21. **The newsletter:** The newsletter is provided to residents, Councillors, MP’s and journalists..
22. **Website:** Rex Johnson and I researched the history of the two cannon that were recovered from a Glenside swamp. This research involved the City Council Archives, NZ Army, Waiouru Military Museum and past residents here and at Porirua. The cannon were subsequently located at Trentham and our research was placed on the website.

The year ahead

I am standing down as President this year after ten years service to focus on my paid work. I will continue to volunteer where possible. I am completing the Glenside Street naming project and will continue to work on the Halfway House Trust, the motorway signage project and to support the website. I thank the community of Glenside for their loyal support.

Claire Bibby, President Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. July 2011