

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2018 – 30 MARCH 2019

This year my Presidents report is for the 1 April – 30 March reporting year, to align with our annual Performance report and Financial report, with some recent news added in.

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. Due to our environmental volunteering and Glenside Reserve, we have a special relationship with the Wellington City Council Parks and Reserves team. We are financial members of the Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council.

This year, Rex Johnson of Cromwell, who manages our website, nominated our Association for the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, under the Heritage and Environment category. Barry Blackett and I assisted him to get the necessary evidence together to assist his nomination.

Last week, on the 27th June we were advised that the Association had made the finals. This is very exciting news. I believe our success is due to our community valuing Glenside as an active environmental and heritage hub and contributing time and effort to projects and portfolios of personal interest.

Visibility of Glenside – The Halfway House

This was our first year of access to the public rooms of the Halfway House. The following events were hosted by the Association and/or the Heritage Gardeners at the House.

- Board Games Night April 2018
- Devonshire tea April 2018
- World War 1 The Home Front, October 2018 (during Heritage Week, in partnership with Challenge 2000) featuring poetry readings, WW1 music and period drama).
- Heritage Gardeners celebration, November 2018
- Neighbours Day picnic, March 2019

The guest register for the Halfway House records a total 493 guests between 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

Visitors who sign guest register from 1 April 2018 – 30 March 2019

Month	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Visitors	40	18	26	37	63	17	121	31	5	31	21	54

In 2018, Challenge 2000 leaders Manisha Jobard and Tina Watkins took up residence in the house. For the Heritage Gardeners, Challenge 2000 helped spread mulch with St Brigid's School pupils and joined working bees in the gardens. During Heritage Week, in partnership with the

Association, and Heritage Gardeners, they hosted events, such as the WWI poetry readings and a fantastic WWI costume drama.

Furnishing Committee Thanks to a grant from the Johnsonville Charitable Trust, the Association has begun furnishing the public rooms of the Halfway House in period style. The committee is Jan Voss, Paul Bicknell, Marg Ellis and myself.

Visibility of Glenside – 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 five newsletters were distributed in the reporting period during the months of April, June, August, December 2018 and March 2019. At the same time 200 hard copy newsletters were hand delivered to letterboxes, to ensure every household in Glenside receives one. In between times, various flyers were delivered for Events. The newsletter is produced by myself, published by Steve Rush and delivered by Marg Ellis and me.

Glenside Website Rex Johnson maintains the website from his home in Cromwell which he has done since he launched the website in 2007. Together, he and I published 30 new and updated articles. Rex has created an archaeology page, so that the archaeology reports are all in one place.

Facebook People following our *Glenside- The Halfway* Facebook page has reached 247, (up from 217 last year and 176 the previous year). Thank you to Marg Ellis who manages the Facebook page and Andrea Wilson who provides Facebook support.

Newspaper We contributed to nine articles in the Independent Herald.

Heritage Today newsletter We published six articles in the Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council newsletter

Liaison Meetings Where possible, I attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville, which connects our Association with our local MP's and Councillor and enables me to communicate Association activities to a wider group.

Retain and enhance Glenside character - ecology

Glenside Restoration Group Barry Blackett's leads a team of volunteers, revegetating the streambanks alongside the highly popular walking route that follows the historic 150-year old farm track, Stebbings Road. The team have recently extended the site along Glenside Road. The volunteers are Sabah Ahmad, Marg & Barry Ellis, Helen and Keith Bond. This year John Rowe and Mark Sommerville volunteered to remove wire fence along Glenside Road in preparation for planting. During the 2018-19 year, the GRG (six regular volunteers) held five planting bees during the 2018 winter and two watering bees during Jan-Feb 2019's draught and planted 370 plants. They prepared four new sites for planting and maintained all existing sites by regular weeding, grass trimming and mulching.

Old Mans Beard Barry Blackett commenced this project in 2016. In 2017 he marked sites of outbreaks on a map of the area with an indication as to whether treated or not. To date he has identified about 50 sites and stump dosed about 200 vines, many with permission of residents on privately owned land. A total of about 40 Old Man's Beard vines in 10 separate locations were cut and stump dosed this summer. The Association supports his work with submissions to local

authorities on weed control, most recently (in May) to the Wellington City Council draft Annual Plan.

Predator Free Trapping The Glenside Predator Free Group has 20 households involved with trapping using 55 rat and possum traps. Catches are reported and collated once per quarter. Totals for the year, ie 2Q 2018 to 1Q 2019 were: Possums: 52, Rats 220, Mice 99, and other 5.

Water Quality Monitoring Barry Blackett, Marg Ellis and Donna Sherlock continue to undertake water quality monitoring. This is now undertaken at five sites including Stebbings Stream, Glenside Reserve stream and streams on private land. The group are moving towards quarterly monitoring using the SCHMAK test kit.

Landcare Research Bird Survey Each year I carry out a bird survey at the Glenside Reserve and the Halfway House to measure the impact of our streamside and garden planting on birdlife. The results to date are: Glenside Reserve - 2018: Five bird species (2017: Five bird species). Halfway House - 2018: Six bird species (2017: seven bird species).

Retain and enhance Glenside character – heritage

The Callender development continues to bulldoze archaeological sites, the most recent one on the corner of Glenside and Stebbings road. Heritage NZ required them to have an archaeological authority for those earthworks, and the report is on our website. However, Heritage NZ did not require them to get an archaeological authority for the 1841 burial site on the Reedy block. This block is currently being earth-worked. (The streams our Association successfully submitted at a hearing to be kept open for the Westchester road extension through the Reedy block, have now been piped, making a mockery of Council processes and wasting everyone's time).

Upper Stebbings Valley-West Glenside planning At last years AGM, I encouraged residents 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. Our community attended two public meetings. Elizabeth Cox's heritage report is now on our website. The initial timeframe is for a draft structure plan to be ready in early 2020. A submission to protect the survey peg in a reserve was also made to Council through the Annual Plan in May.

Heritage Gardeners. In 2018 one of our volunteers, Joan Garman retired to Palmerston North. We gained a new member, Clare Gleeson, of Ngaio. Clare is also on the Onslow Historic Society Committee. Matt Roberston, our Park Ranger, left to contract privately, and Denise Clements is our new Park Ranger.

The Heritage Gardeners undertook 51 working bees and held 8 meetings during the reporting period. Thanks to a grant from the Trusts Community Foundation, a large macrocarpa and gum tree were felled letting more light and warmth into the property; two park benches were installed and a rose arbour was constructed.

On 10th May 2018, former Mayor Celia Wade-Brown planted two flowering chestnuts, a red and a pink, in the garden. This commemorated her Mayoral term between 2010-2016, when the Halfway House was restored and a Mayoral grant was made available to the gardeners to buy

trees. Lori and Mac McAllister of Tauranga planted three hazel trees in memory of early settlers Adam and Janet Reid, and their daughter Margaret, who came to live at The Halfway soon after arriving in New Zealand in 1840.

Thank you to the Heritage Gardeners, Sabah Ahmad, Patricia Apperly, Paul and Heather Bicknell, Clare Gleeson, Carolyn Lutter, Hazel Murphy, Lorna Webb, and myself, Claire Bibby. Thanks also to the Association who ably care for the Heritage Gardeners finances.

Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council (WRHPC). Where possible, I attend committee meetings at the Wellington Museum in the old Bond building. The WRHPC promotes Heritage Month in October and publishes a regular newsletter, Heritage Today.

Safety

Community contact list This year Marg and I updated the Associations e-mail distribution list and household register to assist in communications and our emergency response.

Emergency Water Supply The Red Shed for the emergency water supply was constructed in August 2018. Wellington Water hosted a show and tell event on Neighbours Day in March 2019 on how it works. The huge community effort in helping to decide where the shed would go and designing its look and feel has been worth it. It looks as if it has always been there and fits into the landscape very well.

Wellington North Community Patrols Cheryl Austin is currently chairing the group. Thank you to Sabah Ahmad for volunteering on this patrol since its inception in 2007.

Walking School Bus Andrea Wilson leads the walking school bus, taking three families of up to eight children along Middleton road and up Halswater Drive to Churton Park School. It operates every day, regardless of weather.

Submissions

The following submission to Wellington City Council were made: Stebbings Reserves naming (July 2018) Outer Green Belt (March 2019), Annual Plan for 2019-2020 (May 2019) Naming Policy for Roads, Reserves, features (June 2019).

The Year Ahead

Matters for us to focus on going ahead will be the Council elections in October, the Upper Stebbings Valley-West Glenside planning process in 2020 and monitoring the outcomes of our submissions. Enjoy the Heritage Gardeners "Walks and Talks" in October for Heritage Month.

We must continue to lobby Council and Councillors to get walkway access into the regenerating bush land area of the Glenside Reserve. It's wasteful having no walking access to a community resource where so many people live and work close by.

Thank you to committee office holders, attendees, portfolio leads, volunteers and to Jan Voss and Jane Needham for keeping our finances ship shape. Thank you to Marg Ellis and Suzanne Hendry, who are retiring from the committee this year. All the best for the 2019-2020 year ahead.

Claire Bibby, President,
3 July 2019.