

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2019 – 30 MARCH 2020

HELD 8 JULY 2020

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.

At this time a year ago, Rex Johnson of Cromwell, who manages our website, nominated our Association for the Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards, Heritage and Environment category. We made it to the finals which Rex flew up to attend! The winners of our category were Predator Free Miramar and runners up the very deserving Jay Street Nursery of Grenada Village.

1. Visibility of Glenside

Halfway House

This is our second year of access to the public rooms of the Halfway House. The Heritage Gardeners held nine events at the Halfway House, with the Heritage Garden Walks and Talks during heritage month, extending to garden group visits over the summer. A successful partnership was formed with Twiglands Garden Centre, who hosted a rose pruning demonstration and a fruit tree pruning demonstration. The Assn. was going to host a Neighbours Day Event however this was cancelled due to Covid 19.

A total 503 visitors were recorded on the Guest Register between 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019.

Visitors numbers in the guest register

Month	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	Total
2018	40	18	26	37	63	17	121	31	5	31	21	54	493
2019	22	28	54	78	14	37	97	65	9	18	48	33	503

In 2019, Challenge 2000 leaders Manisha Jobard and Tina Watkins left their residency in the house and new tenants joined us, Harley Thompson and family.

Furnishing Committee The Association committee continued furnishing the public rooms of the Halfway House in period style. The committee are grateful for the visits from colonial furnishing expert, William Cottrell, who provides guidance and advice free of charge. His suggestions to complete the rooms have been forwarded to the Property team at Wellington City Council. The

committee wound up during the year and final purchases were through the Association meetings. Thank you to Marg Ellis, Jan Voss, Paul Bicknell, and Steve Rush (and me) for attending furnishing meetings. An invitation from William Cottrell to visit his Victorian furnished home with a representative from the City Council Property team was postponed due to Covid-19 lockdown.

Signage Thanks to outgoing Mayor Justin Lester, our suburb was finally provided Glenside blue and white directional signage, seven years after the Association first asked for these! New signs were installed at the Johnsonville round-about, and on the south bound motorway off-ramp. The final one due for installation is on Grenada Drive, having been held up during Covid 19 lockdown. As a result of a request from residents of Glenside Road, Wellington City Council also installed a “No Exit” sign on the intersection of Glenside Road and Middleton Road.

Northern Suburbs Liaison Meetings I continue to attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville, which connects our Association with our local MP’s and Councillors and enables our Association activities to be communicated to a wider group.

2. 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 nine Mailchimp news and seven letterbox drop newsletters/flyers were distributed. Thank you to Steve Rush who publishes the letterbox drop and to Marg Ellis who helps me to deliver it.

Glenside Website Rex Johnson maintains the website from his home in Cromwell which he has done since he launched the website in 2007. Together we created and updated 29 articles.

Facebook People following our *Glenside- The Halfway* Facebook page has reached 272 (2019, 247; 2018, 217; 2017, 176). Thank you to Marg Ellis who managed the Facebook page and Andrea Wilson and Santiago Bernhardt who provide Facebook support.

Newspaper We contributed to four articles in the Independent Herald.

3. Retain and enhance Glenside character - ecology

Glenside Restoration Group Barry Blackett leads restoration sites along the streamside banks of Stebbings Road, Westchester Link Road and Rowells Road. During the 2019-20 year, the GRG (six regular volunteers) held seven planting and rubbish removal working bees and planted 280 plants. Funding was obtained to have one major new site (Upper Glenside Road Reserve) professionally sprayed for blackberry and old mans beard. Roadside fences were removed but further work on this site was delayed until the Covid-19 lockdown was lifted in May 2020. All existing sites continued to be maintained by regular weeding, grass trimming and mulching. All newly planted sites were watered 4-5 times each during the Jan-March 2020 drought.

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 60 sites and stump dosed more than 220 vines) In the 2019-2020 year a total of about 10 Old Man’s Beard mature vines in 5 separate locations were cut and stump dosed over

the summer and at least another 10 small vines in various other locations were detected and eradicated. Murray McAlpine from Wellington Regional Council was due to visit however the Covid-19 lockdown intervened.

Predator Free Trapping The Glenside Predator Free Group has 19 households involved with trapping using 55 rat and possum traps of various types. Catches are reported and collated once per quarter. Totals for the year, i.e. 2Q 2019 to 1Q 2020 were, Possums 29; Rats 282; Mice 194; Stoats 6; Hedgehogs 10, Other 5.

Water Quality Monitoring Barry Blackett and Marg Ellis undertook two water quality tests. A meeting was held with Liz Gibson of Mountains to the Sea, and the SCHMACK data was entered onto the SCHMAK website.

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 latest results of are Glenside Reserve: 2020 six bird species, 2019 six bird species. Halfway House: 2020 Six bird species; 2019 four bird species.

4. Retain and enhance Glenside character – heritage

Protecting sites The Association continues to seek protection for the 1841 burial site on the Reedy block. An email to Heritage New Zealand raising concern about the proximity of the Callender earthworks to the possible site did not receive a reply.

The Association continues to seek protection for the survey peg for the centre line of the Glenside-Kaiwharawhara tunnel. The survey peg is on the Callenders property, due for possible development under the Upper Stebbings Valley-Glenside West planning (which was put on hold this year). The Association supported the deferral of this planning in our submission to the Annual Plan and asked for the deferral to be an opportunity to sort this issue out to protect the survey peg in a reserve.

Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council. The Council promoted the Heritage Garden Walks and Talks and published three articles in their Heritage Today newsletter.

Heritage Gardeners. The Heritage Gardeners, are Patricia Apperly, Paul and Heather Bicknell, Clare Gleeson, Pat Lakeman, Carolyn Lutter, Claire McDonald, Hazel Murphy, Lorna Webb, and myself. The gardeners are grateful to the Association who ably care for the Heritage Gardeners finances and support the website. We welcomed two new members, Pat Lakeman (Ngaio) and Clare McDonald (Malvina Major). The highlights for the 2019-2020 year are as follows:

- Successfully nominated Claire Bibby, Heritage Gardeners for the North Wellington Volunteer Service Award 2019.
- Undertook approximately 423.5 volunteer hours, including 7 meetings and 48 working bees
- Trip made to Auckland in August 2019 to visit three historic gardens at Hawthorn Dene, Howick and Highwic.
- Seven garden tours hosted at the Halfway House. These were: October 2019, three Heritage Garden Walks and Talks for Heritage Month and a visit from Karori Garden Group. February

2020, visits from Khandallah Rebus Gardening Group and Onslow Garden Group. March 2020, a visit from Johnsonville Friendship Club.

- Two speaking engagements were made, to the Johnsonville Garden Group and Onslow Garden Group.
- Two pruning demonstrations were held with Twigland Garden Centre, a Rose pruning demonstration in June 2019, and a fruit tree pruning demonstration in August 2019.

5. Safety

Covid- 19 The Association put a reassuring newsletter out to every resident as we moved into Level 3 and 4 Lockdown offering our support, with officeholders and portfolio holders names and photographs. Just prior to lockdown, our coordinators updated and exchanged householder contact details. The highlights during lockdown, were celebrating Peter Sliker's 91st birthday – at a distance, and Andrea Wilsons Happy Easter Mailchimp message. With so many dogs out exercising with their owners, we asked Council to publicise the need to walk dogs on lead (to prevent scrapping and bubble breaking interventions) and to remind those walking dogs, to collect the doggy doo. Harley at the Halfway House reported lots of walkers in Level 3 and 2.

Wellington North Community Patrols Cheryl Austin was chairing the group but has recently stepped aside due to on-going health issues. Thank you to Sabah Ahmad for volunteering on this patrol since its inception in 2007.

6. The Year Ahead

Matters for us to focus on going ahead will be the exciting development of the walkway access into the regenerating bush land area of the Glenside Reserve, and the visit of a vintage car rally to the Halfway House during Heritage Month, and the road name submission the Association made just recently, for the new roads in Glenside.

Thank you to the awesome office holders, meeting attendees, portfolio leads and volunteers. Special thanks to Jan Voss, stepping down as Treasurer, and Jane Needham, who has retired from peer reviewing our accounts, something she has done for the Association since we became an Incorporated Society in 2003.

All the best for the 2020-2021 year.

Claire Bibby, President,
8 July 2020.