

## **Glenside Progressive Association Inc.**

**PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2020 – 30 MARCH 2021**

**HELD 27 JULY 2021**

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My Presidents report is for the 1 April 2020 - 30 March 2021 reporting year, to align with our annual Performance report and Financial report.

### **1. 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.

We have a special relationship with the Wellington City Council Parks and Reserves team due to the Halfway House and Glenside Reserve, and our volunteer commitment to the environment. Our Councillors are also important to us, as many of our community issues relate to local government spending and decision making.

Knowing our neighbours helps to build community resilience and community response in an emergency. Our Association and our community projects and activities are a great way to bring neighbours together so that we know each other better. Through time spent together, we can learn more about our community, its strengths, and vulnerabilities, who is reliable and ideally, have at least one person in the neighbourhood we can trust if an emergency arises.

The Association hosted two events for the community, an end of year Christmas afternoon tea, and for Neighbours week, a Blackberry afternoon tea. Our other community engagement was volunteering at meetings and on our community projects.

### **2. Recreational walking and Glenside Reserve track**

During the Covid lockdowns we learned that Glenside Road is “the” destination walk that people head for. Throughout Covid level 3 & 4 it was congested and over-populated with poor physical distancing. Therefore, it is great to learn that Council had funded marking out the Glenside Reserve walking track, giving locals an alternative recreational walk. Figuring out the actual route was delayed due to Covid Level 2, 3 & 4, however in June I had the privilege of joining the track team to mark the route. The Kennett brothers designed a gentle walk suitable for elderly and people with small children. Stage 1 of the track is to be constructed before the end of 2021.

### **3. Halfway House**

#### **Lease**

This is our third year of the Association’s access to the public rooms of the Halfway House and the end of year two for Challenge 2000. The Halfway House is tenanted to Challenge 2000 at a rate of \$200 per week as a place of respite for Challenge 2000 leaders, with a right to renew at \$300 a week for three years. Under the lease, the ‘house’ does not include the downstairs community rooms or downstairs toilets.

The lease agreement requires that Challenge 2000 manage the bookings for the public rooms, promotes the house as a function, meeting and education venue, supports the development of the grounds and garden, initiate Glenside Reserve community tracks and reserve maintenance days, make the house available for an Open Day each year of the lease, assist in the garden, and provides oversight for security of the building and Council owned chattels.

This year the Association met with City Council representatives and raised concerns that Challenge 2000 are not reasonably meeting their obligations of the lease. I have asked the Council to provide the date that Challenge 2000 will commence public bookings however at this time, no opening date for bookings has been provided.

#### **Association/Portfolio holder access to the public rooms**

The Association has access to the public rooms for its meetings and Association portfolio holder activities. For the 2020-2021 year a total 440 visitors were recorded on the Guest Register. Due to Council Reserve policy, no community rooms were able to be accessed under Covid Level 3 and Level 4, therefore the rooms were not used for nearly three months in 2019.

#### **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	<b>493</b>
2019-20	22	28	54	78	14	37	97	65	9	18	48	33	<b>503</b>
2020-21	0	0	5	41	50	23	59	96	61	36	21	48	<b>440</b>

**Furnishings.** The Association applied for a grant from The Trust Community Foundation for a hall curtain and for a bench seat on the veranda. These have been installed and are now owned and insured by Wellington City Council.

#### **4. Recognising Glenside/Making Glenside visible**

##### **Signage**

After Covid lockdown was lifted, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport installed the final blue directional sign to Glenside. This is on the motorway over-bridge coming down from Grenada Drive. This brings the total of new Glenside signage installed by City Council and Waka Kotahi to four and completes this project.

##### **Submission road names and suburb boundary**

Steve Rush and I made a submission to the City Council for roads in Glenside to have names relevant to Glenside, rather than the Callender's proposed names of industrial towns. We are grateful to the Councillors (in particular Cnr. Malcolm Sparrow who chairs the Regulatory committee, and Cnr. Jill Day for her commitment to Te Reo Maori) for supporting our suggestions and the suggestions of Ngati Toa. The new names will be Pine Hill Rise (after the Stebbings farm) Glenugie Grove (after the May farm) Titiwae Grove (glow-worms) Ngahere Grove (bushline) and Te Kāhu Road (harrier hawk).

Steve and I also submitted on the suburb boundary and were pleased that Council agreed with resident Barry Blackett's suggestions of small tweaks to tidy the existing Glenside/Churton Park boundary, rather than place a large area of Glenside in the Churton Park suburb.

The Callender's need to get on and complete the construction of Te Kāhu Road so that people can access the new sub-division without having to drive several miles to building sites and homes.

### **Submission on Annual Plan**

Barry Blackett and I made a submission on behalf of the Association for the City Council annual plan. We asked Council to retain the \$200k funding allocated for weed control in the draft annual plan and clarify how the money should be spent. We asked that Council set aside appropriate funding for the design work for the Glenside Reserve loop track and a track along Marshall Ridge for the year 2020-2021 and keep in mind that we would like actual tracks to be constructed as soon as possible after that. Finally, we asked Council to throw the plastics recycling issues open to experts outside of Council and to seek innovative solutions. The funding for weed control was retained and the funding for the Glenside Reserve track made available.

### **Site visits Stebbings / Glenside West and other**

I hosted several walks and drives around Glenside to discuss issues in the community with Council. These were with Cnr. Jill Day, Cnr. Teri O'Neill, and Lucie Desrosiers, Principal Advisor, City Design and Place Planning and Onur Oktem, Backyard Taonga. Other onsite meetings were hosted by Barry Ellis and Steve Rush.

### **Roading/Cycling one-site meetings**

Onsite meetings were held with the City Council Transport/Infrastructure teams to discuss Glenside Road issues, the state of the planter box outside Marion Rowell's, and a combined walking and cycle route along Middleton Road.

### **Churton Park Community Association**

We had good support from Churton Park Community Association as a result of a new committee, led by Avinash Shrivastava and his support person Dayandra Hettige. Avinash attended the Wellington Residents Association Network (WRAN) meetings, and a WRAN dinner. Both men also came to one of our meetings. Avinash did not stand for re-election, and former Chair, Brian Sheppard, was elected in 2021.

### **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.

### **Wellington Residents Association Network (WRAN)**

Each month I attend this support network of Residents Associations via a Zoom meeting.

## **5. Retain and enhance Glenside character - Ecology**

### **Glenside Restoration Group**

During the 2020-21 year, following a lot of preparatory work, five formal and several less formal planting bees involving Upper Glenside Road residents were held to plant the UGR reserve area. About 300 plants have been planted including a few hybrid natives along the roadside. The area has now been completed other than ongoing maintenance. All other Stebbings reserve sites continued to be maintained by regular weeding, grass trimming and mulching, and some infill planting used to extend coverage in some areas. All newly planted sites were watered 2-4 times each during the Jan-Feb 2021 dry period.

### **Old Man's Beard**

Barry Blackett continued to tackle OMB in several areas especially along the Glenside Valley and Nott House grounds (working with Donna Sherlock). Identifying and removing smaller vines outside the flowering season was a new focus.

### **Predator Free Trapping**

The Glenside Predator Free Group has more than 20 households involved with trapping using 55 rat and possum traps of various types. 15 of these regularly report their catches which are collated once per quarter. Totals for the year, i.e. 2Q 2020 to 1Q 2021 were, Possums 45; Rats 250; Mice 227; Stoats 0; Hedgehogs 10. We started trapping in 2014, and since Barry took over the tallies in 2017, catches total 154 possums, 826 rats, 552 mice, 28 hedgehogs and 12 stoats.

### **Landcare Research Bird Survey**

Since 2016 I have carried 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 most noticeable change at the Halfway House is that the pukeko moved away after 2017, and in 2019 and 2020, kotare, aka kingfisher came into the garden. This year I attended a Department of Conservation bird identifying course to achieve more accurate data.

## **6. Retain and enhance Glenside character – Heritage**

### **Heritage Gardeners**

This year the gardeners welcomed two new members, Pam Brown (Titahi Bay) and Jordyn O'Keefe (Johnsonville). The highlights for the 2020-2021 year are as follows:

- Undertook 453 volunteer hours, including 5 meetings and 54 working bees
- Process begun to be certified as a Moths & Butterflies Trust of New Zealand garden.
- Process begun to be an assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
- Article about Halfway House Heritage Roses published in the national magazine of Heritage Roses NZ.
- A hedge trimming demonstration and secateur sharpening demonstration was held in 2020 with Twigland Garden Centre and the Porirua Cycle & Mower Centre.
- Five 'Walk 'n Talk' garden tours were hosted at the Halfway House. These were: October 2020, Horowhenua and Wellington Vintage Car Clubs; November 2020, The Association of Anglican

Women; A group of teachers for Teachers Day; Titahi Bay Horticultural Society; December 2020 the Churton Park Garden Club evening ramble

- St Brigid's school pupils helped spread mulch.
- A speaking engagement was made to the Tawa Men's Group.
- The gardeners hosted an afternoon to thank the Berhampore Nursery Team, Jay Street Nurseries, park ranger and the mowing team for their support, both paid and voluntary.
- Compost bins were built.
- A member hosted a talk in her home about how South Island heritage groups promote their historic places – some ideas were considered for the Halfway House.

### **Heritage sites**

The Halfway House, was restored under the Mayoralty of Celia Wade-Brown in 2012, and the construction and unveiling of the Memorial to the Early Settler Woman in 2013 was a result of Association submissions. We now need our Councillors to take positive action to protect our remaining heritage from development.

- Conversations have begun with City Council to make the milkstand on the corner of Glenside Road a feature in Glenside.
- 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 Callender's property, due for possible development under Glenside West planning.
- We also need to keep an eye on the c1842 burial site of the early woman settler, on Callender's land around the area of the large corrugated-iron shed opposite the memorial.

### **Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council**

The Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council has folded and there is no longer a regional Heritage Today newsletter and website. The Association will need to consider other ways to promote the Halfway House and Heritage Garden across the region.

## **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 nine Mailchimp news and six letterbox drop newsletters/flyers were distributed. As Steve Rush moved from Glenside to Hawke's Bay this year, the newsletter is now sponsored by Yip Real Estate. Our thanks to Tracy Hurst-Porter of the Collective Hub in Johnsonville for connecting the Association with Yip.

### **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 created and updated 17 articles.

### **Facebook**

The *Glenside- The Halfway* Facebook page has 278 followers, which is excellent for a community with about 200 residences. (2020 272 2019, 247; 2018, 217; 2017, 176). Marg Ellis stepped down from Association committee and I have picked up her role managing the Facebook page. Andrea Wilson and Santiago Bernhardt provide Facebook support.

## **Newspaper**

There were 12 articles about Glenside in the Independent Herald.

## **8. Safety**

### **Wellington North Community Patrols**

There has been limited engagement with the Patrol Group as a result of the lead passing away and the new leads settling into their new roles. Sabah Ahmad continues to volunteer for the patrol, which he has done since its inception in 2007.

## **9. Going Forward**

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to Cerelia, who was Treasurer and took the minutes for the year, and Steve Rush and Santiago Bernhardt for their commitment to helping with the approval of finances. I would also like to thank Andrea Wilson, Barry Blackett, Steve Rush and Santiago Bernhardt attending many of our meetings.

Going forward, our three key focus's this year should be:

- for City Council to work with Challenge 2000 to open bookings for the public rooms of the Halfway House.
- to progress the Milkstand as a feature in the community.
- To work in partnership with City/Regional Council on a plan to trap 'possums in the Glenside Reserve and undertake streamside restoration in the reserve.

There is also scope for the Association to seek support from Central Government and Greater Wellington Regional Council and Railways to remove Old Man's Beard and blackberry infestations in the rail corridor and get proper stabilising vegetation along rail corridor.

It's important to take time out to celebrate our successes and this year I encourage residents to join the Heritage Gardeners for their Moths and Butterflies NZ garden certification on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, at 2:00 p.m. during Heritage Week.

All the best for the 2021-2022 year.

Claire Bibby, President, 27 July 2021.