

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

It is with pleasure I provide this report for the year July 2007 to July 2008. 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 that came out of the community workshop in 2001.

Getting to know the neighbours

1. **Welcome:** We welcomed four families with a gift and personal visit and acknowledged other new arrivals in the newsletter. We acknowledged those leaving us in the newsletter and hosted a community farewell at the Johnsonville RSA for Rex Johnson in December.
2. **Community Picnic:** A community picnic was held at The Halfway House, Glenside Reserve in March. The Assn. put an historic photo display of Glenside in the house. There were fun games such as a "Lucky Dip the classic "Egg and Spoon" race, and a competition to "Guess the Apple Weight" with a bag of apples from Max Dorset's orchard as the prize. City Council Parks & Reserve representatives were there, along with Cnr Celia Wade-Brown. Thank you to those residents who came along to support the event and to Meredith Hegh for having her horses at the gate for people to enjoy.
3. **Newsletters:** Eight newsletters were delivered, a total of 1760 copies. Residents give positive feedback about the newsletter and your contributions and ideas are welcome.
4. **Support from others:** Residents from Churton Park, Johnsonville and Khandallah continue to support us at Assn. meetings and we are grateful for their interest. These people are Dennis Hamblin, Rex Johnson, Joan Garman and the Hensch family.

Visibility of Glenside

5. **Website:** The highlight for the year was the development of the Glenside website. Rex Johnson and I put this together over a six week period in November and December and it was launched in time for Christmas. We were well supported by the residents who gave suggestions at planning and feedback meetings hosted by the Assn. We welcome your photographs and ideas for content.

As a result of the website several former residents have contacted us with their memories of Glenside, such as the Broderick, Braid, van Weede, and Pilbrow families. Some of their memories about the 1841 gravesite on the proposed Westchester Drive extension road have been documented on the "Westchester" webpage and were very helpful to the City Council appointed archaeologist and advisor.

6. **Newspapers:** About 14 articles on Glenside were published in newspapers, five with photographs. The Halfway House featured most in photographs.

The Assn. continues to lobby on behalf of residents about the non-delivery of local newspapers in our areas. In July this issue was escalated to the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at the Johnsonville Community Centre. It was found that other groups in the area are unhappy with delivery service and the poor coverage of Northern Suburbs news. The Assn. asked Council to ensure the community papers were sent to the Johnsonville Library.

7. **Combined Northern Ward Assns:** I attend a quarterly meeting of the Northern Ward Assns. chaired by Grenada Village Residents Assn. This meeting allows us to network with other Assns and communicate directly with Council staff or City Councillors on issues important to us. Last year I suggested a “Meet the Councillors” evening prior to the election, which was hosted by the Combined Assns. This year the combined Associations asked Northern Ward Councillors to tell us what they are doing for us in our own suburbs. We asked Council to provide a breakdown of spending by suburb in the Northern Ward. Council advised they were unable to do this as projects are set up and run on an issue or project basis covering the whole city and in most cases was unable to be broken down into a particular area.
8. **Northern Suburbs Liaison:** I attend a monthly Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting that enables networking to take place with other agencies working in the community for the benefit of community. We share our newsletter at that meeting, which is attended by Government agencies, City Council representatives, schools, Church groups and community groups. You are welcome to attend representing the Assn. or your specific community group.

Retain and enhance Glenside character

Protection of heritage

9. **Gravesite:** We championed for the protection of the 1841 gravesite on the proposed Westchester Drive extension. We are waiting for WCC to confirm the actual gravesite location through an exploratory dig by an archaeologist. Poor weather has held this up. Our research has suggested another gravesite of a family, up the hill, which may also be affected by proposed roading earthworks.
10. **Archaeology:** There has been no final report on the Glenside Road/Stebbing Road corner archaeological site.
11. **Halfway House:** We applied to the Historic Places Trust to have the Halfway House assessed for a Historic Category rating. It was wonderful that Council approved a District Plan Heritage listing of the house which enables it to be recognized on their files as an important historic building in Wellington.

“Umbrella” to Glenside Streamcare Group (Protect living streams)

12. The Association continues to manage the Streamcare Group funds and is heartened to see the donations from those who support it, such as Twigland Gardeners World.

Glenside planting, birds and fish.

13. Robyn Young continues to maintain the Glenside Road corner beautifully. Please support her by helping out.
14. The Assn. has been in discussions with WCC to remove gorse on the fence line and extend planting on the road reserve from Twigland Gardeners World to Westchester Drive East.

Input into Council planning and projects/overview of Council developments

15. **Northern Reserves Plan:** The Assn. delivered a written and oral submission to the City Council for the Glenside Reserves and Halfway House on behalf of the community. We continue to champion for community use of the Halfway House and recognition of the Town Belt funding used to purchase the Glenside Reserve in 1951, for use as a recreational reserve. We reminded Council of our idea for a Trust and for a Village Green on the reserve between Westchester Drive East and Rowells Road.
16. **Westchester Drive East:** In May an on site visit was held with CEO Garry Poole, Council staff and community. The Assn. compiled a series of questions under the Official Information Act which were sent to Council. The response will be summarized for the website.
17. **Hilltops & Ridgelines:** Residents were informed of consent applications and DP Plan changes that encroach into the Hilltop and Ridgeline zone and affect the Marshall Ridgeline.

Traffic safety and other safety issues

Road signage

18. The Assn. continues to ask for the 30km speed reduction signs at Piebald cutting. The sign was removed when the road improvements were made in 2003/2004.
19. Again, there were arsons on the landfill road and private property adjacent to Rowells Road. The City Council advises that the proposed name for the landfill road is Grenadine Drive however this has yet to be approved.

Drainage/flooding

20. **Sediment & Earthworks:** Incidents were reported to City Council where earthworks had affected the free flow of water through culverts and affected roading. These included sediment blocking a Middleton Road culvert and subsidence on Rowell's Road as a result of sediment blocking a creek channel.

Middleton Road Walkway

21. The Assn. continues to lobby Council for a proper walkway along Middleton Road.

Policing and patrolling

22. I attended a Community Patrolling meeting hosted by the Police and Northern area patrol coordinators and suggested funding support through the Police Diversion scheme and volunteer support through Volunteer Wellington.

Educate public about Glenside

23. **Glenside history book:** The Assn. and Onslow Historic Society republished the history of Glenside. We have 50 copies to sell at \$15 each.
24. **Historic Glenside in the newsletter:** I strive to have an historic article about Glenside in every issue of the newsletter. Last year we compiled memories of the 70 years the railway deviation had been

open. The folder of newsletters supplied to Herbs Café continues to attract interest from readers willing to exchange information about historic Glenside.

25. **Website:** The website has opened up new opportunities for our heritage to be read and has attracted interest from the railway enthusiasts.
26. **Historic Bus Tour 2008:** A highly successful tour Glenside by the Wellington Branch of Historic Places Trust took place in June, ending at The Halfway House and Herbs Café. A donation of \$200 was received from the branch. The branch also published an article in its newsletter about the grave site on the proposed Westchester Drive extension.

Proposals for the year ahead

27. **Website:** This year I would like to see the Assn. develop the following website initiatives.
 - A history of Stebbings Valley so that new residents in Churton Park understand its historic background and association with Glenside.
 - Exploring the idea of hosting Onslow Historic Society information about our area.
 - Working with Glenside families who have published their genealogy and asking them to share it via the website. Murray Henderson has provided his family history and extracts of it will be published on an appropriate webpage with his permission.
 - Encouraging new migrants to share their stories of arriving in New Zealand and Glenside.
28. **Fish & Eel day for kids:** We could have a stream discovery day for children and a film evening on eels and native fish.
29. **Bird fun in the garden:** Perhaps our Assn. could encourage residents to undertake the annual Landcare Research bird survey in their home garden. I would also like to see the Assn. encourage residents to plant trees that will supply food for the existing kereru bird population.

Thank you

30. Tonight's Community Celebration and the distribution of certificates is our Assns' way of recognizing volunteer's efforts and the contribution you make toward our community.

Claire Bibby, President Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.