

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

It is with pleasure I provide this report for the year July 2008 to July 2009. 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 five families with a gift and personal visit and acknowledged other new arrivals in the newsletter. We acknowledged those leaving us in the newsletter.
2. **Newsletters:** Eleven newsletters were delivered, totaling more than 2000 copies.
3. **Support from others:** We are indebted to Rex Johnson in Australia, our website administrator, who keeps our website safe and secure and regularly loads up items for us. 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, who helped us with the Charities Commission registration, Joan Garman and Eileen Doile, who regularly attend meetings, and the Hensch family.
4. **The Westchester Hearing:** The Resource Consent hearing provided opportunities for residents to work together and The Assn. approach to support all submitters, whether they were for or against the road was the right approach to take.

Visibility of Glenside

5. **Website:** The website was launched in December 2007 and has proved to be a highly successful initiative. The Westchester page has provided a good reference for information about the Link road enabling our Official Information requests, photographs and submissions to be made available to journalists, historians, Councillor's , Churton Park residents (who are wanting to be better informed) and to each other.
6. **Newspapers:** About 28 articles on Glenside were published in newspapers. Most referred to streamcare, historic matters or the Westchester Link. This is double the articles published last year.

The Assn. has given up on the fight to get local newspapers delivered in our rural areas. I would like to acknowledge Ted Neylon who faithfully delivers me his copies of the newspapers every week so that I am kept informed.

7. **Combined Northern Ward Assns:** There have been no meetings hosted this year.
8. **Northern Suburbs Liaison:** I regularly attend the monthly Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting held at the Johnsonville community centre. The meeting enables networking to take place with Government agencies, City Council representatives, schools, Church groups and community groups. I present our newsletter to the participants. You are welcome to attend representing the Assn. or your specific community group.

Retain and enhance Glenside character

Protection of heritage

9. **Gravesite:** We were present at an exploratory dig by an archaeologist for the c1841 gravesite on the proposed route of the Westchester Link road. In March a blessing of the area was held, led by Vicar David Nimmo from St John Anglican Church. My thanks to the Reedy family who gave permission for the blessing to be held. The first blessing was made by Bishop Selwyn over the gravesite in 1842. There has been supposition that flooding might have impacted on the gravesite however the archaeologist advised this isn't the case at all and there have been no flood waters over the area where the body is likely to be buried.
10. **Archaeology:** There has been no final report on the Glenside Road/Stebbing Road corner archaeological site. The Historic Places Trust has been asked to obtain the draft report and register the site on their archaeological database.
11. **Halfway House:** When the grounds were being prepared for planting this year, archeological artifacts were disturbed and planting could not proceed. The Assn. alerted City Council to this and they applied to the Historic Places Trust for an authority to continue to work on the site.

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

12. The Association continues to manage the Streamcare Group funds and champions the group's activities through the newsletter and website.

Glenside planting, birds and fish.

13. The Assn. and Henderson family planted three large flowering cherries on the Glenside Road corner. These were purchased with the support of Twigland Gardeners World, Assn. funds and the Henderson family. One of the trees is in memory of Murray Henderson who died last year. Murray's ancestors lived on the land now proposed for the Westchester Link Road.
14. Through the e-mail group the Assn. encouraged residents to undertake the annual Landcare Research bird survey in their home garden.

15. The 500 trees and shrubs provided by City Council for the Halfway House stream banks are currently being planted on Glenside corner, Rowells Road Streamcare site and down at the Debris Arrester.

Input into Council planning and projects/overview of Council developments

16. **Middleton Road Walkway:** As a result of submissions into the Long Term Community Council Plan The Wellington City Council's new 10-year budget includes \$4,750,000 to invest in a strategic cycling and walking network - including the proposed 'Great Harbour Way' and a cycle-walkway alongside the Porirua Stream through Tawa and along Middleton Road to Glenside. There will be \$250,000 capex (in 2009/10) and then \$500,000 per annum to progress the strategic cycle walking network. So far I have seen no progress on the Middleton Road part of this network. Instead the focus is on the Great Harbour Way. We need to keep the pressure up on Regional and City Council to invest in Middleton Road.
17. **Westchester Drive East:** Since April the Assn. has been very busy submitting to the Hearing and following up on its Appeal. A number of residents have put huge effort into the Hearing and Appeal and continue to attend regular focus group meetings.
18. **Hilltops & Ridgelines:** Barry Blackett and I finally reached resolution with the City Council and Best Farms limited over the Hilltop and Ridgeline overlay. Large earthworks will take place on top of the ridgeline when a reservoir is put in place for the Stebbings Valley development. These works will be visible to a number of our residents.
19. **Halfway House:** We met with Council representatives in the House in January and asked them to progress the list of urgent repairs documented in 2004 by their heritage consultant. These repairs have not taken place. Our submissions to the LTCCP for funding the Halfway House were unsuccessful. However works to prepare the grounds for planting were started.

Traffic safety and other safety issues

20. **Road safety:** In May the Assn. met with Richmond Hill residents and Council. Among the traffic safety improvements we yet again asked for the replacement of the 30km speed reduction signs at Piebald cutting. (The sign was removed when the road improvements were made in 2003/2004) We also asked for the grate on Richmond Hill to be lowered enabling safer access in and out of the hill and a lay-by for the speed camera at Edward Wilson Park and a walkway from Takapu to Richmond Hill. Council supported all these ideas and did take follow up action on all the points raised.
21. **Arson and road signs:** Every year there are arsons on the former landfill road which threaten private property. In July this year, after the latest arson, I spoke to Bruce Patterson, Grenada Village Residents Assn. asking him to hurry Council along with directional signage for the road, which is to be called Grenada Drive. An on-site meeting was held. The lack of signage makes it confusing for people directing emergency vehicles to the location.
22. **Bus issues:** The introduction of the Number 60 bus service had created a lot of confusion for residents over pick-ups and drop offs. In May The Assn. made a submission to the Regional

Council asking for the matter to be resolved. A community meeting was held with Cnr Judith Aitken and representatives from Mana Coach Services and Regional Council. The process for making complaints was outlined and communicated to residents. A request for the bus stops to be properly identified with their ID numbers was made.

23. **Policing and patrolling:** A good relationship between community and Johnsonville Police and our community patrollers has resulted in some great apprehensions (the railway copper thieves) and suspects (car registration number obtained of the day time burglars) and graffiti taggers (caught in the act).

Educate public about Glenside

24. **Stepping out walk:** In March 2009 I supported the City Council lead an historic walk up Glenside and Stebbings Road, through Lakewood Reserve and back to The Halfway House. The Halfway House was opened up for the event with a historic photograph display.
25. **Glenside history book:** The Assn. has sold 42 of the 50 copies of the book about Glenside that was republished in 2008 by the Onslow Historic Society. I am grateful to the Johnsonville Library for providing a service to sell from their counter.
26. **The newsletter:** The newsletter is provided to residents, Councillors, MP's and journalists. A folder of newsletters is kept updated at Herbs Café.
27. **Website:** The website provides up to date Glenside news. In the last year articles of historic interest were put on-line including the mystery of the gun-wagon that rolled c1847-1854 on the original Porirua Road (now Middleton Road); the May family settlers that lived and farmed from 1886-1900 on the land where the proposed Westchester road is going to go; the c1841 gravesite and World War II pilot Horace Trenchard who was killed on active service.
28. **Wellington Branch of Historic Places Trust:** The branch recently published an article in its newsletter updating its members on the grave site on the proposed Westchester Drive extension, the archaeological report on the Halfway House and the discovery of the cast iron pot found by the Streamcare Group.

Proposals for the year ahead

29. **Website:** A request for stories from new migrants to share about their first impressions of New Zealand and Glenside did not attract any takers. However, the idea of family histories going on the website is proving popular. I am currently preparing an article about the McKain family, who ran the Halfway House from 1850-1853. I am still keen to work with Onslow Historic Society on a history of Stebbings Valley so that new residents in Churton Park understand its historic background and association with Glenside.
30. **Working with Mary:** Mary O'Keeffe is keen to work with me to "nail" the history and locations of The Halfway House/s.
31. **Fish & Eel day for kids:** Due to commitments with the Link road this didn't take place. I am still keen for The Assn. to organize a stream discovery day for children and film evening on eels and native fish during the summer.
32. **Thank you** to the Ahmad, Mercer, Sherlock & Growcott, Hendry, Needham, Bell and Blackett families for making their homes available for meetings. Thank you to the families

who put so much effort into their submissions on the Westchester Link. Thank you to those who attend meetings, provide feedback, plant trees, review documentation and share thoughts on ways to make Glenside even more beautiful than it already is.

Claire Bibby, President Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.