

Presidents Report for Glenside Progressive Association Inc 2014-15

Presented at AGM, 29 July 2015 by Jan Voss

Thank you for the support shown to me and to the Association's activities over the past year.

These past 12 months have been fairly quiet within the Association following the decision not to hold a Glenside Show in January 2015. Doing so and so taking the pressure off the Council's work schedule proved to be a wise decision, as they then managed to complete the external restoration and much of the internal work on the Halfway House without the interruption and compromises in site safety a Show would have entailed.

The Association was also invited to witness their archaeological scrape of the grounds under the guidance of Mary O'Keefe and while not uncovering too much treasure was revealing as to the original construction and many uses the house has seen over the last century.

A proposal to lease the two Community rooms at the front of the Halfway House was not accepted by the Council at this time. However the opportunity to move Association meetings to this location from next month and the initial development of the grounds towards a Heritage Garden vision is now in progress.

A huge thanks must go to Claire Bibby, who despite being out of town for much of the year, has organised an enthusiastic group of garden helpers who began the long process of preparing ground for planting and restoration in this project. The first part is likely to be the installation of some mature heritage fruit trees to complement those still in existence.

On the subject of planting I would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Barry Blackett for his work along Stebbings Road and at the Glenside Road corner. The efforts to remove weeds and replant both sections have been mammoth. Diligently aided by a loyal band of residents, the results are looking good and show off the sense of pride in our environment that Glenside has a reputation for - with the anticipated show of flowering bulbs still to come in just a few months' time.

Barry has been hard-working in many ways for the Association and his contribution as Secretary much appreciated as well - especially when his previous replacement was unexpectedly called to work overseas. I know Barry is

hoping to take a back seat this year. I look forward to having a new person take up the reins.

Aside from the ongoing activity around the Halfway House the other major Association project was the awarding of \$5000 from the Halo Foundation for the eradication of pests in an urban zone. This has some months still to run but with over 150 possums and countless rats removed the project is moving along well. Thanks especially go to Allan Brown and Barry Ellis for their efforts and again to Barry Blackett in providing support. We will soon see the benefit of this as more birds and insects are able to set up home in our beautiful suburb.

We were able to participate in the Neighbour's weekend activities with the help of a council grant with a Big Day In hosted by Suzanne and Paul Hendry at their home and also a number of smaller events around Glenside in March. It was a pity the weather didn't support our efforts but it was a good way to increase our potential resilience in an emergency by getting to know neighbours.

Also significant is that the Association moved into the technology age with the establishment of a Facebook page and also transferring the newsletter from its traditional print format into an email one. We will continue to work hard to ensure all our members keep up to date with goings-ons as the newsletter has always received a great deal of positive feedback - but the new format will be cheaper and easier to maintain. A big thank you is due here to Andrea Wilson for establishing the pages and doing a lot of work behind the scenes to make IT function so smoothly.

On which note where would we be without the efforts of Claire Bibby and Rex Johnston keeping the website ticking over. This year saw a move away from the free community website service offered through WCC to our own domain and hosting and this has proved much more reliable and resilient.

Finally I would like to extend a thanks to the generosity of our residents who have offered their homes to host meetings over the past years.

Jan Voss

