

## **Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2023 – 30 MARCH 2024**

**HELD 30 JULY 2024**

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My report is for the 1 April 2023 - 30 March 2024 reporting year, to align with our annual Performance and Financial report.

#### **1. Building and strengthening community**

The Assn. 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.

Our Assn. and our community projects and activities are our way of bringing neighbours together so that we know each other better. Knowing our neighbours helps to build community resilience and community response in an emergency.

#### **Community events**

The Assn. hosted two walks in the Glenside Reserve and provided refreshments at the Halfway House.

The Heritage Gardeners hosted a free Garden Walk & Talk for our local community during Heritage Week

The December Christmas Carols in the Garden at Halfway House was cancelled due to rain.

#### **Halfway House**

The Assn. continues to use the Halfway House as a central meeting point for community and for events and meetings. The Heritage Gardeners use it weekly for working bees.

- This year the WCC lease team approached Assn. about taking over management of the public rooms from the tenants. The Assn. responded in support of this, with conditions.
- In June 2023, the Assn. supported a student to photograph the interior rooms for her Massey Degree, a Bachelor of Design.
- Heather McGaskell, WREMO, a guest speaker at an Assn. meeting, said that although the Halfway House did not meet the criteria of a community hub for emergency purposes, it would be a good meeting place for the community in an emergency event.

#### **2. Recognising Glenside - Making Glenside Visible**

##### **Glenside Sign**

A flower bed garden was planted around the sign opposite Monterey. Bill Lawton, Barry Blackett and Claire Bibby cleared the site. Wellington City Council took the brambles away. The Assn. paid for ponga edging and Twiglands provided plants. Hanny Nauf from Monterey weeds and keeps it free from litter.

### **Suburb name**

WCC Planning team and Collective Real Estate incorrectly communicated Glenside properties as in Churton Park. These incidents were each corrected following direct complaints raised by the Assn.

### **Suburb boundary adjustment**

No progress was made on this. Cnr. McNulty advised that the regulatory committee has been overwhelmed with work.

## **3. Retain and enhance Glenside character – Ecology and landscape**

### **Opposing urban sprawl in Glenside**

City Council rezoning and District Plan changes are resulting in large scale changes to Glenside's character. Old fashioned 1960's style urban sprawl continues across Glenside hillsides with a Future Urban Zone proposed for Glenside (west side of Middleton road).

Barry Blackett, on behalf of the Assn. made submissions on the proposed District Plan continuing to push for better ecological outcomes. Unfortunately, the current Council support car dependant urban sprawl on Glenside's steep hillsides.

### **Glenside Reserve**

The Glenside Reserve is becoming the focus for the Assn. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Assn. and Wellington City Council was updated.

### ***Horse grazing lease land***

- On 26 April 2023 the Assn. hosted a walk for officials and community in the area leased for horse grazing. This revealed issues of erosion around a sewer pipeline manhole, fish barriers, lack of track maintenance and general untidiness.
- On 28 January 2024 the Assn. hosted a further community walk in the reserve.
- Cnr. John Apanowicz and Cnr. Tony Randle each attended a walk.
- A discussion document was prepared by the Assn. Participants supported no dogs and suggested how the lease land could be used in future. There is strong support for fish and ground-nesting bird preservation.
- Fish passages were constructed by Greater Wellington in June and July 2023 with volunteers from the community assisting.
- On 25 January 2024. The Assn. and Heritage Gardeners hosted a walk in the Reserve and afternoon tea at the Halfway House for the new WCC Manager Parks and Open Spaces, Bradley Schroder.
- Conversations have commenced with the community and WCC park rangers and Dog Policy team to have the lease land listed as a Dogs Prohibited area to protect the ground birds.

### ***Bird and bee bank***

- A bank with natives to encourage birds and bees was planted behind the Red Shed at Halfway House. The Conservation Volunteers cleared it and WCC mowed and crushed the brambles. In July 2024, Claire Bibby, Barry Blackett and the Park Rangers helped plant it. The Conservation Volunteers returned to weed release, water and mulch. The plants have taken off with a near 100% strike rate.

### ***Driveway alongside Halfway House***

- Planting the hillside above the Halfway House driveway is an ongoing project led by Claire Bibby. More cherries and gorse were removed and further planting took place.

### ***Westchester Drive***

- The area of blackberry by the Glenside sign near the motorway had been sprayed and crushed. In 2023, the first planting took place. Losses were high due to a combination of drought and no mulch being delivered by WCC. This year WCC delivered mulch.

### **Predator Free**

The community provides backyard trapping tallies to Barry Blackett on a quarterly basis. He provides a service maintaining traps. Claire Bibby, Barry Blackett and Shelby Lockwood were trained and certified to trap on WCC Reserve land.

John Parfitt joined our Predator Free team in September 2023 to trap the Glenside Reserve loop tracks.

Cat trapping began thanks to WCC, Kate Baoumgren. Three feral cats were caught.

Greater Wellington advised they will not be able to get rid of the rabbits in the Heritage Garden and Glenside Reserve due to the horses grazing there.

### **Water Pollution Hotline**

The Assn. is now tabling water pollution incidents raised by the community at our meetings, and in the local newspapers. Greater Wellington issued an infringement notice to McMud for water contamination in Porirua stream.

The Assn. is engaging with Regional Councillor Daran Ponter about Greater Wellington's poor telephone service for handling and recording water pollution complaints.

## **Water Quality Monitoring**

This year the Assn. supported and encouraged residents to get involved in Water Quality Monitoring (WQM). Claire Bibby and Shelby Lockwood participated in the following activities:

- Attended a Restoration Day, hosted by Mountains to the Sea and Ngāti Toa. As a result of this event, the Assn. supported a student with her thesis, by providing her with information on community engagement with water quality and the environment.
- Participated in a WQM strategy development workshop at Porirua in August 2023.
- Undertook training on WQM with Mountains to the Sea. This is being done four times a year in three local streams, Stebbings Stream, Glenside Reserve and Drake Reserve up by Wingfield Place. E-coli counts are high in all streams. DNA sampling undertaken in streams.

## **4. Retain and enhance Glenside's character - Heritage**

### **Heritage garden**

The Heritage Gardeners are in their eighth year of planting the garden around the Halfway House. The highlights for the 2023-2024 year are as follows:

- Planted a gingko biloba for the Kings Coronation.
- Attended Government House for the Duke of Edinburgh Award commemorations. Claire Bibby and Keira Bosch (the DoE student volunteering in the garden) met the HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.
- Heritage Festival - held 23 October to 5 November. Paul Bicknell and Claire Bibby volunteered much of their time on Heritage Week/ This is the main fundraising event for the Heritage Garden.
- Eleven Walk & Talk garden visits were hosted including Te Ara Pukerua Heritage Group, Miramar Garden Club, Laurenson Accountants, Heritage Week (x 2) Tararua Tramping Club, Bob Scott Retirement Home, Newtown Salvation Army, Rhebus Khandallah and a free community walk.
- Seven presentations about the garden and its historical connections were made. These were to Titahi Bay Horticultural Society, NZ Genealogical Society, U3A, Johnsonville Garden Club, Rhebus Khandallah, Island Bay U3A, Island Bay Garden Group.
- Hosted a visit from Deryn Thorpe of Perth, a journalist, garden writer, garden tour guide who is planning garden tours to New Zealand. Judith Soja, Chair of Wellington branch Heritage Roses NZ also attended.
- A hailstorm on 12 December damaged the apples, leaving none suitable for sale. The plum crop was largely undamaged and thanks to Russell Brodies pruning, the best crop to date.
- Entered competitions for the Hutt Horticultural Show and Titahi Bay Spring Show and receiving First Prizes for heritage roses and heritage daffodils.
- Repair of the Halfway House Information Board by John Parfitt, Glenside Reserve trapper.

### **c1840 Burial site**

On learning that Wellington Water proposed to trench through the Reedy block where the early settler burial site is, the Assn. engaged with WCC Planning and Heritage NZ and the project manager to prevent any disturbance to the archaeology.

Claire Bibby wrote a report about the site which was sent to WCC Planning, WCC Archives, Heritage NZ and the project manager.

Cnr. John Apanowicz assisted the Assn. to engage with Heritage NZ. As a result, on 3 May 2024, representatives from Heritage NZ – Dean Raymond and Jamie Jacobs, and the archaeologist Mary O’Keeffe, met with the Assn. (represented by Steve Watts and Claire Bibby) to discuss the way forward.

Heritage NZ wrote to a representative of the landowner outlining the process to be followed.

## **5. Communications**

### **Newsletters**

The Assn. develops and distributes a regular email newsletter and a hardcopy in the letterbox. Hardcopy distribution has increased to include Glenside households in Pine Hill Rise and Farnworth Terrace. Ten e-newsletters and eight letterbox drop newsletters were developed and widely distributed to residents.

### **Glenside Website**

The Assn. is very grateful for Rex Johnson’s commitment to our website, which he does at no charge from his home in Cromwell. Rex has committed to supporting the website until 2033. He created a new webpage, Glenside Reserves.

Local histories on the website have proved popular with people inquiring about family history. Of interest, Wilma Kernow of Cornwall, United Kingdom, was looking at the website and reconnected with a former friend who lived in Glenside from 1960-1963.

### **Facebook**

The Glenside – The Halfway Facebook page has 413 followers, up from 379 last year.

### **Journals and Newspapers**

There were a total 29 articles written about Glenside in newspapers and national journals. Articles of interest are as follows:

- Camellias along Middleton Road featured in the July 2023 issue of the NZ Camellia Bulletin journal.
- The Halfway House Heritage Garden featured in the Autumn 2023 issue of the Moths & Butterfly’s of NZ Trust journal, as an example of setting up a project for a moth and butterfly garden.
- The Halfway House featured on the Heritage NZ website for the annual Heritage Festival.

## **6. Community Safety – Traffic, Crime and Disorder**

**Glenside roundabout** - In May 2023, representatives from WCC Transport and Infrastructure met with community about the road safety issues at the Glenside roundabout. The Assn. asked for NZTA to attend but they didn't. The community raised issues of speed, failing to give way, lack of pedestrian access, provision for future cycleway and to replace the concrete on the roundabout with grasses for filtering rainfall. The Transport and Infrastructure team approached WCC Parks, Sports and Recreation team who manage the roundabout plantings, to plant the site, however they didn't want to do it.

**Bridge crash barrier** - Repairs to the crash barrier on the Westchester Drive bridge (Churton Park side) were still being chased in April 2023 by the Assn., some eight months after the vehicle crash in August 2022. It was eventually repaired.

**Everiss crash** - An Everiss truck and trailer unit tipped over on the interchange on 24 February 2024, closing it for hours. The Independent Herald is inquiring why Police did not lay charges.

**Bus stop relocation** - As a result of drivers parking improperly, WCC wanted to relocate the bus stop north of the Glenside roundabout to cross two private driveway entrances. The Assn. collated the community view, which opposed the recommendation. Cnr. Ben McNulty and Cnr. Tony Randle represented the community view at Council and after submissions were made, the proposal was withdrawn.

**Crime and disorder** – There was an unusual spike in crime in the community. This included thefts and damage to vehicles on the Glenside Road layby; stolen vehicles dumped and burned on the Middleton Road lay-by near Rowells Road intersection and a burglary at Twiglands.

## **7. Other matters**

### **Flood hazard**

The community raised concerns about the non-consented bridge over the stream at the flats. City Council are communicating with the owner about getting it removed.

### **Submissions**

The Assn. made several submissions during the year. These included the following:

- Long Term Plan - funding was sought for Glenside Reserve.
- Communities Facilities Plan – submitted that Council maintain existing WCC owned properties in Glenside Reserve so that they don't go derelict and can be repurposed.
- Bus stop across two driveways not to proceed.
- District Plan – opposed Future Urban Zone on Glenside West on a range of points.

The Heritage Gardeners opposed the Multi-Urban Zone change for five-story and higher on the boundary adjacent to the Halfway House and supported aspects of the Urban Design Plan for managing storm water and development adjacent to streams.

## **8. Going Forward**

I would like to pass on my appreciation and thanks to the following people:

- Avril Hillind and Kaye Francis from Laurenson Accountants for reporting on our finances and Santiago Bernhardt and Heidi from the community for approving payments.
- Northern Ward Councillors Tony Randle, John Apanowicz and Ben McNulty for representing us at Council, and providing guidance.
- Gillian Cross from The Collective for sponsoring the newsletter.
- Rex Johson for managing the website.
- Barry Blackett, Santiago Bernhardt, Aaron and Georgia Freeman and Steve Watts who regularly attend and contribute to committee meetings.
- Barry Blackett, Shelby Lockwood and John Parfitt for on-going environmental support in the community.
- The Heritage Gardeners - Claire Bibby, Paul and Heather Bicknell, Pam Brown, Raewyn Epsom, Pat Lakeman, Claire McDonald, Lorna Webb, Keira Bosch, Russell Brodie and former gardeners Marie Goodall and Carolyn Lutter.
- Our park rangers Denise Clements and Frank Williams.

In the coming year the Assn. will focus on securing a ground bird restoration strategy for Glenside Reserve.

Thank you to those in the Glenside community who provide donations and support the work of the Assn. in a variety of ways.

Your ongoing support for our suburb is valued and appreciated.

Claire Bibby  
President.