

Glenside Progressive Association Inc.

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1 APRIL 2021 - 30 MARCH 2022

HELD 19 JULY 2022

My report is for the 1 April 2021 - 30 March 2022 reporting year, to align with our annual Performance and Financial report.

Congratulations to Barry Blackett, who was nominated by the community in 2021 for the North Wellington Voluntary Service Awards. Barry achieved the Award for his work leading ecological projects in the Glenside community. These include revegetating Stebbings Road and Glenside Road streambanks, getting rid of Old Man's Beard and coordinating Predator Free trapping. Barry has been an active Committee member of the Glenside Progressive Association since 2002.

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.

Our Association 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.

1. Recreational walking and Glenside Reserve track

The Glenside loop track was opened in 2021. This ten-minute loop track is very popular. Council receives positive feedback about it through their website.

Tim Harkness, WCC Trails & Reserve Specialist for Parks, Sport & Recreation advises the Stage 2 extension will be constructed this September or October 2022, staff and weather permitting.

2. Halfway House

Lease & Furnishings

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.

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.

Last year the Association met with City Council representatives and raised concerns that Challenge 2000 were not reasonably meeting their obligations of the lease.

There has been a change of staff at WCC and Annelise Bos, Community Recreation Leases Advisor Parks, Sport & Recreation is now managing the lease. The WCC is now hosting regular joint meetings with Challenge 2000, the Glenside Progressive Association and Heritage Gardeners.

Reuben Daubé, Heritage Advisor RMA, Wellington City Council attends meetings. The Heritage Unit agree with the suggestions made by William Cottrell for restoring the interior of the public rooms.

Furnishings/Interior.

The Association initiated a grant from The Trust Community Foundation for a built-in bookshelf, ceiling scotia and upgrade to interior doors. This was not progressed due to Covid restrictions and the Crown Joinery team becoming overworked.

Access to the public rooms

Due to Red and Orange traffic light settings, the Halfway House public rooms were not able to be accessed for much of the year. Under revised Orange settings they became available for booking to the public.

For the 2021-2022 year a total 124 visitors were recorded on the Guest Register. The users were mainly the Glenside Progressive Association and the Heritage Gardeners, who are permitted to use the rooms for meetings and garden working bees.

Visitor numbers in the guest register

Month	Apr il	Ma y	Jun e	Jul y	Au g	Se pt	Oc t	No v	De c	Ja n	Fe b	Ma r	Tot al
2018- 19	40	18	26	37	63	17	12 1	31	5	31	21	54	493
2019- 20	22	28	54	78	14	37	97	65	9	18	48	33	503
2020- 21	0	0	5	41	50	23	59	96	61	36	21	48	440
2021- 22	18	31	27	21	5	0	0	0	3	16	3	0	124

3. Recognising Glenside/Making Glenside visible

Signage

A directional sign to the Halfway House was installed on the light pole at the driveway entrance

Submission suburb boundary

Our suburb boundary is not correct with the boundary going down the centre of Stebbings Road and Glenside Road putting the side of the roads with no houses in Churton Park (except for Callender's house site, which is in Glenside suburb). There are very few streets in Wellington with a suburb boundary down the middle of the street and now we find online maps referring to Glenside Road in Churton Park, even though all the Glenside Road houses are in Glenside.

In September 2021 the Association made an oral submission to the Regulatory Committee to get all of Glenside Road into Glenside suburb. In October 2021 Cnr. Sparrow of the Regulatory Committee retired however he forwarded an extract from an email of Carline Thomas of the Land, Customer & Property Information (LCTP) Team saying among other things they were too busy to make the change.

On 25 April 2022 the Mayor was approached and in response to his request, a letter was sent to him from the Association on 2 May 2022 seeking the change. The Mayor's officer referred back to the 2021 email. We have now approached Cnr. Simon Woolf of the Regulatory Committee to progress the issue.

Submission on Long Term Plan Proposed Year 2028 for new cycle-walkway

In May 2021 we submitted that Council consider an alternative plan and alternative funding for walking and cycling for Middleton Road rural in Glenside. We have submitted on Middleton Road access for walkers for 20 years and it keeps getting pushed out as it is too expensive and difficult. It's time for WCC to consider alternatives to their continued urbanised proposal and we proposed a recreational route for shared mountain biking and walking, which is affordable and possible. It's unclear whether our submission will be progressed.

District Plan submission

On 14 December 2021 the Association submitted

- Support for Special Natural Areas in Glenside
- The road connection with Tawa should be reinstated.
- Glenside West should be reclassified as Large Lot Residential and any Built Area given an Activity Status of Discretionary.
- Earthworks should be kept to a minimum.
- The Ridgetop area should be widened to allow for meaningful vertical visual protection.
- The Subdivision Design Guide section G13 covering earthworks should be greatly strengthened.
- The Residential Design Guide, section on Build Form should be strengthened to include form, colour and light pollution for housing that is visually prominent.

- Note in the Plan that Number 246 Middleton Road now has Heritage Historic Reserve status.
- Include three historic features in the Plan, namely the railway survey marker, the milkstand and the area of the 1841 gravesite.

The Association has made subsequent submissions against the urban development of the protected ridgeline. All our submissions appear to have been ignored by Councillors.

Churton Park Community Association

Our Association rejected Brian Sheppard's suggestion of a large sign advertising Churton Park events on Westchester Drive in Glenside (near the Memorial). We suggested the sign be installed in Churton Park, near New World. This is the second time we have said no to the Churton Park Association wanting their advertising signs in Glenside.

Northern Suburbs Liaison Meetings

Claire Bibby continues to attend the Northern Suburbs Liaison meeting at Johnsonville, which connects our Association with our local MP and Councillors and enables our Association activities to be communicated to a wider community group.

Wellington Residents Association Network (WRAN)

When possible, Claire Bibby attends the Wellington Residents Associations support network via a Zoom meeting.

4. Retain and enhance Glenside character - Ecology

Glenside Restoration Group

Barry Blackett, who leads the group, advises that during the 2021 - 2022 year, planting of the Upper Glenside Road Reserve was completed. Some further planting on the steep bank below Stebbings Walkway was carried out by Council's Planting Team. Maintenance was continued throughout the Stebbings Stream restoration area which is now complete other than ongoing maintenance. Plant survival and plant growth has been good in all areas. Removal of gorse, broom and blackberry along the boundaries of both parts of the Glenside Reserve was initiated.

Old Man's Beard

Barry Blackett leads this project. Several large vines were removed along Middleton Road. Treescape, contracted to KiwiRail sprayed the area close to the tunnel entrance. There is now a focus to spray or remove small vines wherever they are found and at all times of year.

Predator Free Trapping

Barry Blackett coordinates this project. The Glenside Predator Free Group has 17 households involved with trapping using 55 rat and possum traps of various types. Of these, 15 regularly report their catches which are collated

once per quarter. Totals for the year, i.e. 2Q 2021 to 1Q 2022 were, Possums 40; Rats 216; Mice 180; Stoats 0; Hedgehogs 10. Catch numbers are now being reported to Predator Free Wellington.

NZ Bird Survey

Claire Bibby has undertaken the national bird survey at the Glenside Reserve and the Halfway House since 2016. This is to measure whether the ongoing streamside and garden planting is increasing/changing the birdlife.

Halfway House: The kotare/kingfisher are still resident in the garden. This year there were kereru/woodpigeon in the orchard and during the Bird Count a kaka flew overhead.

Glenside Reserve: The pond on the reserve is a refuge for waterfowl during duck shooting season. Land birds continue to be present, such as pukeko and paradise ducks. Two Te Kaha/Harrier hawks regularly hunt the reserve.

Moth and Butterfly transect

Claire Bibby has been counting Moths and Butterflies in the Halfway House garden using a transect and recorded the data with Moths & Butterfly online. There is only one other person in New Zealand doing this data collection with the Moths & Butterflies NZ Trust.

Twelve different butterfly and moth varieties have been identified in the garden. Will Brockelsby from the Department of Conservation has assisted with identification.

5. Retain and enhance Glenside character - Heritage

Heritage Gardeners

This year the gardeners welcomed new member Maree Goodall (Churton Park). The highlights for the 2021-2022 year are as follows:

- Undertook 512 volunteer hours, including 5 meetings and 85 working bees.
- Celebrated becoming a Moths & Butterflies Trust of New Zealand garden with an event in the garden.
- Became an approved award provider for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.
- Claire Bibby participated in a Radio 106.7 broadcast with the Hutt Rose Society
- Two 'Walk 'n Talk' garden visits were hosted at the Halfway House. These were the Tawa U3A Garden Group and Paremata Socious Garden Group.
- An introduction to the Duke of Edinburgh programme was held in the garden for The Johnsonville Ranger Guides. Teachers from Wellington Girls College visited to learn more about the programme for their school.
- Four presentations were made about the garden to community groups. There were the Paremata Socious Garden Group, Tawa Union Women's Church, Hutt Horticultural Group and Johnsonville Rotary

Heritage sites

A submission was made to WCC Parks and Reserves to name two local reserves after the original farmers, namely Drake Reserve and Broderick Reserve. WCC have this on hold.

Our submission to Councillors to list the historic railway line survey marker for the tunnel has not been progressed by Councillors.

In the District Plan the Councillors approved a 15 m height (up to five stories) along the Twiglands property boundary which will impose on the Halfway House and shade the house and garden from afternoon sun. On behalf of the Heritage Gardeners, Claire Bibby submitted for a recessed plane along the boundary to let in more light, however Councillors didn't progress this.

6. 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 five letterbox drop newsletters/flyers were distributed.

Glenside Website

Rex Johnson continues to maintain the website from his home in Cromwell which he has done since he launched the website in 2007.

Facebook

The *Glenside - The Halfway* Facebook page has 303 followers, up from 278 last year.

Newspaper

There were 16 articles about Glenside in the local paper, the Independent Herald.

7. Safety

Wellington North Community Patrols

Sabah Ahmad continues to volunteer for the patrol, which he has done since its inception in 2007. The Community Patrol are replacing their vehicle, which means that our Glenside Progressive Assn. sponsorship on the reverse of the vehicle, which has been there for many years, will end.

8. Going Forward

Appreciation

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to Cerelia, who has been an excellent Treasurer to work with. She has set us up with Kiwibank and put in place systems to make it easier for Laurenson Accountants to report on our finances.

The Zoom meetings have reached a wider community and this year we have welcomed the inclusion of Willowbank residents in our discussions on flood and erosion management.

Elections

The City Council elections are coming up in October and we need to vote for Councillors that support the Glenside suburb and all of Northern suburbs instead of just looking after Tawa where they live.

We need Councillors that will protect our heritage, streams and the natural landscape. We need Councillors that support the incredible voluntary contribution of our community to make Glenside an ecological recreational gem beside the stream.

In the coming year our community focus will be:

- The District Plan proposed earthworks on Callender land and the imposing building heights on the historic Halfway House and garden
- Consent compliance and truck movements associated with McMud earth movements
- Northern Landfill (Grenada) consents and the resulting stench of sulphur.
- The track extension and revegetation of Glenside Reserve

All the best for the 2022-2023 year.

Claire Bibby,
President,
19 July 2022.