

Halfway House Official Opening 2017

Options for future use provided by visitors

Prepared by Claire Bibby on behalf of the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.



Official Opening 2017. Photo: Neil Price

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Halfway House Official Opening 2017

Overview

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Official Opening of the historic Halfway House and Open Day held on Sunday, 29 October, 2017.

The report includes options and suggestions from the public for the future use of the historic building and grounds.

These are compared with options and suggestions provided by the public at the Open Day held on Sunday, 2 November, 2003, before the house was restored.

Summary of findings

The community favour the full use of the house and grounds for community and Council as 'a centre for all'. There is strong support for the property to be managed as a whole, not separated into public and private use. Most people want the house and grounds to retain heritage values and activities i.e. social activities and learning about the past for today.

Background of house

The Halfway House, 246 Middleton Road Glenside, is located at the entrance of Glenside Reserve and is on reserve land. Wellington City Council (WCC) purchased the Glenside Reserve, which includes the house, in 1951 for recreational purposes.

The house is registered with WCC as a heritage building and the land on which it is situated has a Historic Reserve classification. It forms part of the wider Glenside Reserve.

Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.

The Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. and the WCC have corresponded with about matters relating to the Glenside Reserve since the Assn. was formed in 1951. A Memorandum of Understanding between the WCC and the Assn. for the Glenside Reserve was signed in 2010.

Heritage Gardeners

The Heritage Gardeners, a volunteer gardening group, were established in 2015 to develop a Victorian farm garden in keeping with the house and its environs. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Heritage Gardeners and the WCC was signed by the Heritage Gardeners in 2017 and is awaiting WCC sign-off.

The Official Opening and Open Day

Purpose The purpose of the Open Day was to celebrate the official opening of the Halfway House and to invite interest in tenanting the building. The Open Day was held during Wellington’s Heritage Week.

The Opening The opening ceremony was at 10:00 am. Approximately 50 people attended this part of the day.

Deputy Mayor Jill Day led with an opening speech, followed by guest speakers Claire Bibby, of the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. and Heritage Gardeners, then Councillor Peter Gilbert and Councillor Malcolm Sparrow. Myfanwy Emeny, manager of WCC Parks, Sports & Recreation officiated.

The ribbon across the front door was jointly cut by Deputy Mayor Jill Day and Claire Bibby, for the community.

Visitor engagement Entry was by way of door donation, which was managed by volunteers from the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. Visitors were encouraged to sign a guest book.

Downstairs, Stan Pillar, of the Onslow Historic Society, sold copies of heritage booklets (including the Glenside historical booklet, on behalf of the Assn.) in the French door room. Joel De Boer, of the WCC championed the pending tenancy/lease of the house in the kitchen.

Upstairs, visitors were treated to a heritage and contemporary photo display put together by the Heritage Gardeners and the Assn. In one of the rooms, visitors were invited by the community, to contribute ideas for the future use of the house and grounds.

The exterior of the house was decorated with bunting and the interior with fresh flowers by Glenside residents Margaret Ellis and Suzanne Hendry. Twigland Gardeners World provided pots of flowers.

Heritage Gardeners Outside, the Heritage Gardeners had a plant table, with plants for sale. Interpretive information about the historic garden was available for people walking in the grounds. Inside the house, heritage grasses were placed in vases with interpretation notes.

The Official Opening and Open Day, continued

Fund raised

The following funds were raised by the community.

Door donations	\$595
Glenside history book	\$170
Heritage plant table	\$152

The Assn. will put the money toward framed historic prints of Glenside for the community rooms. The Heritage Gardens will use their money for plants for the garden.

The Onslow Historic Society raised \$150 from the sale of their books and these funds will be put in the Historic Society's account.

Publicity and attendance

Publicity

The event was publicised by WCC and the Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc.

The WCC sent out a media release which resulted in a half page spread with photographs in the Saturday edition of the Dominion Post. An article with photographs was published in the Wednesday edition of the northern suburbs newspaper, Independent Herald.

Community publicity

The Assn. publicized the event in the following ways:

- *The Glenside News* - a regular community letterbox drop in Glenside
- *The Glenside News* email group
- Glenside website
- Glenside Facebook page
- Directional signs at the Middleton Road roundabout's (Johnsonville and Westchester).
- Face to face at the Northern Suburbs Liaison Group monthly meeting
- Face to face at the Onslow Historic Society AGM.

Flyers were placed at the following locations:

- Café Thyme and Twigland Gardeners World at Glenside
- Johnsonville and Tawa Libraries
- Johnsonville and Newlands Community Centre's
- Golder Cottage and Katherine Mansfield House
- Flyers were also e-mailed to the Assn. office-holders to distribute at their discretion.

One person said that they learned about the event from a person living in Brisbane, Australia, who had read about it on the internet.

Attendance

The Assn. invited visitors to sign a guest book, recording the numbers in each party. A total of 331 people recorded their attendance.

The Richardson family, who used to live in the house from 1944-1956, came over from Australia for the occasion. Other long distances travellers came from:

- Levin
 - Masterton
 - Otaki
 - Palmerston North
 - Paraparaumu
 - Waikanae
-

Publicity and attendance, continued

These are the suburban communities people came from, in alphabetical order:

Aotea	Johnsonville	Northland
Ascot Park	Karori	Papakowhai
Broadmeadows	Khandallah	Paparangi
Brooklyn	Kelburn	Stokes Valley
Camborne	Linden	Tawa
Churton Park	Lower Hutt	Te Aro
Crofton Downs	Lyall Bay	Titahi Bay
Elsdon	Mirimar	Upper Hutt
Glenside	Newlands	Wadestown
Grenada Village	Ngaio	Whitby
Island Bay		

Why people came

In the attendance sheet, people were invited to answer the question “What brought you here today?” The most popular reason for visiting was interest in heritage, local history and old houses, followed by curiosity and interest.

- Like historic houses, garden
- Like heritage/local history
- Curiosity/interest
- Used to live in the premises/visit it/family connection
- Local support
- Live locally
- Driven past it/walked past it over the years/admired it
- Back after previous visit to see the changes/watched the changes
- Local volunteer/want to volunteer
- Came for lunch i.e. Café Thyme

“Love Halfway House.”

“Have admired house for a long time.”

“Interest in history in the local area.”

Who came?

People came on their own or in groups of two, three or four people. There were three family groups of five and a family group of eight. Two groups that attended were the Sri Lankan Dance Academy and Friends of Golder Cottage.

Uses for the house

Visitors were encouraged to write their ideas for the future use of the house and grounds on Post-it Notes® and flip chart paper. A total 144 notes were completed, compared to 124 in 2003.

Number of notes	2017	2003
House	81	84
Grounds	63	40
Total Notes	144	124

Most people wrote more than one suggestion per note. The word ‘retreat’ was often used, suggesting that people are looking for somewhere to relax.

Museum

In 2003 the most popular suggestion for the house was for it to be used as a museum. At that time some people suggested the house could be used as a base from which to take trips to historic cottages nearby, or for “old-fashioned” functions.

In 2017 the suggestion remains that the house has some purpose as a museum, however with its restoration, the ideas are broader, suggesting that it is used as a destination for heritage bus tours, or thematic event e.g. garden tours. One person suggested a connection with the house and the horses on the reserve.

“To preserve the building and exhibit the historical events for generation to enjoy.”

“To be a museum to show history about Johnsonville.”

Historic uses	2017	2003
Museum	9	19
...and shop	2	-
Heritage week open days	2	-
Victorian country past-times	1	-
Furnish it like it was in 1880	1	-

Uses for the house, continued

Function Centre

The use of the building as a multi-purpose centre for Council, for voluntary groups, and for meeting purposes is a popular suggestion.

“Public events not exclusive to a minority.”

“Lots of different things, not just a single use. Same for the grounds. Keep for community.”

“Don’t close it off to one business. Open it up for people to enjoy...a special place.”

A centre for all	2017	2003
Community Centre	14	9
Conference Centre	1	-
Functions Centre	1	5
Total	16	14

A range of community uses are proposed.

	2017	2003
Weddings	9	4
Birthdays	4	3
Meetings	3	2
Hire out to groups	-	1
Education, including night classes	4	1
Local clubs	-	3
Receptions	-	1

Sustainability centre

The suggestion that the house become a place to teach sustainability skills is a new suggestion for 2017 and found favour with two people writing “agree”.

**“Sustainability centre, learning old skills such as composting, organic gardening ...
...cider/beer making.”**

Uses for the house, continued

Accommodation Accommodation is a less popular suggestion for future use. In 2003 it was felt that someone should be residing in the building permanently. However in 2017, one person said it should not be tenanted, and that the upstairs should be kept available for Council and community use.

“Do not rent the upstairs to renters. All for community or Council paid occupation.”

“Bed and breakfast with community focus, maybe ran by hospitality students.”

Suggestions for accommodation	2017	2003
Artist in residence	2	5
Caretaker in residence	-	3
Community Coordinator	-	1
Air BNB/Bed & Breakfast – owner on site	3	6
Tiny Hotel	3	2
Country pub - Two people wrote “No” and “Disagree”	1	-
Rental	1	-
Backpackers	-	3
Tourist Lodge/Holiday home	-	2
Horse Orientated Lodge with B & B, Café and Stables.	-	1
Boutique accommodation	-	1

In 2003 retaining the historic nature of the building was seen as an attraction for paying accommodation and one person had noted that the house was on the cycling route for touring cyclists heading in and out of Wellington.

Uses for the house, continued

Food

In 2017, as in 2003, many people felt that being able to enjoy food accompanied any activity within the house, even if it was a simple provision to make a cup of tea or coffee.

However the concept of a café was much less popular than in 2003. People appeared more conscious of competing economies and that Café Thyme is close by and provides that service. Instead, special afternoon or morning teas are a popular suggestion. This was also suggested for use for the grounds.

“A place which brings community together, especially those who need company. Where mums and babies can meet elderly and form friendships. Courses. A place to pop in for coffee and a chat.”

For socialising with food	2017	2003
Café/Tearooms	7	14
Place to have a coffee	6	2
High teas/Devonshire teas	4	1
Cooking classes	1	1
Restaurant	-	2
Catering like Gear Homestead	-	1
Pot luck parties for Glenside	-	1

The Arts

Artistic activities remain a popular choice, however less as a display function and more as a meeting place for specific activities.

	2017	2003
Art/Art Gallery/Art Society	6	12
Crafts/Sewing/Arts & Crafts group	3	3

Uses for the house, continued

The following are more specific suggestions for artistic pursuits.

	2017	2003
Dance/ballet/traditional dance	3	-
Writers retreat/Music writers	1	2
Music/Traditional music/Singing	3	-
Photography	-	3
Pottery	-	2
Performing arts	1	-
Reading	1	-
Cottage industry	-	1
Cultural place	-	1
Drama	-	1
Exhibitions	1	-
Weaving	-	1

Uses for the grounds

Existing heritage garden

A heritage garden, in the form of a Victorian farm garden, has been developed on the site by The Heritage Gardeners, a group of eight volunteers.

This garden is being developed as heritage gardens as a result of feedback from the 2003 Open Day when more than 36 people said they wanted gardens around the house and 11 people said they wanted these to be heritage gardens that reflected the style of the house.

Some of the people’s suggestions in 2003 of the types of plants which could be in the garden (for example roses and flowers) were incorporated in the landscape plan developed by Charles Gordon, Wellington City Council.

The Heritage Gardiners will continue to manage the gardens. Full details of their work can be found on the Glenside website under the tab ‘Halfway House’. See <http://www.glenside.org.nz/halfway-house.html>

Garden use

The idea of the grounds continuing to be used for heritage value remains. The following suggestions relate to how the heritage garden could be used.

“Hold organic gardening workshops and sustainable living seminars.”

“Focus to remain on maintaining gardens heritage, organic.”

How the garden could be used	2017
Community garden/small park	9
Community garden to supply food for....	
- market garden	1
- sustainability centre	1
- home grown for house café or cooking	2
Organic	2
Old-fashioned/botanicals	2
Heritage garden picnics	3
Seats	2
Musical events	1

Uses for the grounds, continued

Events There is strong support for events in the grounds.

“Summer events, Christmas concert.”

“Garden parties, weddings, social events to bring community together!”

Outdoor events	2017
Events	12
Weddings	12
Night market/Market	4

Rest and relax Some see it as a place to come to for relaxation.

“Somewhere people can have respite. Beautiful place.”

Food Food is associated with the grounds.

“Ploughman’s lunches and Devonshire teas in the summer. Cider made with apples grown.”

“Bus tour teas.”

Tea parties, high teas	4
Ploughman’s lunches/Devonshire teas	1
Birthdays	1

Games People like the idea of socialising through activities.

Games	2017
Children’s activities/play area	3
Petanque	1
Victorian country games and events.	1

Uses for the grounds, continued

Animals

Since 2012 the Glenside Progressive Assn. has held four Glenside Show Day’s in which people exhibit flowers, fruit and vegetables for prizes. There is a popular ‘pet parade’, a petting zoo and outdoor singing. The riding school, located next door, provide their horses for petting and a small pony from a private business allows children to pay for a pony ride. Some of the suggestions for animals are reflective of the Glenside Show Day.

“Community fairs, galas. Children’s play area attached to riding school.”

Animal related activities	2017
Chicken farm	1
Fair/A&P Show	3
Horses	2
Petting zoo	2
Dog park/exercise area (a person wrote “no”).	3

Other

Other ideas	2017
Campground – glamping	1
Paying tourists, especially from cruise liners in port	1
Fundraising	1

The last word

“Superb restoration of house and gardens. Thank you. Heritage Society.”

Appendix A Future Options for The Halfway House, 2003



Half Way House : Glenside

photo by Dennis C Hamblin 2 November 2003

Overview

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to report on options and suggestions from the public for the retention, restoration and future use of the historic building known as The Halfway House, 246 Middleton Road Glenside.

The Halfway House is located at the entrance of Glenside Reserve and is on reserve land. A history of the house is attached at the back.

Council Purchase

Wellington City Council (WCC) purchased the Glenside Reserve in 1951 for recreational purposes. Most of the purchase price was met by the Crown in exchange for Town Belt land in Kelburn that Victoria University needed for expansion.

The Halfway House, located on reserve land, was occupied until about ten years ago and has since been untenanted.

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Overview, continued

Glenside Progressive Assn. involvement

The Glenside Progressive Assn. (The Assn.) has had a strong interest in the Glenside Reserve. The Assn. has held correspondence about matters relating to the Glenside Reserve since The Assn. was formed in 1951.

In recent years The Assn. has protected The Halfway House by having:

- Gutters cleared
- Encroaching weeds sprayed
- Damaging trees removed
- Leaking pipes repaired
- The Chief of the Volunteer Fire-brigade visit the site.

There has been extensive and productive dialogue about the Glenside Reserve between the WCC Parks & Reserves Unit and The Assn.

Council Meeting About Halfway House

The future of the building known as the Halfway House was discussed at the Wellington City Council Built and Natural Environment committee meeting on 24 September 2003. The house was one of five Council were making decisions about selling.

At the meeting, the WCC Property Unit said they had no future plans for the house. However other members of Council and the community have suggested a role related to the forthcoming Northern Reserves Management Plan.

Public Interest

The Assn. has been approached by many members of the public in recent years wanting to have the house restored and made available for public use.

The Assn. felt that Council officers and Councillor's might not be fully aware of the keen public interest in retaining the house and land surrounding it in Council ownership.

The Assn. decided to host an Open Day at The Halfway House to establish the level of public interest in the building and its grounds and obtained support from Council to do so.

The Open Day

Purpose

The purpose of the Open Day was to:

- Give anyone interested the opportunity to view The Halfway House.
 - Gauge support for the retention, protection and restoration of the house.
 - Seek possible uses of the house and grounds.
-

Attendance

The Open Day was hosted by The Assn. on Sunday November 2nd 2003 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

More than 700 people attended from as far afield as Palmerston North, Waikanae and the Wairarapa. Visitors from the wider Wellington came from Whitby, Mirimar, Brooklyn, Karori, Ngaio and Kilbernie. Local visitors came from Glenside, Johnsonville, Churton Park, Newlands, Grenada Village, Tawa and Paparangi.

On arrival visitors were invited to sign a register. Visitors of special interest who identified themselves were:

• The Myers family	Descendants of the Wall family who lived in the area from 1841-1849. The Wall's were the first people to provide accommodation at a Halfway House.
• Wayne Fisher and family	Descendants of the Clapham family, proprietors of a Halfway House in the area from 1855-c1865.
• Jack Crowther	Spent early childhood living at the Public Works (Railway) Camp at Glenside, located near The Halfway House.

Safety

A full Safety Hazard Report was completed prior to the event. Twenty three potential hazards were identified and the associated risk was removed or reduced.

Two Safety Officers were on duty. Safety equipment included three fire extinguishers and a first aid kit. There were no reported accidents.

Visitor Treats

Visitors were treated to a heritage and contemporary photo display compiled by the Assn. Onslow Historic Society were invited to sell copies of the Glenside heritage booklet. The Assn. provided free handouts with a photo and history of the house.

Public Participation

Visitors were encouraged to write their ideas for the future use of the building and grounds on Post-it Notes® and flip chart paper.

The following information was provided:

This historic house is on the Glenside Reserve.

Council own the house and land.

What do you think the house and its grounds could be used for?

Do you think it should be restored by Council or sold?

Write your ideas down and put them here.

The Responses A total 124 notes were completed. These were posted into two groups as in the following table

House	84
Grounds	40
Total Notes	124

Most people wrote more than one suggestion per note. For example, there were 74 suggestions on the 40 notes about the potential use of the grounds.

Some people put their ages on the notes. These ranged from age 6 to age 60.

The Big Picture People felt there was a strong relationship between the house, grounds and the surrounding environment.

This comment is typical of those received.

“It is a valuable historical site in a city which has lost so much of its heritage. We think it should be restored... the land renovated as a period garden...so that it could be used to supply refreshment to users of the reserve. This Reserve could be developed as a beautiful park for this part of Wellington.”

Funding suggestions

Don't sell!

Most attendees did not want WCC to sell The Halfway House. The main reasons they gave for retaining the house were:

- Heritage value
- Value as a public asset
- Relationship of building to Glenside Reserve.

“Don't sell it. We've lost too many historic buildings in this area of Wellington.”

“Retention and restoration is essential.”

“Preserve! At all costs!”

Restoration Funding

Attendees provided suggestions on how the restoration of the house and its grounds could be funded.

- Council
 - Historic Places Trust
 - Business Sponsors
 - Other sponsorship
 - Community
 - Volunteers
 - Trainees/Apprentice (gardens and landscaping).
-

Generating Income

Some attendees suggested ways of generating income from the house.

- Lease
- Hire for functions
- Entry fee
- Income generating uses for the building e.g. A learning centre for heritage

“Do it up. We need to preserve our history...educate [us] how it was. I suggest a museum/learning centre. Classes. Have art on the walls for sale.”

“Community classes. Linked to green space and reserve land.”

Potential uses for the house

Restore It

There was a strong desire to see The Halfway House restored and retained in Council ownership. Most comments described the house as an important part of Wellington’s heritage.

The Katherine Mansfield House, Nairn Street Cottage, Gear Homestead and Martinborough Hotel were given as examples of successful restorations that were turned into valuable assets and open to the public.

Restore house	29
The house is an important part of Wellington history	19

Pull down	2
Sell	1

“We can’t afford to lose such wonderful history. Whatever is done should retain its character and history.”

“Don’t let the Council sell it. That’s the first decision. They do too much of this.”

Museum

The most popular suggestion for the building was to become a museum or a place from which to learn about local history.

The words “living” “a place to learn” and “bring it alive” were used frequently. The suggestion the building be used as a local museum, should be read in that context.

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Potential Uses For The House, continued

Museum (continued)

Some people suggested the house could be used as a base from which to take trips to historic cottages nearby, or for “old-fashioned” functions.

Museum	19
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“There is obviously much interest in things historical. Teach us the history of here.”

“Make it an active place, from which you could take a Coach trip. Keep the horses here.”

The Arts

The building could display local art, sell local art, or provide a facility for local artists to demonstrate, teach or practice their craft. Five people suggested an artist in residence.

Art/Art Society/Art Gallery	12
Art and Craft Groups	3

The following are more specific suggestions for The Arts.

Photography	3
Pottery	2
Music writers	2
Cottage industry	1
Weaving	1
Cultural place	1
Drama	1

“Arts Centre – sadly lacking in this part of Wellington. I travel from Newlands to Hutt Art Society but would love something closer to home.”

Function Centre

The use of the building as a multi-purpose centre catering to the needs of voluntary groups was a popular suggestion.

Community Centre	9
Functions Centre	5
Total	14

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Potential uses for the house, continued

Function Centre (continued)

Some suggestions were specific about the purpose of the centre.

Weddings	4
Local clubs	3
Meetings	2
Hire out to groups	1
Receptions	1

Accommodation There were 15 suggestions that the building be used for accommodation however there were differences of opinion about the type of accommodation.

It was felt that someone should be residing in the building permanently.

Artist in residence	5
Caretaker in residence	3
Community coordinator	1

Retaining the historic nature of the building was seen as an attraction for paying accommodation.

Specific suggestions for paying accommodation were as follows:

Bed & Breakfast	6
Backpackers	3
Hotel/Motel	2
Tourist Lodge/Holiday home	2
Horse Orientated Lodge with B & B, Café and Stables.	1
Boutique Accommodation	1

One person noted that the house was on the cycling route for touring cyclists heading in and out of Wellington.

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Potential uses for the house, continued

Food

Many people felt that being able to enjoy food accompanied any activity within the house, even if it was a simple provision to make a cup of tea.

Outdoor food is covered in the Chapter headed “Potential Uses For The Grounds”.

The concept of a café or tearooms was most popular. However this was not supported by Herbs Café, which is close by. One person suggested that the Café needed to be something different (unique) to Wellington and therefore attracting different customers to the nearby Herbs Café.

Café/Tearooms	14
Restaurant	2
Catering like Gear Homestead	1
Devonshire teas	1
Pot luck parties for Glenside	1

Other Ideas.

Recording Studio	1
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This suggestion came from a person who had travelled overseas and seen a historic home restored and successfully put to use as a recording studio with a difference.

Evangelical	2
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One person felt the house could be a restart home for “genuine Christian folk released into society from prison.”

School/Childhood Centre/Educational/Scouting	4
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Another person wished to see “this wonderful old house used for the good of children.”

Tourist Information Centre	2
Shop	1

Potential uses for the grounds

Background

The rear of the house is sheltered against a hill and captures the afternoon sun. The house fronts onto an overgrown lawn, which slopes down to a wider lawn.

There are several outbuildings typical of rural life such as a chook house.

Like the house, people saw the grounds as being an alive and interactive place to be. People either wanted to be involved in the design and development of the grounds or saw them as being a destination for activities.

Parks and Gardens

More than half of the 40 notes for the future use of the grounds suggested gardens. Some people wanted the grounds made into a “park” or “Public Gardens”, reflecting their preference for Council ownership.

Gardens	23
Park/Public Garden	13

Heritage

The majority of people felt the gardens should complement the historic nature of the house. The Katherine Mansfield House and Nairn Street Cottage were upheld as examples.

Heritage Gardens	11
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“Grow plants the early settlers brought with them.”

“Provide examples of pioneer gardens for owners of cottages.”

“I have a hand split totara fence from an early settler’s farm you can use.”

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Potential uses for the grounds, continued

The Plants

Specific examples were given of the plants people wanted to see.

Cottage gardens with flowers	4
Rose garden	3
Herb garden	2
Perennials	1

Lawns and Open space	4
Native Reserve	2
Shrubs	2

Fruit trees	1
Healthy food	1
Gardens for different nationalities	1

Comments

These are some of the comments about gardening.

“I would help with the gardening.”

“You could utilise the skills of people just learning the trade and in need of some practice.”

“Do it so people can come and learn to garden.”

Busy Activities

Several people suggested the grounds could be used for functions. These included:

Hiring the grounds for weddings	1
Old time dress ups	1
A Glenside country market	1

Other active pursuits included:

Camping	2
Community Bar-b-que	2
Horse and Coach rides	2

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Potential uses for the grounds, continued

Quiet Activities Four people, each independent, told one of the organiser’s that that they would come to the property to take photographs.

There were other suggestions for passive activities.

A picnic area	3
Garden seating	2
Place to go for strolls	1
Photo displays of history of <u>here</u>	1
Petanque	1

Children Most of the playground suggestions were written by children.

Playground/play area for children	6
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“The grounds could have some pet animals such as caged rabbits, guinea pigs and pet lambs for children to pat and visit

“Put a park for kids to play in when their Mum comes to look at the house.”

A Final Comment

“My grandmother was born down the road from, here and this house and area is very important to me and my family. Please do the right thing.”

Publicity

Advertising

Some Council officers have expressed interest in the number of people attending the Open Day and asked for information about advertising and publicity.

A total of \$3:90 was spent on advertising the event with A4 size photocopied flyers. These were placed at:

- Johnsonville and Tawa supermarkets and libraries
- Churton Park School staff room and Churton Park Kindergarten
- St Johns and Churton Park Anglican Church notices
- Herbs Café and Twigland Gardeners World at Glenside
- Fletcher Construction and Boise Cascade staff tearooms.

Other communications were:

- *The Glenside News* - a regular community letterbox drop in Glenside
- Directional sign on Middleton Road
- Article in local newspaper *Contact*.

When visitors were asked how they knew about the event, most responded “from a friend” i.e. word of mouth.

History of “The Halfway House”

Background

The Halfway House is an old name for Irish, Welsh and English accommodation houses or public inns. These “coaching stops” were located at strategic travelling points, usually halfway to a destination and sometimes on a border between counties. On the internet there are more than 600 references to The Halfway House and more than 215 references to The Halfway House Pub. Some surviving houses date back to the 17th century.

Glenside And The Halfway Houses

Glenside was known as The Halfway from c1840-1928. The name was given to the area because it was located halfway between Wellington and Porirua. Early settlers Anthony and Susannah Wall provided accommodation for travellers in 1842 and their house became known as The Halfway House, probably the first Halfway House in New Zealand.

History records seven different proprietors operating a Halfway House in the Halfway (Glenside) area between 1842-1890. The first Halfway Houses provided accommodation, and/or alcohol. Later houses were coach stops and advertised good stabling.

The First Owner

The current building known as The Halfway House was built in c1885 for Alexander “Sandy” Brown. Brown was a licensee of a Halfway accommodation house in the vicinity from c1872-1890. He introduced the double-shaft wagon into New Zealand and was noted for his horsemanship.

A former Glenside resident, Mr Ronald Pender, advised that his grandfather lived in the house at one time and managed livestock, including changing horses for the coaches.

Another Significant Owner

Mrs P C Watt owned the house during the early part of the century. Her nephews emigrated from Scotland during WWI and lived in it.

In 1928 the Government established a public works camp near the house for 300 railway workers. A Post Office was opened, however it was felt the area could no longer be called The Halfway, as it might be confused with Halfway Bush near Dunedin.

Mrs P C Watt, won a competition to rename The Halfway, with her suggestion Glenside. She undertook the first sub-division for “The Town of Glenside.”