SMART SOLUTION TO COSTLY CAR OWNERSHIP

Hobsonville Point residents wanting to avoid the expense and hassle of car ownership will still have access to a set of wheels following the introduction of an innovative car sharing initiative.

Cityhop offers residents the opportunity to hire cars, parked at communal locations, by the hour or day. Members of the scheme receive an electronic smart card which locks and unlocks the car door. Reservations can be made online or by phone, and after use the vehicle is returned to the designated location from which it was collected.

The initiative is designed to encourage residents to consider alternative transport options to private car ownership. It offers a convenient, affordable and reliable way to use a car when required without the need to house, or pay for, your own vehicle.

Victoria Carter, Cityhop Founder, says most people don’t realise that, according to the AA, their car costs them $800 plus each month when all the costs of ownership are taken into account. Many people do not need two cars and like car sharing for the convenience of a car for occasional trips.

Car share schemes have proven popular internationally and are operational in over 600 cities. In America, over half a million people share cars while residents in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, major British cities and many European cities are also increasingly sharing vehicles.

Closer to home, there are currently 23 Cityhop cars in Auckland, including eight in the CBD, Britomart, Sale St, Parnell, Ponsonby and K’ Road. Two cars will be introduced at Hobsonville Point later this month, adding to the city’s fleet.

Cityhop cars are also available in Wellington and Christchurch.

Research supports car sharing, showing that people utilize more public transport and drive less when they join such a scheme. One shared car takes an estimated 15 private vehicles off the road.

“Car sharing should be an important option in every major urban centre,” says Victoria. “While not a magic bullet to solve all traffic and air quality problems, especially commuter-related issues, it is an important new tool that can deliver real benefits quickly from primarily market-based capital.”

Hobsonville Point will have two Cityhop cars from the end of the month. To celebrate the introduction of the scheme at Hobsonville Point, residents can sign up for a yearly membership for only $60 (compared to the usual price of $120). Membership is then free for the resident’s family and the cost to hire a car, including fuel, is $15 an hour or $75 for more than five hours. The overnight rate, for hire from 6 pm to 8 am, is $30.

For more information, please visit cityhop.co.nz.
NEW ART HAS HEART

Hobsonville Point’s latest public artwork, ‘Heart of Stumps, Tool, Clip’ by Steve Woodward, sits proudly in its new home at the intersection of Hobsonville Point Road and Buckley Avenue.

On the surface Heart of Stumps (made of white marble), Tool (grey basalt) and Clip (black granite) are three carved stone sculptures, elegant and intriguing to the viewer. They are positioned to read as a connected work but each has a particular meaning and deeper significance. In fact, the work was selected both for its visual strength and the subtle references to the many layers of change that Hobsonville Point has seen.

Heart of Stumps is a heart-shaped cone with protruding ‘tree stumps’. It talks of the age-old forest giants which once covered the land.

Tool is a two-sided cutting blade. One side references the gentle contours of the land post de-forestation while the other reflects the man-made patterns of the new residential development.

Meanwhile Clip is a symmetrically clipped ‘topiary’ atop a sturdy table with Latin words of obedience, referring to the ordered plantings of exotic trees and the regimented essence of military and Air Force life.

“All art forms have their special qualities,” says Steve. “The magic of carved stone lies in the precise and painstaking paring away of rough stone to reveal an object of truth and beauty. The end result belies the often extreme physicality of the work to reach that point.”

Steve is also the artist behind another of Hobsonville Point’s public art installations, ‘Kuri Topiary’. This large dog is kindly on loan to the Hobsonville Land Company from the artist and can be viewed in the reserve on Marlborough Crescent en route to The Landing.

HOT COFFEE WARMS UP COLD COMMUTERS

A local hero has come to the rescue for Hobsonville Point residents, particularly city commuters.

Farmers Market vendor, Karen Radd, has extended the opening hours of her business, ‘Local Hero Coffee Works’, to include weekday mornings. As well as serving up hot and cold drinks and tasty treats at the Farmers Market each weekend, she is now selling coffee and coffee beans, tea, hot chocolates, ginger lattes, scones and muffins from her usual spot at The Landing from 6:30am to 11:30am Monday to Friday.

“Coffee is the morning ritual that helps you begin your day in high spirits,” says Karen, who uses organic milk in all her hot beverages.
A warm welcome is on offer at Hobsonville Point’s new Information Centre, conveniently located next to a street of show homes that will represent all six of the development’s building partners.

The Information Centre, located behind Catalina Cafe at 1 Hastings Street, includes a master plan of the development, a 3D model showing the point’s amenities and three models that detail duplex, standalone and terrace housing options.

Centre Manager, Karyn Oakley, says it is there to welcome visitors to the development and equip them with everything they need to know to get the most out of their visit.

“We get visitors asking where our builders’ show homes are and what they are selling, what’s happening in the community, how to get to The Landing with the ferry and the Farmers Market, and of course how to apply for the Axis Series affordable homes.”

Show homes for the development’s six building partners – Universal Homes, Classic Builders, Jalcon Homes, GJ Gardner Homes, Willis Bond and Co., and Platinum Homes – are under construction on nearby Liquidambar Drive, with three already open for viewing.

“Interest definitely hasn’t slowed down. People just keep coming,” says Karyn, also a Hobsonville Point resident. “The way that they’re building this community up from scratch, focussing on the environment and on building practices, is state of the art. The attention to detail, the thought and the planning that’s going into developing the point is phenomenal. There’s nothing quite like it happening in the country on this scale.”

The Information Centre is open from 10am to 4pm seven days a week.

Hobsonville Point, the old Hangar 3 can still be incorporated into the new Hobsonville Point houses to add a meaningful historical touch.”

The limited edition items will be on sale at the school’s Market Day on July 29, which is open to the public from midday to 2pm, and at the Hobsonville Point Farmers Market on August 2 from 9am to 1pm. All proceeds from sales will be donated to KidsCan, a New Zealand charity which supports New Zealand children living in poverty by providing food, clothing and basic healthcare in schools.
A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BUCKLEY AVENUE

Visitors to the upgraded Buckley Avenue may find themselves taking a trip down memory lane.

For years Buckley Avenue was the main road into the former airbase. It is named after Flight Lieutenant Maurice Buckley who was based at Hobsonville Point in the 1930s and Base Commander for a period in 1937.

But with Hobsonville Point Road now the main thoroughfare through Hobsonville Point, Buckley Avenue faces the future as a quieter, residential street.

The street tells a story, however, through clever integration of the area’s history into its design and landscaping. There is a focus on using magnolia trees that previously existed in the area and incorporating heritage-style street lighting. The old-style bus stop sits in its original location and has a new life as a relaxing seating area. Its walls will soon reveal stories that reference the past.

A new wetland and boardwalk has also been constructed in a public reserve with surrounding seating, and has a path which will connect to the future coastal walkway that is planned for the perimeter of Hobsonville Point.

Further along Buckley Avenue, the original Hobsonville memorial has been joined by a new three piece artwork - ‘Heart of Stumps, Tool and Clip’ by artist Steve Woodward.

FUTURE THE FOCUS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMIT

Students will become teachers for a day when Hobsonville Point Primary School hosts the country’s first-ever Google Educator Groups (GEG) Student Summit next month.

To be held on August 12, the GEG New Zealand Student Summit will focus on creative and collaborative use of digital technologies to promote innovation and learning. The future-focussed programme includes a keynote speaker (a local school student turned entrepreneur), a demo slam competition (where students demonstrate a new skill in 60 seconds), hands-on workshops and demonstrations led by students for students.

“It’s good for the kids to present their work and in doing so, be teachers and be learners,” says primary school teacher, Amy McCauley, who is helping organise the summit. “It is the students themselves who are really determining what this will look like.”

Registrations are open, with 250 students from Year 0 to 13 expected to attend the free event. Already schools from across Auckland have signed up their students, while those at a school in Alexandra in the South Island will be attending virtually via online technology.

Amy says the primary school, a modern learning environment with open-plan learning spaces, is ideally suited to hosting the innovative event.

“The day aims to empower students to follow their dreams and focus on what can be achieved, and as such, it’s a great fit with the primary school’s values and approach to learning.”

CHARITY CHALLENGE

A BIG WIN FOR COMMUNITY

A record number of participants entered this year’s Hobsonville Point Runway Challenge, enabling organisers to distribute more proceeds to the local community.

Held on May 17, the event gave participants the opportunity to walk or run 3, 5 or 10km as individuals or teams for $20 per person. Organisers, the Henderson Lions Club, will now distribute the money raised from entry fees to local community groups.

Runway Challenge Committee Secretary, Shelley Robb, says the 2015 Challenge was a huge success attracting entrants from as far afield as South Auckland and a huge team from St Heliers.

“Several people told us that it was one of the best courses they’d run for a while. We’re still finalizing the numbers but we know the entries were up about 20% from the year before. In 2014 we gave away over $6000 and I think we’ll be giving away even more this year. The community should be really happy with that result.”

There have already been two winners. The day’s $500 spot prizes went to the Waitakere Special Olympic team, which is putting it towards their athletes’ travel fund, and the Waimauku Primary School team, which is gathering funds for a new playground.

FARMERS MARKET WINNERS

Congratulations to two vendors from the Hobsonville Point Farmers Market for their success at the 2015 Farmers Markets New Zealand Food Awards. Terry and Karlene Shaw-Toomey of Earthbound Honey won the organic producer category in the “Freshest Produce from the Paddock” section with their honey, while Zoe Bone of Zoe Bone Foods took out runner up in the “Best Produce from the Kitchen Bench” preserve category with a fresh fruit paste.

The awards attracted 116 entries from around New Zealand and were judged by 2014 MasterChef winners, Kasey and Karena Bird.