RAVE REPORT FOR THE POINT

Hobsonville Land Company’s (HLC) Sustainability Report for 2014/15 is complete, with some pleasing results.

The report articulates HLC’s vision, goals and objectives for Hobsonville Point, and how we are tracking against the measures and indicators in our Sustainability Development Framework (which covers environmental, economic, social and cultural spheres). Some of the report’s highlights are:

- Electricity use continues to be below our target and is 12% lower than the Auckland average. This will be because of heat pump hot water, LED lighting, double glazing and higher than code insulation.
- Water use is 33% lower than the Auckland average (however still 5L/person/day above our target) thanks to rainwater tanks and low flow toilets and fittings.
- Our builder partners have exceeded our target of delivering one new home each working day.
- 23% of all houses sold to date have been affordable homes priced at, or below, $550,000.
- We have a good mix of typologies with 9% apartments, 57% terraced/duplex and 34% free standing.
- We have a good mix of size with 6% one beds, 29% two beds, 35% three beds, 28% four beds, 2% five beds, and one six bedroom home.
- Our 2015 biodiversity survey has found that while construction activity has negatively impacted on the natural environment in some areas, overall more indigenous birds and fewer pest species were counted than prior to development.
- 79% of people drive to work and education. We want to see this at 40% by 2026 so still a long way to go.

NEW DAWN FOR GRAND OLD HOME

Insomniacs and early risers would have been in for a strange sight at Hobsonville Point recently – the rather imposing Base Commander’s house rumbling down Sunderland Ave in the dark, small hours of the morning on the back of a truck.

At 260m2, it is a large house to be moved in a single piece. Building removal specialist, Craig Walker, says it tested the limits of their equipment and provided the kind of challenge he and his team relish.

The house was moved to a new site on the corner of Sunderland Avenue, where nine other heritage homes have been renovated. In one of life’s happy coincidences, Craig lived in the house as a small boy so he was delighted when his firm won the contract to move it.

Craig’s father was the Base Commander at Hobsonville Air Base when the family lived in the house between 1961 and 1964.

The house was far larger than any of the other homes on the base. Through the eyes of a six year old boy it was “absolutely massive”.

The Base Commander’s house was moved in one piece to preserve as much of the original timber as possible. Once renovated, it will complete Sunderland Avenue, a street of 1930s military houses which have been painstakingly restored by Willis Bond & Co. The Base Commander’s House will be put on the market once restoration is complete.

Craig says he felt honoured to be part of shifting his one-time family home. “I think Hobsonville Point is an amazing template for residential development in New Zealand. Keeping the old houses and buildings adds dignity to the whole development.”

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The range of retail shops located on the ground floor of the Brickworks Apartments is steadily growing with the opening of Kiwi Nails and Spa, Hobsonville Point Dental and Akida Sushi.

Kiwi Nails and Spa is managed by Katie and staffed by Hayley, Poppie and Nicole (pictured), all of whom aim to deliver a high quality service and be the salon of choice for their customers.

“I am proud that we are now here at Hobsonville Point and would like to extend a very warm welcome to the lovely community,” says Leon Nguyen of Kiwi Nails and Spa. “Thank you so much to all of the locals for your support so far. We look forward to seeing more of you in the future. Our experienced team promises to give you the best service, hygiene and relaxation.”

The salon is free from chemical fumes and the products used are high quality, including disposable manicure and pedicure kits. Like Kiwi Nails and Spa Hobsonville Point on Facebook for updates.

Next door to the salon is Hobsonville Point Dental, which has also recently opened. Experienced dentists Andrea Clarke and Tristan Barker provide the full range of dental treatments from simple fillings to advanced dental rehabilitations, dental implants, dentures and orthodontics. Waronga Etiabari, a New Zealand trained dual qualified dental therapist/hygienist, looks after the restorative needs of patients under 18 and also performs hygiene and tooth whitening treatments for adults.

Andrea and Tristan are committed to providing the best possible care for patients in a comfortable environment, tailoring each treatment plan to the patient’s expectations and specific needs. They look forward to welcoming you to Hobsonville Point Dental in the near future. For more information, please visit www.hobsonvillepointdental.co.nz.

Work is underway on Indian Summer, the final shop in the Brickworks buildings.
KEEPING IT GREEN

In a new development you can expect a lot of focus on what is going in, but at Hobsonville Point just as much thought has been given to what is being taken out.

Rubbish removal specialist, Green Gorilla, has been taking care of the point’s rubbish since the development started, and it is no small job. “We have over 60 bins on site and we collect between 15 and 20 tonnes of waste every week,” says Sales Manager, Clinton Jones. “It’s a mixture of demolition waste from ex-Airforce buildings and construction waste - offcuts and materials from new builds.”

It is all taken back to Green Gorilla’s specialist waste processing facility in Onehunga where 80% of building, construction and demolition waste received is diverted away from landfill. The recovered materials have a wide range of uses – wood is chipped into biofuel that is used as an energy source and a fossil fuel (coal) replacement by Golden Bay Cement as well as being used for landscaping and animal bedding. Gypsum from plasterboard is used as fertilizer and plasterboard paper and all cardboard from bins is recycled. All steel (including four tonnes of nails every week) is removed both by industrial magnets and by hand-sorting to be recycled.

Green Gorilla also introduced an innovative new five metre bin at Hobsonville Point in an environmentally-friendly initiative to reduce the number of truck movements required to remove bulk waste offsite, in turn reducing the overall carbon footprint.

And the most unusual thing found in Hobsonville Point waste? “A couch and other defunct household items that have somehow made their way into the bins,” says Clinton. “So please remember that the Green Gorilla bins are provided for contractors’ use only. People run the risk of injuring themselves by attempting to use the bins illegally so are advised not to do so.”

Green Gorilla can provide user-friendly, household waste collection services at discounted prices to Hobsonville Point residents. Call (09) 636-2244 for information.

UPGRADES FOR OUTDOOR SPACES

Work is underway on three significant projects that will further add to the already fantastic open spaces on offer at Hobsonville Point. These are being delivered as part of Te Ara Manawa – the Hobsonville Point Coastal Walkway.

The former Rifle Range near Bomb Point/Te Onekiritea Point is getting a substantial makeover, with the existing buildings to be retained. Hobsonville Land Company Precinct Director, Robert Graham, says “the existing layout of the old Rifle Range buildings are ideal as a space for small, informal gatherings where visitors can play or listen to music or performances”.

This space is being designed with youth in mind and will include permanent table tennis tables and public toilets. The area will be vested with Auckland Council who will take over its management once work is completed before this coming summer.

Robert is also overseeing the development of Harrier Point Park, located above Launch Road and The Landing with stunning views of the Waitemata Harbour. There will be a picnic and BBQ area with room to kick a ball and fly a kite. A flying fox, bucket swing and a significant artwork that doubles as play equipment will also be installed.

The third significant project is the two bridges being built across Isitt Gully (pictured) and Cochrane Gully, off Buckley Avenue. These bridges will enable visitors to get up into the tree canopy. Work on the bridges is already underway and will be complete by September 2016.

EXTENSION TO PRECINCT PARTNERSHIP

Hobsonville Point’s Village Precinct has been renamed Te Uru and will be developed by Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara with assistance from the Hobsonville Land Company (HLC).

The name Te Uru derives from Hauauru, meaning the west wind, and the nine hectare precinct will house over 400 dwellings.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara, HLC and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was signed at Hobsonville Point late last month, with Prime Minister John Key and Minister of Housing Nick Smith in attendance. The MOU enables Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to draw on HLC’s expertise to assist in the development of Te Uru and to identify potential development sites and opportunities beyond Hobsonville Point.

HLC Chief Executive, Chris Aiken, says the agreement is “an exciting extension” to the existing relationship.

“This is one practical way we can share our expertise and knowledge gained in delivering medium density housing,” says Chris. “We look forward to broadening and strengthening this partnership to assist Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara not only with its development plans at Hobsonville Point but across a number of potential sites.”
A FUN WAY TO RUN

You have to be in to win but luckily there is still time to enter the 2016 Hobsonville Point Runway Challenge.

Fast approaching on Sunday May 15, this year’s charity event will feature spot prize giveaways, including a $100 Countdown voucher, a pharmacy voucher and goodies for the home. For the first time, event organizers, the Henderson-West Auckland Lions Club, also have a limited number of event t-shirts for sale. All entry fees and any profit from the merchandise will be redistributed back into the community, with over $7000 given away in 2015.

The course for this year’s event will follow a different route, with participants able to walk or run 3, 5 or 10km as individuals or teams and complete optional obstacles along the way. The Hobsonville Point Primary School grounds will host entertainment and stalls from 9am to 1pm, providing a day out for all the family.

“It’s a great event for kids – that’s what it’s really all about,” says Runway Challenge Committee Secretary, Shelley Robb. “But it’s also one of the few running events held in winter and one of the last for the season so it’s a really good one for people of all ages to take part in. Plus we’ve got lots of prizes to be won and awesome t-shirts for sale so there’s something for everyone in the family.”

Entry fees are $20 per person via www.runwaychallenge.co.nz, or $25 per person on the day.

WATERFRONT TRANSFORMATION TAKING SHAPE

Construction and enabling work on the old seaplane hangars and associated buildings at The Landing is now well underway.

The work involves removing the old roof sheeting and any other cladding that is past its use by date, and replacing it with modern alternatives that are sympathetic to the buildings’ character and history. New services will also be laid to provide for the future redevelopment and occupation of the buildings.

Construction and enabling works are due to be completed in June 2016, at which time a development partner will take over the buildings and commence repurposing them for a mixture of uses. More will be revealed in the coming months.

Meanwhile dredging works to create a wet edge will soon commence. A wet edge is the result of dredging to enable the majority of all tide water at the base of the sea wall. No more looking at the mud flats! The old sea wall will also be repaired to fill in the holes that have appeared over the years. The boardwalk running from the Fabric Bay through the mangroves and across to the bottom of Marine Parade is also due to start shortly. All of these marine-related works are due for completion before Christmas this year.

RED REMINDERS OF PEACE

The green grounds of Hobsonville Point Park were awash with red last month when 2000 poppies were installed on the grass as part of the Peace Poppy Project.

The project is the brainchild of West Auckland artist Cristina Beth and this was the second year Hobsonville Point has been involved. About 1300 poppies made in 2015 were reused alongside 700 new poppies handmade by residents of the Waterford Retirement Village, Hobsonville Point’s two schools and the wider community. School students (pictured here in a photo taken by the North Harbour News) helped install them in neat rows, bringing a vivid and vibrant splash of colour to one of the most popular communal spaces at the point.

The Peace Poppy Project began in 2013. It seeks to remember and honour those who have served while also encouraging participants to hand make symbols of peace and promote peaceful living.