



HOBSONVILLE POINT

Moments away, a world apart.

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

TE KANOHI O TE MANU — THE EYE OF THE BIRD



Nestled at the head of Harrier Point and standing proudly between the playground and fitness equipment, with its head turned gazing out to sea, a new member of Hobsonville Point will soon take residence.

Te Kanohi O Te Manu – The Eye of the Bird is a giant interactive play sculpture of a Pied Shag that Hobsonville Point residents and visitors walking around the coastal walkway will soon come across upon their journey. The impressive artwork will aim to connect its visitors to the land and the sea, and to encourage an awareness of the wildlife who call the coastal area their habitat and home.

Standing almost 10 metres high the steel structure features a viewing platform within

its head and a slide within its body that exits across its tail. This native bird will offer an outlook equal to that of a three storey building giving the public a "birds eye view" of their journey along the coastal walkway, seeing where they came from and where they are about to go.

The sculpture, by artist Philipp Meier, cleverly captures a vision of Hobsonville Point from its past to the present, celebrating its heritage in the form of a bird species native to the surrounding wetlands and estuary as it stands tall, offering a silent yet majestic nod to the giant metal birds that once flew the skies.

Te Kanohi O Te Manu will be installed in its new home toward the end of March 2018.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Information Centre: Open 7 Days from 10am to 4pm.

Street of Show Homes: Open 7 days from 10am to 4pm on Liquidambar Drive.

Catalina Bay Farmers Market: Every Saturday and Sunday from 8:30am to 2pm.



Kaipatiki Project: Volunteers needed for the nursery! Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm. No experience needed, learn on the job! Contact Kaipatiki for more info on 09 482 1172 or email restoration@kaipatiki.org.nz.

Christmas on the Point: Sunday 10 December at Rifle Range amphitheatre, from 5.30 to 7pm. Join AVJennings for free spit roast sausages and salad, there will also be games and play equipment for the kids. Please contact Gavin Gunston on 021 346 997 for more information.

Christmas Caroling through the Neighbourhood: Monday 11 December & Wednesday 13 December – around Hobsonville Point streets. Meet at 6.45pm at Hobsonville Point Park opposite Brickworks. Please contact Jacque Williams at jjwilltwo@gmail.com for more information or for a list of songs.

BOARDWALK OPENS ON COASTAL LOOP

Its official, the boardwalk running through the mangroves as part of Hobsonville Point's Coastal Walkway, will be completed and open before Christmas (2017 that is!). The waterside walkway, that stretches from the periphery of Classic Builders 'Hudson' precinct and around to Catalina Bay, provides a unique water experience allowing visitors to view to the coastal edge with the opportunity to access water at high tide.

Once open, it will be accessible by the Fabric Bay building at Catalina Bay but will still be fenced off at the western end of the boardwalk, until the final part of the walkway, and the joining of the whole loop, is completed.

The Hobsonville Point Coastal Walkway is a 5km walkway that forms a circuit around two thirds of the Hobsonville Point site and features opportunities for play, integrated art, resting places, and visual reminders of the area's history. It is designed to make the most of the coast for residents and visitors, and the majority of the walkway hugs the coastal edge.

The boardwalk section is three metres wide and includes approximately 364m² of public deck over two levels, using a mixture of hardwood and pine. The two viewing platforms will provide vantage points for users to watch the world go by or access the water. The decks and boardwalk are also being fitted with steel and timber handrails to provide a serene yet safe experience for all to enjoy.



HISTORIC MILL HOUSE TO NURTURE FUTURE GENERATIONS

Hobsonville Point's Mill House has new owners and will be given a new lease of life as a childcare centre serving the growing number of families in the area.

Bear Park Hobsonville Point is planning to open in February 2018. The centre will initially provide spaces for up to 50 children aged 2 to 5 years of age with another 25 spaces available once a planned infant and toddler building is completed. It will operate as a full early childhood learning centre, with hours from 7.30am-6pm.

Established in 1986, Bear Park is a highly regarded New Zealand owned and operated

business with 10 centres in Auckland and Dunedin. Learning programmes are inspired by the internationally acclaimed Italian 'Reggio Philosophy', from Reggio Emilia, which fits within the New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum 'Te Whaariki'. Many of the Bear Park centres are designed within existing homes, like Mill House, as the group believes this helps to create a nurturing, family-like environment.

Mill House was designed by prominent Auckland architect George Tole in the early 1930s for aviation pioneer Doug Mill. Mill set up a flying business at Hobsonville in

1927, establishing 'Mill's Aerial Survey and Transport Co.', and operated his business from a hangar at Hobsonville until 1937. During World War II, Mill House housed Royal New Zealand Air Force trainees, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and the nursing sisters.

Bear Park Hobsonville Point will be hosting open days nearer to their opening date. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more about this site and Bear Park please feel free to contact Bear Park's Founder, Sue Stevely-Cole at sue@bearpark.co.nz or visit their website www.bearpark.co.nz.

THE RIFLE RANGE: A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

When oral historian Sue Gee was asked to write about the Hobsonville Point Rifle Range she embarked on a journey of historical investigation at Archives New Zealand that would, through letters, plans and memorandums, not only document the building of the range but also reveal political jostling even then, between Wellington and Auckland cities.



The language of the time intrigued her, for instance from this letter dated November, 1939 from the Wellington Public Works Department:

"..Advice has been received from the Air Department that a Two Point Machine Gun Range is to be provided at Hobsonville. This Range is to be provided by virtue of the establishment at Hobsonville of the Armament Repair Depot although no actual practices will be fired for training purposes on this range..."

Gee interviewed armourers like Ron Hales who served in the 1950s, and Perry Dunfoy who is still in service. They recounted real-life stories about guns and weaponry. Their specialist knowledge helped unravel some of the mysteries of those early communications and informed the writing of the history panels located at the range, which is just off Catalina Bay Drive. Gee says it's the weaving together of historical fact and the individual's life experience, character and detail that brings a story to life.

The interviews are part of an on-going oral history project Te Onekiritea Hobsonville Point History Project. They can be heard in

the West Auckland Research Centre, Level 1, Henderson Library.

The Rifle Range has now been converted to a landscaped amphitheatre. Bullet holes are still visible on the stage walls, one of the remnants of its past. The only thing ricocheting of the walls these days are the sounds of birthday parties, BoxFit Classes, dance exhibitions, band practices, Eco Fun festivals and locals having a spontaneous picnic.

Please contact HLC via info@hlc.co.nz for information on booking the venue for larger community events.



CATALINA BAY FARMERS MARKET PUTS DOWN ITS ROOTS

The newly named Catalina Bay Farmer's Market moved to its permanent home by the Catalina workshops next to the Hobsonville Point Ferry terminal on 14 October, 2017. Daryn Rickwood, the Farmers Market manager, is excited about the new chapter and hopes to see it grow from strength to strength.

"It's a great space, with sufficient indoor and outdoor areas – and to think it's the first stage of what's to come. We've thought about how customers could move through the stalls more easily and as such have opened up a space for 'ready to eat' food one side, and the Market stalls on the other," says Daryn.

Loyal stall holders, some of whom live locally, all moved to the new premises and have set up in the specially constructed rustic stalls lining the warehouse building.

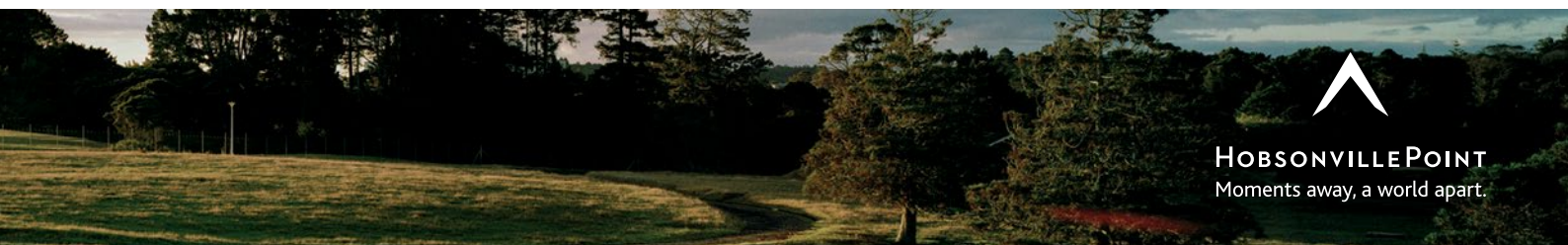
Those picking up their week's fresh organic produce or visitors from further afield hoping to sample the food stalls and purchase unique handmade gifts can expect generous undercover space, live music and glimpses of

the water's edge as they make their way past the colourful stalls.

Ask someone who has been before, and their eyes will light up as they talk about the seafood chowder that's normally sold out just after 12pm, the fresh juice bar, top quality (and reasonably priced) Manuka honey, goats milk and Spaceman's coffee stall (soon to

have an onsite roastery) to name just a few.

The Catalina Bay Farmer's market is open every Saturday and Sunday and has extended its operating hours, now from 8.30am to 2pm. There is plenty to do in Hobsonville Point once you have finished your visit to the market. Why not grab a rent-a-bike from Catalina Bay or take a walk along the Coastal Walkway.



RESIDENT ADVOCATES ZERO-WASTE

Kirsty Venter moved to Hobsonville Point earlier this year, and is already making a positive impact on the environment and the community by sharing her journey towards living a zero-waste lifestyle.

She started looking at reducing her waste almost a year ago and was initially solely focused on the trash she was sending to landfill. Her advice is to start slow and not try to change everything at once. Taking a good look at what you put in the bin is a good first step. "Look at your trash – figure out what makes up the majority of it, and change something to avoid it (e.g. take your own containers to get your takeaways in or swap to a reusable drink bottle). Additionally, become familiar with the soft plastics recycling facility at Countdown – it drastically reduces your kerbside trash with minimal effort, and stops the light-weight plastics from ending up in the ocean."

There are plenty of great resources available online to help you reduce what goes into landfill. Kirsty recommends researching blogs, YouTube videos, documentaries, and the 'Zero Waste NZ' Facebook page. "Observing how individuals and families are working towards a zero-waste lifestyle is inspiring, they made it look so easy... I knew I had to make a change."

Kirsty is part of a group of local residents aiming to make a difference in our community by sharing ideas and having fun workshops such as making DIY beeswax food covers. Keep an eye out on the 'Hobsonville Point Community' Facebook page for events, and/or contact Kathleen. waldock@hlc.co.nz to join the group.



COMMUNITY SHAPES 'WESTERN PARK' DESIGN

Representatives from HLC, Isthmus, Hobsonville Point Secondary School and Real Kids Early Learning Centre jointly presented ideas, concepts and plans for the Buckley B precinct park at Hobsonville Point to the Local Board at an Upper Harbour Community Forum session last month.

Isthmus director David Irwin said it made sense to ask users of the nearly 4000 square metre park what they'd like to see there.

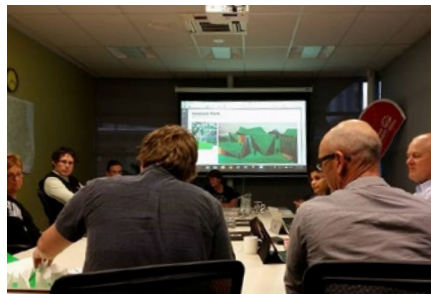
"If a community is involved in the design process of the space, its people not only start identifying with the space – feeling ownership and pride in it – but in the long-term, the community become guardians of the space," he said.

The Real Kids Early Learning Centre designed a bench seat that stemmed from the intention to be a part of the community beyond their fences. The vision for the bench is that it would be an all-inclusive, playful and beautiful place to meet and connect with the people of Hobsonville. The concrete

seat will be shaped in a triangle featuring a log *Taniwha* and river stones painted by the children from the centre.

Hobsonville Point Secondary students from years 9 to 12 went through an intensive design process including collecting inspiration, researching materials, creating mesh models and then refining their designs which led to a list of desired activities at the park – with some designs being adapted for sections of the park.

'Western Park' is due to start the Resource Consent process in March 2018.



Local board meeting – shows student Matthew Van Gils speaking to a part of the presentation with David Irwin of Isthmus beside him.



Climbing structures – Karl Voshaar, 16, and Matthew Van Gils, 17, (pictured) at Hobsonville Secondary School with climbing designs.

Try these small steps to get you started on reducing your own waste:

- Recycle your soft plastics (i.e. plastic product wrapping, food wrapping, chippie bags, frozen vegetable bags – anything that scrunches down)
- Use a reusable water bottle
- Use a reusable coffee cup
- Say NO to plastic straws at the bar; or plastic/paper bags at the wholesalers
- Use cloth bags at the supermarket
- Choose glass jars/tinned food over plastic containers
- Consider composting food scraps or using a worm farm
- Shop at bulk food shops and take your own containers.

Join the Eco Point Facebook group on [facebook.com/groups/294237897746116](https://www.facebook.com/groups/294237897746116)