

July 2018

To whom it may concern.

It is with sincere appreciation that we attach our Annual Report for 2017. It has been yet another very positive year for Hobsonville Community Trust with real progress continuing to be made in our key aims of reducing isolation and improving the well-being, connection and sense of belonging in our rapidly growing community.

We would be unable to serve Hobsonville Point in this way without the incredible support of our key partners, Harcourts Cooper and Co, Upper Harbour Board and Hobsonville Point Secondary School along with our many supporters and community funders.

As we look ahead to 2018/19, we are aware of the dramatic growth in Hobsonville Point that has transpired to date and is on the way over the next 2-3 years. Approximately one-third of Hobsonville Point has now been constructed, with around 3000 families still to move in before it is complete. We are also reflecting on the very different development approach being taken immediately next door in Scott Point and the challenges that such an approach has on our new residents' ability to establish strong community connections and sense of belonging.

In February 2018, we undertook a SWOT analysis to identify our organisation's strengths and weaknesses, the opportunities before us and the threats we now face in trying to grow our capacity to meet the rapidly increasing demand. During this process, we identified the reducing volunteering capacity across NZ society; this is especially exacerbated in new communities, such as our own, which have begun with very few established community organisations and groups.

Our organisation's approach therefore is to foster initiatives and approaches that are easily multipliable, which will require low maintenance, hence are easily sustainable. This should mean that these initiatives and approaches can be used and copied by others or passed on to future residents so that they will not drain significant resources and maximise the resources we do have. We focus on collaborative partnerships and an empowerment approach rather than trying to do everything ourselves.

Our Resident Street Initiative is an example of this in action. Our community has been divided into super lots in which we try to find one or more volunteer block coordinators that will take the initiative to facilitate block gatherings or street parties. This should assist them to share key information between their neighbours so that they can help one another in an emergency, prevent crime etc. Over 20 gatherings have been held during the past 12 months, all initiated by local residents with their neighbours.

Another example of our empowerment approach has been our community's Cultural Evening, which we first began very successfully in 2016. In the first year, we invited youth aged 14-15yrs to help experience how to develop and run such an event for our community. Fast forward to 2018 and it is now in its third year with two 17 year olds leading a team of youth to pull off the event almost by themselves! Our youth workers simply continue to support them behind the scenes and provide them with some wisdom, practical support and community connections as they need.

Our biggest on-going challenge remains the sustaining and building of capacity and growing the funding base required to support this approach. This is especially true for us in areas relating to youth work, community coordination and family support due to the rapid population increase.

Along with the amazing volunteers, youth, schools and community organisations that we have worked alongside in 2017, we wish to acknowledge the advocacy, funding support, governance training and insight that our Upper Harbour Board and Auckland Council's Community Empowerment Unit have provided throughout the past 12 months. We wouldn't be where we are without you!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gordon Summerville", with a long horizontal line underneath.

Gordon Summerville, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Gunston", with a long horizontal line underneath.

Gavin Gunston, Community Coordinator



Annual Report - 2017



Rapidly Growing Community

When Hobsonville Community Trust first began at the end of 2012, there were approximately 100 families in the new community of Hobsonville Point. At the end of 2017, there are over 1000 homes built and over the next 2-3 years another 1000 families will make Hobsonville Point their new community.

This rapid growth, accompanied by new growth in Scott Point immediately next door, is challenging our capacity but our focus on empowerment, collaboration, partnerships and initiatives that are multipliable and sustainable, is enabling us to continue to make a tangible difference to our community.

Reducing Isolation, Fostering a Sense of Connection and Belonging

We know through literally thousands of conversations over the last few years that the vast majority of people moving into the Point are seeking to become part of an active community where they can feel like they belong and know their neighbours. We've observed that in the first 6 months of moving in, new residents are keen to engage in almost anything that brings our community together and helps them to meet other residents. During the 6-18 month period, this continues but to a lesser extent. We have then experienced that, if during their first 2 years residents have strongly connected with community and their neighbours, they tend to stay more engaged and often contribute more to our community than those who struggle to feel a part of their community in their first 6-12 months.

To maximise our effectiveness, we therefore have concentrated some of our efforts on new superlots and precincts as large groups of residents initially move in. For example, our families and street coordinator tries to encourage them to become part of our Resident Street Initiative and tries to find volunteers in each block/street that will try and connect their neighbours through block gatherings of some form each year. We also try to target our Summer Afternoons in the Park gatherings as close as possible to new residents and hold newcomer evenings to bring them together.

Among our many gatherings, in 2017, we've hosted/helped facilitated our local Christmas on the Point, Cultural Evening, Hobsonville Point Team Challenge, Upper Harbour Eco Fun Day, Rifle Range Opening, Neighbours Day.....

Empowerment, Collaboration and Partnership

Hobsonville Community Trust sees it's role not as being the provider of all community services but rather as a group that can help empower new initiatives; connect together residents and groups that have good ideas; and provide advocacy, practical support, knowledge sharing and helpful resourcing to those keen to help meet or address various community needs. We also try to activate new local community spaces, such as the Rifle Range Amphitheatre.

During the past 12 months, we've led a youth leadership programme for up to 75 young people who have delivered over 35 initiatives/activities/events between them both for their peers and their wider community.

We've also partnered with Neighbourhood Support to help maximise the effectiveness of our Resident Street Initiative and now have over 20 trained volunteer block coordinators who hosted well over 20 gatherings for local residents. We've grown our Street Resource Kit even further which is available completely free to our community and is regularly used for a range of community events and gatherings from block bbqs, to birthday parties, neighbours day relay challenges, Christmas on the Point, Sunday Afternoons in the Park and many more.

We're also an active member of the Upper Harbour Strategic Group which we helped form around 3 years ago. Through this group and forum, we have been able to participate together in shared governance training, share resources and helpful contacts and share learnings from initiatives we've developed in our respective communities.



WE WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR MAJOR COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Presence-Based Youth Work

Our two new schools continue to be at the heart of our Hobsonville Point community and they are particularly focused on community partnerships and playing an active role in contributing to community life.

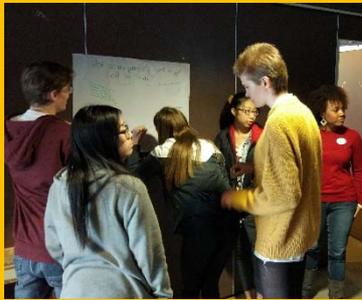
Our wider community role enables us to strengthen and provide new community connections with the schools and to link students with residents and key groups. Most importantly however, our youth worker provision enables us to get alongside our local youth where they spend the majority of their adolescence.

Through our 24-7 YouthWork partnership with Hobsonville Point Secondary School, our two youth workers have been able to hold over 1100* one-on-one conversations with our young people and have over 7000* connections with young people through small group environments. Their focus continues to be on 5 key pillars: Leadership Development, Cultivating Community Spirit & Positive Culture, Supporting Young People, Developing Positive Relationships and Integrating Young People with Extra-Curricular Opportunities.

(*NB: these aren't unique young people but rather the number of young people involved each time)



Strengthening our Governance and Contributing to Local Decision Making



Making a genuine difference in a new and rapidly evolving community requires regular reflection, strategic planning and input from key stakeholders, experts and peers.

Central to our ongoing approach is ensuring that our part-time Community Coordinator and Families Coordinator are both constantly meeting with and listening to a wide range of people that live/work/play in our community. Our community coordinator for example recorded over 1600 such contacts in 2017, excluding young people (recorded separately).

Our core volunteer and part-time facilitators meet every 6 months with community development experts to stop and reflect on current trends in our community, key opportunities and to refine our approach for the next 2 years.

Our governance board attended two governance training workshops funded by the Upper Harbour Board has been receiving training and resources to help improve our governance framework, policies and procedures.

We also attended and contributed to regular workshops with the Auckland Council, met regularly with the Upper Harbour Board and their strategic broker and helped facilitate local community network forums.

Ensuring Sustainability & Growing Capacity

Our services to our community are all about people and relationships. Everything we do is about trying to foster long-term impact and positive change that can be multiplied and continued in the years to come. Growing capacity further is not a case of if we need to but rather how we can do this sustainably and how to maximise the resources that are made available to us.

We recognised back in 2013 that we needed to establish a funding base, governance framework, and strategic approach to community empowerment that can ensure our long-term sustainability. While this is an on-going challenge, we have made some great progress in this regard and we are so thankful to our key community partners and long-term supporters that have made this possible.



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COMMUNITY TRUST

