The University of Auckland is establishing a new campus on the former Lion Breweries site in the heart of Newmarket.

The acquisition of this important inner city site will support the long-term growth of the University, with the campus development expected to span a 30 year timeframe.

The first stage of site development is focused on creating a high-quality research environment and will cover just over half the site. Further development of this five hectare site will be staged as demands for new facilities arise.

This newsletter is an occasional series intended to provide information and updates on the Newmarket Campus development.
The first phase of the Newmarket Campus development is on time and on budget according to Peter Fehl, Director Property Services.

With demolition of many of the old brewery buildings completed last year, great progress is now being made in the construction phase as over 300 workers toil at the site daily.

Hawkins Construction moved on-site in September 2013 to manage the refurbishment of four existing brewing and bottling warehouses, expected to be handed over to the University in late July 2014. These buildings are being transformed into state-of-the-art research facilities which will be occupied by academic staff and postgraduate students from a variety of engineering and science disciplines. With major structural work complete, the buildings have been clad and fit out of the interiors is becoming the focus.

A new link area has been constructed to provide a main entrance to the cluster of former warehouses and to provide a wide internal corridor between these buildings. “There was no obvious sense of arrival or entry, so the new link building will achieve that”, states Lee Johnson, Project Manager.

Ground and steel works for a new building housing the civil structures hall and other research related activities is also underway and will continue through until early next year. Development of outside areas including carparks, internal roading and landscaping has also started.

Main site access throughout the construction phase is at Gate 3 on Khyber Pass.

Community representatives meeting

Representatives of local community groups met onsite with Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) and Peter Fehl, Director Property Services late April. A site tour carried out as part of the meeting provided a valuable opportunity for representatives to see the progress being made first-hand.
Researchers from the University of Auckland’s Faculty of Engineering are preparing for the move to the Newmarket Campus with plans in place to ensure a smooth transition for people and equipment.

Groups of Engineering staff and post-graduate students, along with colleagues from the Faculty of Science, will start to relocate from their current premises into the refurbished buildings at Newmarket from August 2014 onwards. The relocation will be progressive, with staff transferred across to Newmarket in several groups through until the end of the year.

Pedestrian access from Park Road, leading toward the link building, will be opened up as this part of the campus begins to operate and while construction continues on the new research building. Occupation of the new building will start in early 2015.

With the University initially investing in excess of $80 million on new Engineering research facilities, the faculty is anticipating significant benefits stemming from this new environment.

“The facilities at Newmarket will be transformative for large-scale engineering research not only at the University of Auckland but also the country as a whole,” says Engineering Dean, Professor Nic Smith.

“As a faculty we are excited about the opportunities to both expand existing work and develop new research in what will be a state-of-the-art environment on the site.”

Snapshots
Building the Newmarket Campus has provided the University of Auckland with an opportunity to implement sustainability practices well before the first staff and postgraduate students arrive.

The Newmarket site is being transformed, with the reinvention of four former brewery warehouses as multi-disciplinary research facilities providing a clear example of sustainability in practice. However, the new campus incorporates a number of other sustainable, energy-saving initiatives, which were an integral part of the design process.

Existing bore water reserves are being used for cooling irrigation systems, before being returned to source, rather than using the city’s water supply and sewerage system.

Open spaces that maximise the use of natural light, reducing the need for electrical lighting, are being built in a process that is referred to as “daylight harvesting”.

Energy efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems are being installed. These also have occupancy sensors and time schedules, so that the units and lighting are only in use during set periods of time, and only if there is occupancy detected.

The University’s commitment to sustainability practices and enhanced environmental performance is integrated in its Strategic Plan and being modelled as part of the Newmarket development.

“We all have sustainability targets to achieve now, it’s in the Strategic Plan,” points out Paul Duval, the University’s Technical Services Manager. “We aren’t going to hit those targets if we don’t get this right from the start.”

Find out more, visit: www.auckland.ac.nz/newmarket