

DONKEY DO!

An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated
July 2012 Issue No 1

Where we are now

The *Society* was incorporated on 11 July.

The Charities Commission application was completed on line on 13 July. We should not expect an instant reply — they have a backlog of applications and it could be Christmas!

We have undertaken to give Auckland Council an update of just how we are getting on By the end of September. We should at that time also have a plan in place for launching *Highfield Donkeys* summer programme and a work plan for carrying out our main activity — looking after the donkeys including the financial aspects of this.

At the end of May under the aegis of the Highfield Advisory Committee, we gave the Council Parks and Reserves team we will be dealing with an outline of matters we expected would need to be agreed on in due course, some by the end of the current financial year.

We have the personal support of our Councillor, our Ward Local Board members and individual staff across Council. We now know that we have support from within our community and further afield.

Things are looking good!



Partnership Programme

The idea of introducing some form of a partnership structure into how the community and other more structured groups and companies participate in ongoing support for community projects or specialised activities is not new. The ARC had a partnership programme that identified Associates and Champions alongside straightforward Friends and volunteers.

In our case, an *Associate* could be a special or existing group with an interest in Donkeys or Highfield. The *Associate* could be a self-funded and self-run group which initiated its own programme in conjunction with Highfield Donkeys Incorporated and the Reserve management. The programme could be to help spread the work load and costs of regular work or participate in a special programme or activity as part of an overall programme.

A *Champion* might make a financial contribution to the costs of maintaining the donkeys, or fund a specific programme or project that may be promoted, or work to raise funds or provide specific sponsorship or through a bequest or a donation.

If you are interested in discussing your ideas please tell us

The Highfield Donkey Committee

Peter Couling	Chairman
Alan Norton	Secretary
Peter Caccia—Birch	Donkey Manager
Jenny van der Mespel	
Shona Duncan	
Allan Ford	
Sheila Ford	

Why we need volunteers

The care of the donkeys is a 365 day job but most of the time it is not full-on and except for a few special tasks it revolves about moving the stock within the donkey areas to match the rhythms of the day, the grazing, their health needs and security and comfort at night in all seasons or weather. It is only hard when we do not have enough hands and experience to share in the schedule. We have managed but we need more hands belonging to new and younger volunteers who are prepared to get that experience with donkeys.

We also need volunteers with other skills and useful experience. The Society will work if it has access to a combination of skills and effort from the community including organisational and financial experience.

Donkey care volunteers

- Like donkeys or feel they could like them if they knew a bit more
- Are sensible about or fond of animals

General and administrative volunteers

- Good at getting on with people and communicating
- Good at organising
- Some computer skills help – with access to own computer
- IT savvy would be good

Everybody else

- All and varied interests and skills catered for or in demand and useful

Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

For more information call Shona on 09 425 6129 or Jenny on 09 425 6000 or Email highfielddonkeys12@hotmail.co.nz

71 Fidelis Avenue, Snells Beach, Warkworth 0920

Security of the Reserve and the Donkeys

During the day some of the gates between paddocks and shed areas may be left open to allow the donkeys access. You should leave these gates as you found them..

When you enter any of the paddocks from an open area of the summit or Algies Bay or from the Road via the main pedestrian entrance, always take care to close and latch all the gates into the paddocks and donkey work areas as you pass through.

If at any time you see anything that you feel is not as it should be with the donkeys please seek help from any of the following telephone numbers:

Peter 425 6640 or Alan 425 6592 or Jenny on 425 6000

Outside daytime/daylight hours you can also call the Auckland Council main number old Orewa service centre number 0800 426 5189 and stay on the line to speak to someone.

If life or property is at risk—call the Emergency Services



Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

Membership \$10 per household (per annum).
Complete the details in these panels and Post to
Highfield Donkeys (Membership)
71 Fidelis Avenue, Snells Beach, 0920,

Enclosing cheque payable to Highfield Garden Fund or
make direct credit to bank account 123095 0184474 00

Names
.....
Address
.....
Post Code Main Telephone

Email
If this is not your permanent home how best can we contact if you are not in Mahurangi?

Please indicate your preference for receiving notices, minutes of meetings and other information including copies of newsletters

I would like to receive copies of official and *information material*

By email By Hand delivery By Mail

Signature
.....

Competition Corner



This is Alan's second favourite donkey photo! (He is the one on the donkey — the other boy rushed up at the last minute when Alan's father got the camera out). Alan keeps getting emails from people who claim to have ridden Highfield donkeys when they were young.... Well

now's the time to get your photos out. We will publish the best one (or two) in a future issue of DONKEY DO! When we sort some funds out we may stretch to an award for a really good one. It helps if any photos supplied are in digital format to highfielddonkeys12@hotmail.co.nz

Talking about photos.....

If you have any photos of the early days of Highfield (the neighbourhood, or Algies or Snells) with or without donkeys, we would be interested in seeing these. If there are people in them we need to know who they are to reproduce them and who owns the photo.

Remember

Whilst the Donkeys at Highfield are always accessible and friendly they are also curious and parents and guardians should always take responsibility for their children when they approach or feed the donkeys. They mostly eat the grass but if you think they need a treat, apples, carrots and silver beet are fine but please, do not give them bread or cake or plastic bags.

Have you signed up yet?
Do you want to know more about it?
Would you like to be a volunteer?
Would you like to know more about other ways of being involved?

I would like to participate as a volunteer. My preference would be:

Helping with the care and management of the donkeys

Helping with administration

Working on specific fund raising or other projects or activities from time to time No preference

If you want to know more about partnership membership either as an Associate or as a Champion Please provide contact details so we can talk about how you feel you can support the Donkeys and the work of the Society.

Name of individual or organisation or group?

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What is your main activity or interest?

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Who should we contact to discuss this?

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Telephone

Email.....