

# DONKEY DO!

An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated  
November 2013 Issue No 10

## Upgrade of Sentinel Track



The central part of this track which runs inside the main donkey paddock below the summit, from the new shelter belt down to the style at the junction of the main steps has been upgraded. The photo shows the section that has the heritage sign and bench at what Alison called Kawau Bay Lookout.

In time we are hoping that Council will agree to the upgrade of the grassed sections of the track that was the only direct route for visitors to the Roberts property from the main road to the cliffs at Sentinel Point (now the Snells Beach lookout). The responsibility for this and ongoing work on upkeep of the tracks (especially the all weather tracks in the Reserve) is that of the Advisory Committee with whom the Society works closely.

## Meet our latest group of supporters and volunteers



Over recent weeks, AIM (Adults in Motion, Warkworth) has been providing a small team to help with some of the work in the Reserve. The photo shows Logan, Ben, Amy and Laura with John Montgomerie (Highfield Donkeys— in check shirt in the background) unloading a trailer of mulch into a wheelbarrow prior to spreading it around some of the plants and trees in the area of the pedestrian entrance and in the orchard areas of the Reserve.

*If you are associated with any similar community group you feel might get some fun or benefit from joining in the regular work of the Reserve, let us know.*

**Saturday 14 December 2 pm**

**(Rain Day Sunday 15 December)**

**Father Christmas is coming to Highfield courtesy of the Donkeys and you are all invited.**

**Watch out for the full details in a special newsletter first week of December!**

**Write it in your diary! Tell your family and friends!**



## The Highfield Donkeys Committee

Peter Couling - Chairman  
Alan Norton - Secretary  
Ray Harrison - Treasurer  
Peter Caccia-Birch - Donkey Manager  
Lesley Cornwell - Membership

Jenny van der Mespel—Roberts Family Representative  
Allan Ford—Project Manager  
Sheila Ford—Facilitator  
Shona Duncan—Forward programme  
John Montgomerie—Forward programme

## Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

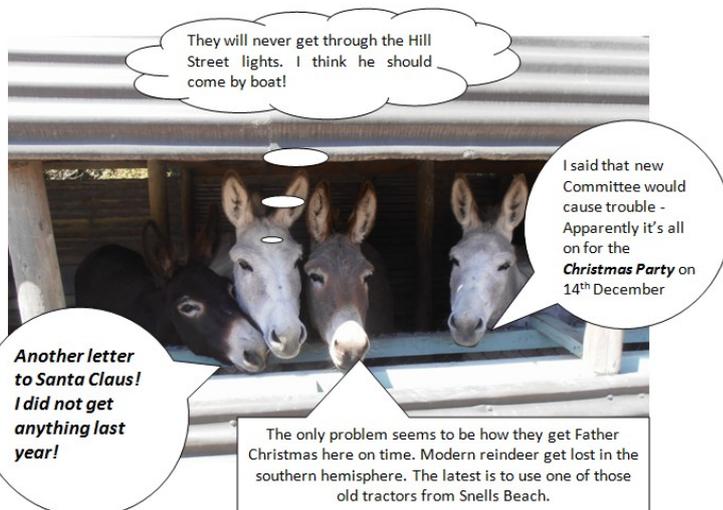
71 Fidelis Avenue, Snells Beach, Warkworth 0920 For more information call Alan Norton on 425 6592 or Email [alan.norton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alan.norton@xtra.co.nz)

Donkey Tales.....			
TANZY	b.	1995.	Sire unknown. dam: Teazel
TOPSY	b.	10/3/2002.	Sire Hercules. dam: Tanzy
TOMMY	b.	16/3/2002.	Sire Hercules. dam: Teazel
TINA	b.	26/3/2002.	Sire Hercules. dam: Tessa
TRUFFLE	b.	19/2/2011.	Sire Poldark. dam: Tanzy
TEDDY	b.	29/6/2011.	Sire Poldark. dam: Marguerita

### Catching up with today's Donkeys

#### — Look out for the new Donkey name sign!

Tidying up the signs in the donkey areas has meant that we have now got an up-to-date list of the donkeys and their immediate origins people can consult; and there is a bit of room on the sign for adding a couple more. (Everyone is watching this space—but don't ask any of the Committee—we are as confused as everyone else at the moment!)



## Conversations at Highfield

### Summer is on its way

A recent group walk though Highfield confirmed to all of the Committee members that summer is coming. The Reserve is looking good, and once they have finished shedding their winter coats, the donkeys will be adding their bit of glamour back to the place. We are also being reminded by friends and family that Christmas is not far off and the holiday period it opens.

But the date still foremost in our minds is that of 9 December, the First scheduled formal meeting of the new term of the Rodney Local Board, when the new Board picks up on what it has inherited. We are still hoping to see included on the Agenda, the report proposing the signing of the *Memorandum of Understanding* with the Donkey Society. Only when this is signed we believe, can we really breathe freely, and start to confirm the day to day actions of the Agreement it encompasses, in the workings of the Reserve and the Society. We can live with a delay — say to the February meeting — but there is every indication that the pressure on Board members and Council staff, and on the community will not get any less as we move into new planning rounds. A December confirmation will make it easier to plan for the new year.

**The issue of Public Liability of the donkeys at Highfield has been raised during the discussions with Council**  
Privately owned donkeys in a public reserve is not an everyday event. For us it has to start with what we can do to make sure that our own security and management of the donkeys works. And everyone can help.

- Please take care to close and latch all the gates into the paddocks and donkey work areas as you pass through.
- Generally you should leave gates between paddocks as you found them.
- The donkeys should not be outside the home yards and main donkey paddocks. They should never be in the Orchard and Garden areas unless they are with a handler.
- Whilst the Donkeys at Highfield are used to people and 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.
- The donkeys 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. Remember also that dogs must be on a lead in the donkey areas.
- If at any time you see anything that you feel is not as it should be with the donkeys or in the Reserve generally, please seek help from any of the following telephone numbers: Peter 425 6640 or Alan 425 6592 or Jenny on 425 6000  
You can also call the Auckland Council on 09 301 301 toll free any time.  
If life or property is at risk—call the Emergency Services 111

## Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

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?

## 2013/14 Membership

**\$10 per household (per annum).**

All current members/groups should have received a renewal form. If you have not had yours or you have not yet signed on for this year call Lesley Cornwell on 09 425 4050

If you want to know more about any kind of membership either as a Volunteer or as an Associate or as a Champion, or about working with Highfield Donkeys Incorporated in any special way, please call Lesley in the first instance.



If you have not had your Donkey Bubble badge yet—it might mean that we have not heard from you!