

DONKEY DO!

An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated
January/February 2014 Issue No 11

The Society Signs MOU with Council

The signing ceremony took place on 24 January in the orchard of the Reserve attended by the Committee and members of the Society, as well as Councillor Penny Webster, Deputy Chair of the Rodney Local Board Stephen Garner and Bord members Beth Houlbrooke and Greg Stevens along with some of the Council Reserve staff who had been directly involved in the negotiations as well as the ongoing work at Highfield. The signatories were Steve Garner on behalf of the Council and Peter Couling on behalf of the Society.



It was an informal occasion in spite of the formal nature of the agreement, which reflects the nature of how we see the agreement on roles and responsibilities of the partners working in the longer term.



Santa Comes to Highfield

We lost count of the numbers coming through the gate but at a rough guess (based on average group size that was noted, there may have been around 200 or more in the Orchard and home paddock area when Santa led by the donkeys and helpers, actually arrived at the Hay Shed. Santa was on good form and after much entertainment and some singing he had time to organise an instant session of tug of war which kept everyone happy until he had to hurry off to his next engagement. Some people have already asked about his coming again this year—if you think this is a good idea then tell us soon so we can put it in Santa's diary.

What was good to see were so many young people and their care givers who were at Highfield for the first time. and what's more, immediately recognising what the real fun of the place is.

"Alan, we wish you, Mary and Cliffy a safe journey and relocation to the South Island. We will miss your friendly chat in the Donkey Do and we hope when you come back to visit us that there will be additions to our herd. EYE ORE EYE ORE." from all of us at the donkey sheds.

A bray from the donkeys themselves.

(Alan will miss you too)



The Highfield Donkeys Committee

Peter Couling - Chairman
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
Note that the position of Secretary is vacant

Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

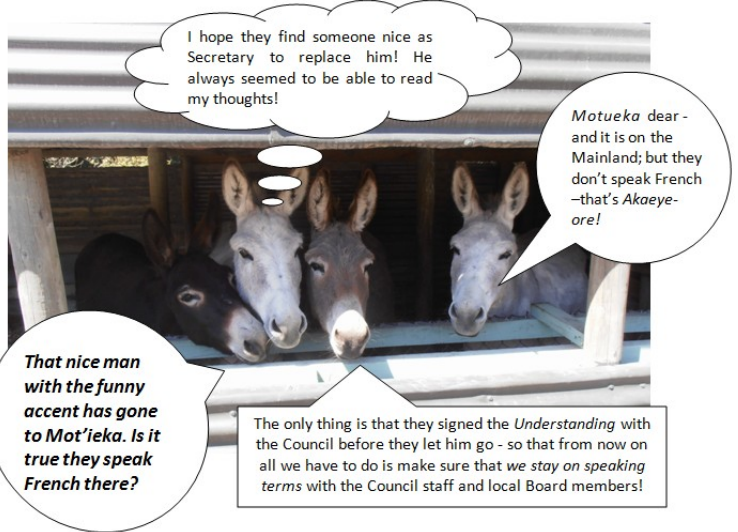
The Secretary, 483 Mahurangi East Road, Snells Beach/Algies Bay, Warkworth 0920



Highfield now has a letter Box

The street Address of the Society is now officially 483 Mahurangi East Road.

The change of legal address of Highfield affects both Highfield Donkeys Incorporated and the Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee and has been made to facilitate mail now that there are more people involved in responding and running the Committees.



I hope they find someone nice as Secretary to replace him! He always seemed to be able to read my thoughts!

Motueka dear - and it is on the Mainland; but they don't speak French -that's Akaeve-ore!

That nice man with the funny accent has gone to Mot'ieka. Is it true they speak French there?

The only thing is that they signed the Understanding with the Council before they let him go - so that from now on all we have to do is make sure that we stay on speaking terms with the Council staff and local Board members!

Conversations at Highfield

A b r a yfrom the Donkey Manager



The newly built shelter in the new grass paddock completes the shed building programme. (Fingers crossed!). We now have a permanent shelter for the donkeys in each paddock, which is beneficial to their health when the weather turns nasty. The materials used for the shed were gifted from two demolition buildings.



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 Jenny on 425 6000

You can also call the Auckland Council on 09 301 301 toll free any time.

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?

2014/15 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 .



It is never to late to earn or buy a Donkey Bubble badge yet— they will soon be collectors a item