

# DONKEY DO!

An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated  
November 2012 Issue No 2

## Where are we now?

Members of the Management Committee had their second meeting with Council Parks and Reserves Officers on 26 September to follow up on the initial meeting in May and the exchanges on the sort of agreement we might seek for the long term management arrangements for the donkeys at Highfield. The September meeting was not as successful as we hoped in that the advice to the officers from their legal and property managers was that to meet the requirements of the Reserves Act they would be proposing we seek a *licence to occupy*. There was no immediate information just what this entailed. A subsequent meeting of the Committee at Highfield with the Community Lease Advisor appointed to deal with Highfield, gave her a chance to learn more about the situation at Highfield but we await an outline of just what may be proposed and where we go from here. It is now unlikely that we will get down to serious negotiations until after the new year break.

For the record, although some form of licence was mentioned back in 1990 at the time the first Management Plan for the Reserve was circulated, this was not acted on by the Rodney Council then, and did not figure in any subsequent discussions on management arrangements or in the Management Plans until now. The Committee intends maintaining its stance that whilst we need a clear agreement on management of the donkeys at Highfield, this needs to follow a more general agreement that acknowledges that the donkeys are at Highfield as part of the original agreement at the time of transfer of the land.

## Charity Status

We are currently following up with the Charities Commission on questions the Commission has raised about our application. Discussion with Commission staff and our sorting through the information they are seeking highlight the importance they will place on how the activities of the Society relating to care and security of the donkeys, as well as education and involvement of volunteers, match the definitions they have on charitable purpose. They will also be looking at the value the community places on their presence at Highfield and our relationship with the Auckland Council management.

## Getting set up

The main activities within the Committee have focussed on responding to Council and the Charities Commission, as well as setting up an administrative system. We now have 46 households or family groups signed up and a list of others who have made contact but so far have not yet signed. 22 of those that have signed up have indicated their interest in making themselves available as volunteers at some stage. If you have any questions or ideas about any matter do not hesitate to talk to a Committee member or call or email Alan at any time.

## Have you seen the Greetings Cards yet?



Illustrated are the images from six of the ten cards that are available to order. The cards show aspects of the Reserve and the Highfield Donkeys and are available for the first time giving members and other supporters of the Society something they can use to tell their friends and family about what we are about. Other images include the orientation plaque at the summit and the Mosaic Plaque recently installed at the main pedestrian gate as well as a couple of paddock scenes..

*They are available in packs of ten, single image or mixed. For \$30 per pack. For more information call Sheila Ford on 09 425 5061. or Alan on 09 425 6592*

## Donkey Care—introduction to the donkeys as a volunteer

Peter Caccia-Birch is now contacting members and others who have indicated an interest, about getting a first working donkey support group together to meet the donkeys at close hand and talk through just what is involved in the day to day care. We need volunteers to help out during the summer months. If you are interested in finding out more – and Peter has not already spoken to you – why not call him on 09 425 6640.

## The Highfield Donkeys Committee

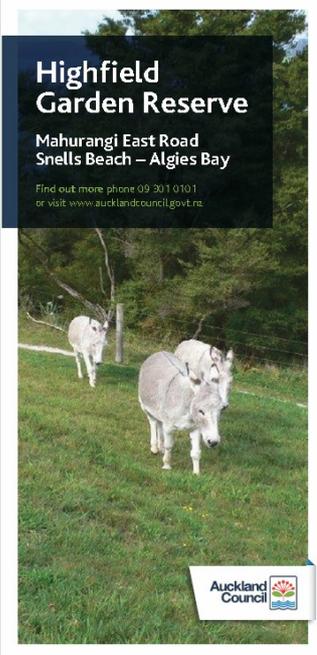
Peter Couling - Chairman  
Alan Norton - Secretary  
Peter Caccia - Birch- Donkey Manager  
Jenny van der Mespel                      Shona Duncan  
Allan Ford                                      Sheila Ford

## Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

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

**Updated Brochure goes into circulation.**

The new updated Highfield brochure is now available. If you would like a copy call or email Alan or any of the Committee. Apart from a potted history of the Reserve and the donkeys it contains an updated sketch of the tracks, features and key locations that may also add to your enjoyment—or any new visitors you bring.



**A change from donkeys**

I got nowhere with the search for old photos of donkeys but Pat Birnie gave me this - taken many years ago she says – which is a useful reminder that there is always more to Highfield.



Hopefully everybody— old or new members of the Society will be spurred on to look among their old 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 use the photos and who owns the photos. New or topical photos will also be welcome if they help us document what is happening now.

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**Security of the Reserve and the Donkeys**

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. 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 Generally you should leave gates between paddocks as you found them.. But 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. Use the 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 Donkeys Incorporated  or Direct credit to ASB account 12 3095 0254516 00

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

Email .....  
 If this is not your permanent home how best can we contact you 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 .....  
 .....

**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?*

.....  
*What is your main activity or interest?*

.....  
*Who should we contact to discuss this?*

Telephone .....

Email.....