

DONKEY DO!

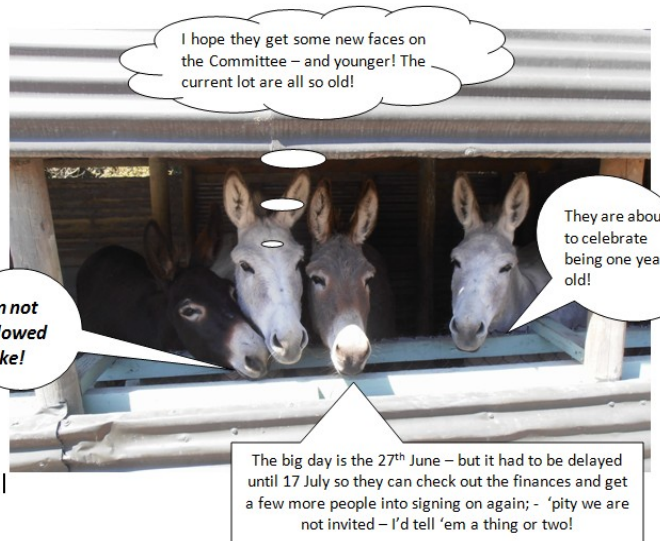
An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated
July 2013 Issue No 7

Conversations at Highfield



The Society's having its first AGM, but we don't get to go along. I hope that someone reminds everybody that it is all about us - I'm doing my bit to preserve the herd!

What are all the girls on about? It's hard to get a word in - and what I think is never reported anyway!



I hope they get some new faces on the Committee - and younger! The current lot are all so old!

I'm not allowed cake!

They are about to celebrate being one year old!

The big day is the 27th June - but it had to be delayed until 17 July so they can check out the finances and get a few more people into signing on again; - 'pity we are not invited - I'd tell 'em a thing or two!

The AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated is on Wednesday 17 July 2013 from 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm at the Betty Paxton Rooms Mahurangi Community Hall Snells Beach followed by light refreshments.

Apart from the formal reporting back and the elections of the new (hopefully enlarged) committee you will have a chance to ask questions or tell us what we are not doing. You can also tell us what we should be doing—and how you intend to get it done.

Apart from help with day to day care of the donkeys we also need (a) dedicated person or persons on the admin/practical side—especially someone who would take over promoting, dealing with and tracking membership, including handling the membership list and communications, based on handling subscriptions, alongside the Treasurer/Secretary. Also needing special skills and attention are reporting back what members think or feel as well as telling members just what we are doing. And why. An ongoing job in itself.

If you cannot be there in person on that day but want to add to the proceedings—please let someone know what it is. This is specially important if you want to stand for a job on the Committee, or to nominate someone else.

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

Positive thoughts before the meeting

We think that the Society has come a long way since the June meeting last year. We have over a 100 paid up memberships and a larger support group of contacts. We have managed to keep in contact with most. We ended the year with money in the bank as well as a new hay shed and a few other things—and had some new experiences on the way. The place is looking good, thanks to the work of the Parks and Reserves staff and the many ordinary volunteers and regulars who do their bit when they are needed or as they pass through..

Highfield Donkeys Incorporated

71 Fidelis Avenue, Snells Beach, Warkworth 0920 For more information call Alan Norton or Email alan.norton@xtra.co.nz

The Panel discussion

Not quite question and answer

Rather than an individual invited speaker we thought that everyone who wants it can have a share of the floor. Once the formal is over there will be an open discussion helped by some of the Committee . We might also have some questions for you.

It will be introduced by Jenny who will touch on a bit of history and the way the owners and family see things as they are now and for the future. Jenny will also act as moderator.

We need feedback particularly as the discussions with Council are ongoing.. But our responsibilities as a Society increase and will have an impact at Highfield. We need a strong, viable and exciting Society to maintain our role.



Alison and Ted 1965

Most locals know Alison and will recognise her in this photo from the time she and her rarely seen husband Ted a retired school teacher, were becoming familiar with the area. It is about this time that they would have started the process of acquiring Highfield from the Pennickets who farmed the land. The transfer took place in 1966.



A b r a yfrom the Donkey Manager

All donkeys are in good condition. They were all drenched for internal parasites, late autumn. The winter regime is now being implemented. i.e. small portion of hay daily. Hay is fed in sheds if wet, and in paddocks on dry days. I move the two boys into new grass paddock if fine and return them to their shed at night. The four girls are happy grazing in the hill paddock with access always to the main shed. Salt blocks topped up.

Roger and I will endeavour to do some hoof trimming shortly - any helpers???? Contact me. Peter.

Peter Caccia-Birch on 09 425 6640

The issue of Public Liability of the donkeys at Highfield has been raised during the discussions with Council just how it is acknowledged in the eventual agreement is not yet sorted out. 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
- 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

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 will be sent renewal forms during July

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 the Secretary Alan Norton in the first instance, on 09 425 6592 or email alan.norton@xtra.co.nz

Time to renew membership!