

# DONKEY DO!

An occasional Newsletter of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated  
August 2013 Issue No 8

## The AGM and what lies ahead

The AGM took place on the day and at the hour appointed and did not run overtime. Everybody except Truffle enjoyed the cake. If you have not received a copy of the draft minutes please let us know. A hitch no one had foreseen meant that the auditor's report was not received in time but everything else went smoothly. (Note that the Treasurer did not run off with the surplus). We really did end up with money in the bank—thanks to everybody's help.

Both Penny and June contributed to a useful updating of background to discussions on our proposed agreement with Council on occupancy which is ongoing; but a presentation\* by Jenny van der Mespel on how Alison and Ted got to Highfield and what they left to us, is really all about the future and reminds us that that is where our future as an organisation also lies as new people find and enjoy and work for Highfield and the donkeys' ongoing presence.

The main formal decision of the meeting was to confirm the existing Committee and to bring on board three extra bodies (minds, pairs of hands ) just at the time that we start to grow. The new Management Committee had its first meeting on 26 July. The Committee members and responsibilities are listed below this column. What you will see is an effort to expand membership and support over the coming months so that we really can consolidate the structure and our ability to deal with the longer term—which is longer than this year, next year .....

\* An edited version of this is with this newsletter



WOW  
!!!!!!!!!!!!



## 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  
Sheila Ford—Greetings cards plus  
Allan Ford—Project Manager  
Shona Duncan—Forward programme  
John Montgomerie—Forward programme

## 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)

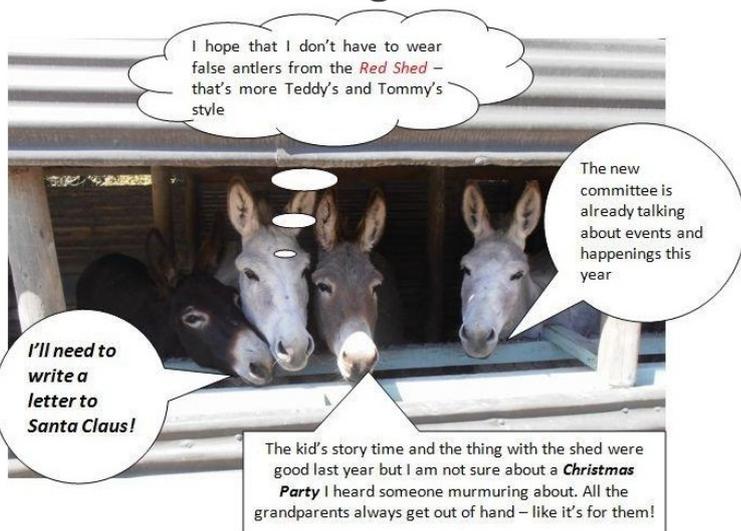
### Have you got your Donkey Bubble badge yet?



We have sent a renewal form to all 2012/2013 members. If you have already renewed your membership you should have got a badge already. If you want more badges fill out the form or call Ray Harrison on 09 425 6101.

If you are seeing this newsletter for the first time or you are considering membership for the first time, you also qualify for a badge—until end of August 2013. If you want to talk about membership or want an application form contact Lesley Cornwell email [lesleycornwell@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleycornwell@hotmail.com) or call 09 425 4050

## Conversations at Highfield



### A b r a y .....from the Donkey Manager

Looking after the hooves of the donkeys is an ongoing task. It can be interesting to watch especially when a donkey or the donkey manager is playing up a bit. The work is done in the home yard in what we call *the crush*—the four posts over the small concrete pad inside the fence, just opposite the old shed. Some of those at the hay shed opening will remember the demonstration.

Perhaps it was time to replace the crush which is just what we are doing after Teddy demolished the existing structure—posts and bars— a few weeks ago. If you want to know about any more opportunities for excitement with donkeys, call 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 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 or the Secretary, Alan Norton, on 09 425 6592

Time to renew membership!