

Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER No 13

NOVEMBER 2014

As the sign says Santa has accepted our invitation and will join with us and the donkeys to enjoy a pre Christmas fun celebration. The celebration is for all our Community, do bring your neighbours and family and join us. It all happens on **SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER at 2:00pm**. In front of the Hay Shed.

(If the weather is too too bad - the event will cancelled.)

Bring a rug or chair, very light refreshments will be served.



Thanks for the carrots, silverbeet and apples and thanks too for staying safe round us, as well as for shutting the gates, remember we can be a bit wild! Truffle, Tansy, Teddy, Tina and Topsy.

The Bray from Peter Caccia-Birch, Donkey Manager.

Despite the recent rain, it feels to me that the summer season is well on the way. The ground at Highfield is getting harder by the day.

With the warmer temperatures and rain the grass growth has taken off.

We are still feeding small amounts of hay daily, the donkeys need roughage for their balanced diet.

Early summer is the natural hair shedding time for all donkeys, and ours look a bit scruffy at present, that is, until the new hair comes through.

If you would like to help groom them please let me know.

I am at the donkey sheds between 8:00 - 9:00am every morning, or phone me 425-6640 or Mob: 021168968.

Poppy Project: The poppies in London commemorating the First World War, as seen on our television screens, have been a huge success. It was sobering to see so many.

At Highfield we are growing poppy seed, we hope to have flowers in bloom for 25th April, 2015, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the heroic ANZACs who fought and those who died at Gallipoli. We trust a few others of us will have plants ready and available to plant out and make a show for ANZAC Day. Hopefully the plants will re-seed annually.



Highfield Donkey Incorporated Society Committee 2013/2014

President, Peter Couling, Ph: 425-5766

Secretary, Helen Whiteley, Ph: 425-5566

Treasurer, Ray Harrison, Ph: 425-6101

Donkey Manager, Peter Caccia-Birch, Ph: 425-6640

Roberts Family Rep, Jenny van der Mespel, Ph: 425-6000

Asst. Donkey Manager John Montgomerie, Ph: 425-8808

Facilitator, Sheila Ford, Ph: 425-5061

Projects, Alan Ford

Membership Secretary, Lesley Cornwell, Ph: 425-4050

Newsletter, Shona Duncan, Ph: 425-6129



Please contact a Committee Member if you have any queries or would like to join us.

As you know our Society works hand in glove with Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee. The picture opposite, shows a recent Working Bee of local men who worked to create an edge to the garden path just inside the front gate. The wooden edging came originally from macrocarpas that were milled from trees on Highfield in the days of Rodney District Council, good to think of the trees being recycled back home!



Peter, his wife Val and a local member met up while feeding the ducks on a misty spring morning recently.

Monty & Peter mulching the Avenue trees last autumn.



Peter Caccia-Birch changed his hat from Donkeys to Highfield Reserve and met with Local Board Member Greg Sayers, to discuss a new seating need for the Reserve.

Our Local Board will fund the materials and members will complete the task.

Our Project Manager Terry Norris, is to organise the timber and a group of men to complete the task.

As the Society becomes more widely known, hopefully the membership will grow. Subscriptions for the 2014/2015 year are now due. Your Membership and fee to the Society are important, not only to pay the bills for the donkeys and to give encouragement to those who tackle the work. But more importantly, strong numbers strengthen our position when we approach the Council for help, the numbers also help keep the donkeys on the Reserve.

If after you have read this newsletter, you would like to join in our plans or perhaps your 2014/15 subscription needs to be paid, please use the form on the separate sheet provided, and Thank You in advance.

**WOW - War on Weeds, begins at Highfield Garden Reserve SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30th
10:00am -1:00pm.**

Biodiversity, Auckland Council through our Local Board have begun a weed eradication programme. They hope the locals will get together in Working Bees to remove the weeds from the specified areas. The Council in turn, will organise each event along with sprays, bags and their collection.

Community members and friends are asked to turn up for the whole or part of the day for this worthy cause.

Bring your lunch if you are able to stay the whole time.

Do bring your gardening implements and gloves as well.

Its a great idea, I hope that our Community will be able to support this initiative and use it as a social event, have some fun and get a little fitter and all the while beautifying our area.

The Local Board hopes that WOW will become a regular event on our calendars.

Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society

**Annual Membership Application (2014-2015)
\$10 per household**

Post/deliver to:

L. Cornwell Membership Secretary, Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society,
483 Mahurangi East Road, Algies Bay 0929, NZ

Enclosing your cheque payable to:

- Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society
- or
- Direct credit ASB 12-3095 0254516 16-00

(Please ensure you reference the credit with your name and Telephone No.)

Name/s

Contact Address Post Code.....

Telephone..... Mobile

Email

I would like to participate as a volunteer. My preference would be:

- Hands on help with the care and management of the donkeys.
- Help with administration
- Specific fund raising or other projects or activities from time to time
- No preference

Please indicate your preference for receiving notices, minutes of meetings and another information including copies of newsletters.

•Email

•Hand

•Post

Signature