

# Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER No 14

February 2015

As they say there is nothing quite like new life and so it is at Highfield Garden Reserve - Donkeys Galore!

Its great to watch the way the Jennies look after their foals. I've watched them herd them into shelter when it looks like rain, as well they never stray far away from their young progeny.

SireTeddy  
enjoying the stalls.



The Bray ... from Peter Caccia-Birch, Donkey Manager

Well our resident Sire, Teddy, has got something to BRAAAAAY About.

Facts and figures of the herd's expansion:

On January 22nd at 5pm, Truffle gave birth to a very robust and healthy colt, who has been named, TOBY. Mother and foal are doing extremely well.

On February10th at 11:15am. Tina gave birth to a perfect little filly named TARA. John assisted at the birth. Tina retained her afterbirth but was cleaned early next morning. I suspect that Tara was born a bit premature though small, is healthy and doing well.

On February12th, (in the early hours) Topsy gave birth to a colt, named TURVY. Both doing very well.

All three lactating Jennies are fed a small amount of grain every morning, have hay on demand, and there is plenty of grass in the paddocks.

If you think they need a small treat, i.e. a carrot, an apple, or silverbeet, this is acceptable, but NO bread please.

Mv thanks to John & Vickie and Jacqui who assist me in the management of the donkeys.



Topsy and her foal, Turvy.

Topsy and Tina are 13 year old Mums.



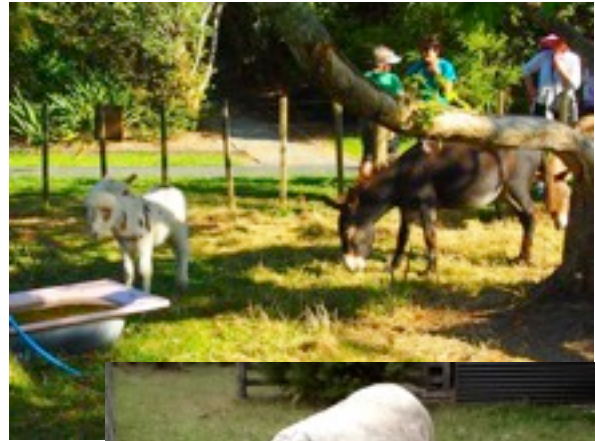
Thirteen year old Tina with her baby Tara and friend. During their first day, all the young donkeys are introduced to the halter, in preparation for later life.

*Special thoughts to our favourite Vet, Ross Lynch who sustained a work related injury. All the best for your full recovery, from all your friends at Highfield - both the 2 and 4 legged kind.*



Truffle, a 4 year old mum with her first born Toby.

Can you tell Toby & Turvy apart?



Tina with her foal Tara close by.



*A very BIG thank you to our local heroes - Terry, Peter Mc, Peter C-B, David, Alan, Don & John, who created and completed the work for the new table & seats which we may now all enjoy.  
The materials were funded by our Local Board.*

I've been interested in the colours of the donkeys and from my limited Wikipedia research, it would seem that Teddy's genes may be the Appaloosan strain from Spain. The Appaloosa colour is produced by a complex of genes known as the 'Leopard complex'. While the dark chocolate coloured genes of Truffle, may hail from France. The grey generated from Middle Eastern countries, early Christians saw it as a symbol when bearing Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, hence the name Jerusalem donkey.

Some Europeans during the Middle Ages, used hairs from this cross as folk remedies to cure illness, including measles and whooping cough. One physician, about 1400AD, listed riding backwards on a donkey as a cure for scorpion stings!

*Meantime, thank you to those members who have paid their subscription twice, Lesley has contacted you. If your membership is outstanding, thank you in anticipation.  
Our thanks to you for your help in securing the gates, this is most important.  
Highfield donkeys are a pleasure to visit, they are easily accessible but please remember they are curious animals and not domesticated ones, therefore they need to be treated with considerable respect. Along with the rest of us, parents and guardians must take responsibility for themselves and their children whenever they approach a donkey to feed or to pat them.  
Please remember that all dogs must be kept on a lead while in the park and donkey areas.*

If ever you see anything that you feel is not as it should be with the donkeys or the Reserve generally, please seek help from a Committee member, or if you have the time to help, please phone one of the numbers listed below.

Peter 425 5766. Peter 425 6640. John 425 8808. Helen 425 5516. Lesley 425 4050,  
Allan or Sheila 425 5061. Jenny 425 425 6000.

*Shona Duncan (Newsletter Editor) 425-6129  
Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society,  
483 Mahurangi East Road, Snells Beach 0920*