

Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER No 18

JULY 2016

Mr Peter Couling, Chairman, of the Highfield Donkeys Inc. welcomed everyone to the 4th AGM of the Society on Monday 25th July. In reviewing the year Peter thanked the Committee for their work, and acknowledged how much we and the Community appreciate the Volunteers who work with the donkeys and also the Community residents who come and help with the grounds at Highfield plus those Community minded people who donate their time, effort and goods when we have a special need. The Auckland Council have contributed to the donkey's feed and care, all helping to make the donkeys and our place very special indeed.

The Treasurer's proposal for the Membership Fee to continue as \$10 per year per family was accepted and our accounts have been audited.

Mr Peter Caccia-Birch reported that all the donkeys are fit and well and that Teddy - pictured lives a life of bliss with his jenny on 100 acres. They both appear each morning at the farm house for their carrots!

Peter Caccia-Birch & John Montgomerie our Donkey Managers were both acknowledged for their tremendous efforts in caring for the donkeys.



Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society

Existing to provide care and wellbeing for Teddy, Truffle, Toby, Tara, Tina, Topsy, Turvey, & Grandma Tansy at Highfield Garden Reserve.

Membership OR Renewal: 1st July 2016 - 30th June /2017

\$10 per household

Name/s

Contact Address Post Code.....

Telephone.....

Email

Post/deliver to: Membership Secretary, Highfield Donkeys Incorporated:
483 Mahurangi East Road, Snells Beach, 0920, NZ

Enclosing your cheque payable to:

•Highfield Donkeys Incorporated or

•Direct credit ASB 12 3095 0254516 00

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

Michael Dixon, our Guest Speaker spoke of the Animal Sanctuary he and his wife Shawn built at Matakana during 2002. They have 32 acres, much in bush and with 4 1/2 acres in pasture.

Three rescue donkeys arrived at their property an hour before they themselves moved in. Their initial interest was in birds, Michael has built aviaries and shelter areas for the birds and other animals on the property.

The Sanctuary became an official charity during 2008, mainly to apply for grants. Presently they are sheltering 120 animals. Many of the animals have interesting stories, their largest is 'Sparky' the bull. He arrived when only a few days old. Sparky had caught his leg in an electric fence and had almost severed his foot in his determination to get free. Our talented Vet. Ross Lynch visited, he had to cut off one damaged toe, this enables 'Sparky' to get about the grounds. The operation has served him well as he is now 5 years old, however, part of his foot never heals and needs tending to.

Snow the cockatoo, is 28 years old, his owner is in goal and not about to come out soon! The animals and birds are released when they are able to fend for themselves or if they are rehomed. Presently there are two Kereru being cared for, when they are ready for the wild they will be released, Michael says it takes two days for Kereru to gain their independence and fly away into the wild when they are released.

Shawn, networks throughout New Zealand rehousing animals and birds where possible. They invite 'WOOFers' to live with them for free, in turn the WOOFers help with the sanctuary tasks, no one is paid, the Dixons are even holidaying separately to keep the Sanctuary working. Feeding at breakfast time takes from 7-30am - 10.30am.

Shawn networks throughout New Zealand relocating animals and birds, she has been able to relocate 1500 chickens this year. As well Shawn and Allison Jones have written a book, "The Animal Sanctuary", it's an inspirational story about the animals, the wildlife and The Sanctuary and may be purchased from them for \$20. It's a great book suitable for a wide range of people and would be a great gift.

And if that's not enough, they host a Sanctuary Support Group, where for \$5 per month one can be invited to exclusive events and one can get up close with the animals. The supporters receive regular photographs and updates on the work of The Sanctuary. Because they are a registered charity, donors even receive one-third of their donation back from the government. Their email and website for your information or contact is listed below.

www.animalsanctuary.co.nz

animalsanctuary@xtra.co.nz

2016-17 Committee:

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: 425-600

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

Projects: Sheila and Allan Ford - Ph: 425-5061

Membership Secretary, Lesley Cornwell - Ph: 425-4050

Newsletter, Shona Duncan - Ph: 425-6129

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