

# Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER: No 19

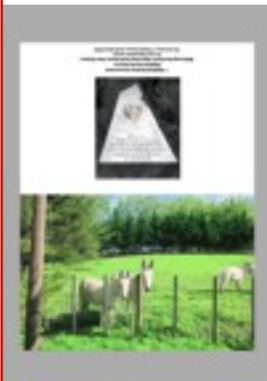
NOVEMBER: 2016



Remember last year and all the fun we had? Well... this year Santa has again accepted our invitation and will join with us and the donkeys at Highfield Garden Reserve for a pre Christmas fun celebration. Its our Community so ... invite your neighbours and family to all come along and join us. It all happens on **SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER at 2:00pm**. In front of the Hay Shed.  
(If the weather is inclement - the event will be cancelled)



The four folded and blank cards below are for sale. \$4 each. Please phone Sheila 425-5061 to place an order. Proceeds from the sales will go towards the upkeep of the donkeys. Thank you.



A big thank you Anna, Mildred, Alan and so many other members who live distant to our area and who still support the gifts of Highfield and the Donkeys that Ted & Alison Roberts gave to our Community. Their membership along with memberships from our Community are so important for the welfare of the donkeys, it also gives encouragement to those who tackle the work involved. As well, membership numbers help strengthen the Committee's position when they approach the Council for help with the care of the donkeys and also and in keeping the donkeys on the Reserve.

Thanks for the carrots, silverbeet and apples and thanks too for staying safe round us, as well as for latching the gates, remember we can be a bit wild!

**Truffle, Tansy, Toby, Tina, Tara, Turvey and Topsy.**

## Highfield Donkey Incorporated Society Committee 2013/2014



President. Peter Couling Ph: 425-5766  
Secretary. Helen Whiteley Ph: 425-5516  
Treasurer. Ray Harrison Ph: 425-6101  
Donkey Managers. Peter Caccia-Birch Ph: 425-6640  
John Montgomerie Ph: 425-8808

Committee:  
Jenny van der Mespel. Ph: 425-6000  
Sheila & Allan Ford. Ph: 425-5061  
Lesley Cornwell. Ph: 425-4050  
Shona Duncan. Ph: 425-6129

Please contact a Committee Member if you have any queries or would like to join with us. Membership Donations of \$10 per family may be lodged at our bank: ASB 12 3095 0254516 00 or sent to Membership Secretary, L Cornwell 483 Mahurangi East Road, Snells Beach, 0920. And please... don't forget your **Name and Phone Number**.



As you know our Society works hand in glove with the Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee.

Peter Caccia-Birch, Chairman, reports that steady progress has been made to develop 'The Lily Pond Track' in the orchard. Volunteers have spent many hours pruning and weeding along the boundary fence.

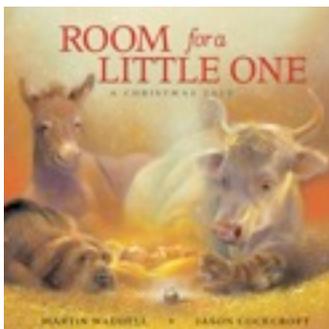
We have also established a washing facility by the Hay Shed, thanks to Allen and John.

Special thanks also to Mike and the Recreational Services Team who have taken away four truck loads of prunings.

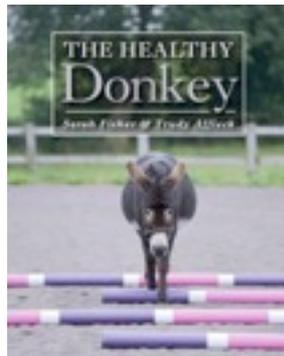
The photographs show some of our volunteers, building new fences, and others who pruned and worked to improve our orchard area - all for the benefit of our Community



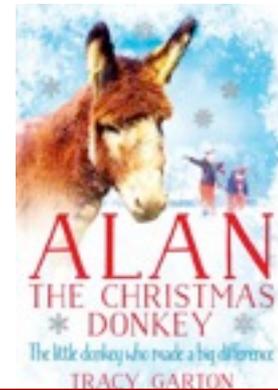
How fortunate we are to have our local library and the services they offer. When I phoned and asked if they had any library books on donkeys they emailed me the three children's books below. As well they can get in any number of donkey books, adult or children, from across their system.



Room for a little one – my favourite Christmas picture book featuring the donkey and several other animals.



The Healthy Donkey – how to care for your donkey



Alan the Christmas Donkey – a neglected donkey arrives at the sanctuary and saves the day "a funny warm and inspiring read"

## The Bray .... from Peter Caccia-Birch, Donkey Manger.

All the donkeys are sound in wind and limb.

They have had their spring drench and their hooves trimmed.

They are being rotated round the three donkey paddocks, with plenty of grass in front of them.

Regular grooming every Tuesday morning is making their coats healthy and shiny, thanks to Jill and Ash.

the donkeys are beginning to shed their hair now, this will be completely replaced with a new coat during the summer months all part of the cycle of life for a donkey.

We are **still looking for more groomers** to help us out with this responsibility. If you are available to help us, please meet Peter or John wherever the donkeys are, every Tuesday at 9:00am

And from me, a big thank you to the volunteers and donors who have made our Donkeys and the Reserve so unique. I walked through this morning and noted that someone has planted several kowhai trees, they look healthy and will be a great heritage for the future - even more so when in bloom.

It was early in the morning, before Peter or John checked the donkeys, I had a lovely time with Tara, chatting and nuzzling away by the fence, until she thought she heard Peter's car then off she went.

Thank you every caring one of you, we don't even know who you all are. Your work is selfless, completed along with your own commitments with work and round family life .... no medals anyone, just our thanks and we'll see you at the Christmas party and have a catch up. Regards **Shona Duncan**.