

Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER No 17

JUNE 2016

Greetings, it has been some time since we shared a few minutes together thinking about the Donkeys at Highfield. As always, much has happened and much has been enjoyed.

Remember last year, our Christmas with the Donkeys and all the family fun we had in the park. I well remember the fun the children had with the old fashioned sack and egg and spoon races, and then of course the competitions between parents and again between mums and dads all adding to everyone's enjoyment, especially their offspring.

Santa arrived in style and connected us with the Christmas Spirit, Greg Sayers came and opened the newly laid footpath then led parade of donkeys along the pathway. Children enjoyed donkey rides ... long may such happy times continue to happen at Highfield.

And off site, there is nothing like donkeys to bring a smile to one's face, and so it was at the Snells Beach Gala, where the donkeys gave rides to the children, great fun was had by all. It was great to see the donkeys being part of our wider community. A big thank you to the handlers and for the transport help.



The Bray from Peter Caccia-Birch, Donkey Manager.

With winter upon us again, daily feeding of hay is an essential part of the donkey's diet. Hay is an ideal supplement for donkeys. It provides roughage and they need lots of it to maintain their good health. Tansy is also getting extra grain.

All donkeys are in good health the three foals are growing up fast.

With regular rainfall since January grass growth has been good, consequently the front road paddock is surplus to requirements at the moment, but it will soon be utilised.

The grooming ladies continue to do a wonderful job on Tuesday mornings, and my grateful thanks to Kirsty (who is now back in the workforce) Gitta (away at the moment), Jill and Margret. We would welcome more helpers in this department.

AIM continue to come out to our Tuesday working bee morning (weather permitting).

Special thanks also to John and Brian who were the main stays in spreading 20 cubic metres of mulch in the orchard.



Have you noticed the new Donation Box by the gate, it looks great sitting beside the box with its free fruit from the orchard. Both have been used, the donations are most gratefully received and will be used to help with the welfare of the animals. I imagine the fruit is gratefully received as well – give and take working well together in the spirit of our Community and wouldn't Ted and Alison be pleased to see their generosity so well received!

The box and its installation have been generously donated, thank you.

Not so the Hoon who thinks their interests are ahead of the Communitys. They used their car to tear up the grassed areas either side of the main drive. Deep ruts have been created and I imagine that local residents will repair what they can. If you have any idea who was responsible, a call to our local Police Station at Snells Beach would be good. Or if you know the person, please invite them to come and help us at Highfield on a Tuesday morning. Thank you!

Daffodils give much pleasure and bring back lots of memories for us all. At Highfield we are wondering if anyone has daffodil bulbs that they might like to donate. If you do, we have been planting daffodil bulbs in the main orchard area. You are welcome to plant your own bulbs, or give them to Peter or a Committee Member who will plant them for you. The area is looking great at present and with the addition of daffodils will look even better! Daffodils were great favourites of Ted Alisons.



Another Donkey year has almost past our next **AGM is MONDAY 25 JULY 2016. 2:00pm** We don't have great attendances at our AGMs. We take this as a sign of your confidence in us, however, the Committee would appreciate your attendance if convenient.

Present Committee members are available to stand again for another year. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else please phone our Secretary: Helen Whiteley.

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Please remember to have adults present with children when approaching the donkeys, never forget they can be wild!

And as always, only SMALL treats of silverbeet, carrots and apples for the donkeys - for their health's sake. And keep the gates closed. We have many visitors and we ask everyone to be vigilant.

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A good tip when approaching the donkeys is to 'Slow down your body language and move as though you are in thick oil - not always easy for children! The slower, steadier body language will be easier for the donkeys to predict and give them more confidence in what is about to happen.

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2015-2016 Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society Committee Members.

President, Peter Couling Ph: 425-5766
Treasurer, Ray Harrison Ph: 425-6101
Jenny van der Mespel, Ph: 425-6000
Sheila & Allan Ford, Ph: 425-5061
Shona Duncan, Ph: 425-6129

Secretary, Helen Whiteley Ph: 425-5516
Peter Caccia-Birch Ph: 425-6640
John Montgomerie, Ph: 425-8808
Lesley Cornwell Ph: 425-4050

Please contact a Committee Member if you have any queries or ideas.

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If you have a contribution or comment for the next newsletter we would appreciate hearing from you.

**Shona Duncan
Newsletter Editor.**