

Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER: No 23

APRIL, 2018

Life at Highfield Garden Reserve continues to bloom, the fruit trees are producing - thanks to the pruning they received last year, that and the donkey fertilizing doos, spread regularly round the trees by our volunteers helps create the picture and place for us and our donkey inhabitants. They in turn have never looked better, thanks to the faithful weekly grooming they receive from our dedicated local ladies.

Many visitors enjoy the Park, last Saturday Peter spoke to two families, one from Whangarei another from Tauranga, such is the fame and interest in the donkeys and the park. Alison & Ted Roberts would enjoy seeing the pleasure their gift brings to so many. Their generosity continues on with the generosity of time and talent from our various Volunteers. Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world'. And that is certainly true at Highfield, generosity, kindness, helpfulness and talent, all freely given and the proof is there for us all to enjoy.



Peter Caccia Birch, welcomed everyone to the Fun Day held in March, this was again a great success. This year, families with young children participated fully. It was great to see a group of Mums racing and being encouraged by their partners and children, and parents helping children participate in the races. The donkeys held pride of place giving rides to the youngsters. The Pear Tree Loop race was most successful, there were some very determined youngsters vying to win. The Tug-o-War came down with lots of laughter, and Pin the Tail on the Donkey never lost its queue. Again this day was made possible by our Committee, Auckland Council, who provided the BBQ, toilets, rubbish bins and the collection thereof and the very many Resident Volunteers who when asked came to help.



Highfield Donkey Incorporated Society Committee 2013/2014

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Secretary. Helen Whiteley Ph: 425-5516
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Donkey Managers. Peter Caccia-Birch Ph: 425-6640
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Committee:
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...The Bray...from Peter Caccia-Birch, Donkey Manager.

All donkeys are in good order, with an abundance of grass and hand fed treats they are well fed. Hence the front road paddock is shut up, and will be fed off over the winter months.

Topsy is on a restricted diet, as she is getting a bit too portly. Have you noticed that Truffle is back? She has been away with her boy friend Ted. So hopefully is pregnant, fingers crossed and if all well, she will foal about Christmas time, 54 weeks gestation.

All donkeys have had their Autumn drench, and our farrier, Frans, has recently trimmed hooves. The Advisory Committee reports that the Tuesday Morning Volunteers are working well. They have had a war on agapanthus, cutting leaves off and pasting stump roots, in the orchard area. They have spread over 20cu m of mulch and topped up donkey sheds. Weeding and general maintenance, painting two donkey sheds.

Daffodil planting time again. Those who wish to donate daffodil bulbs, contact Peter, and come and plant your own.

Our grateful thanks to the Auckland Council for sponsoring our Fun Day, and to the many volunteers who made this very successful day possible.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our Society has joined the Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand (Inc.) and from their latest publication the following may be of interest to our Membership.

- * Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land is a UK registered charity caring for donkeys in Israel, Palestine and Bethlehem. The Society born out of British love of animals and shock at their mistreatment, was founded in 2000 to help the many hundreds of sick, unwanted and abused donkeys in the region. They have around 250 donkeys in their sanctuary in Israel. Donkeys are treated as beasts of burden, they are used to bring in crops and to carry building materials, their average life span is 10 years. The Society treats working donkeys and has schools to educate people with the hope of breaking the cycle of donkey abuse. Further information may be obtained from: (ingridgolightly@yahoo.co.nz)
- * Donkeys in NZ have the Ministry of Primary Industries who have developed a Code of Welfare for Horse & Donkeys, making NZ's donkeys so much better off than if they lived in many overseas countries. Their Web Site has a 'Trading Post' for the wanted and sale of donkeys.
- * Ella Shepherd - Shop Assistant for the Society tells of hand rearing a rejected donkey. Their family housed Dauphine, beneath the towel rail in their bathroom. The foal spent Christmas dinner time on the knee of its owner, today she is happy and much loved donkey.
- * The NZ War Animal Memorial opened in Feb this year, with many donkeys present. Nigel Allsop, has been asked to go to the UK to lay a wreath for Australian & NZ equines at Ascot in June. He has been asked to take a few items of horse, donkey or mule to bury under the statue as part of the time capsule. Nigel may be contacted through the Society.

Up coming Events:

- AGM Monday 23rd July 2018. Betty Paxton Room
2:00pm
- Ongoing Tuesday Working Bees
- New birth at Christmas Time
- Daffodil planting

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.



Thank you for your time, your help and your interest in the Donkeys at Highfield. Please don't be shy, we'd love you to come and join us.

Shona Duncan