

# Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER No 25

SEPTEMBER, 2018

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The Information Display unveiled at Highfield Reserve, by Beth Houlbrooke, representing our Local Board, and Jenny Van der Mespel, from the Robert's family ticked another project off the park's list. Future visitors to the Reserve can read about the original and generous land donation and the ongoing volunteer work that has achieved such a unique Reserve for our Community and into the future.

Donkey Inc Chairman, Mr Peter Couling, welcomed and thanked the assembled group for their interest and attendance in particular, Mr Peter Caccia-Birch, for organising the event and the work involved with our Local Board.

As Peter Caccia-Birch, always reminds us it is a team effort: Matthew Williamson for the design, Alan Norton for the original MOU which secures the donkeys future on the reserve. Sinead Brimaombe - Auckland Council, and Beth Houlbrooke - Local Board, for their interest and help, Allan Ford for the framing, David Clendon for the paving and the many other regular volunteers drawn from our Community who complete regular maintenance and care for the donkeys and the Reserve during the Tuesday morning Working Bees. Two of the donkeys came to the ceremony, decorated and looking handsome. Their handlers kept them calm when I'm sure the animals would rather have been off with the rest of the herd enjoying their company and grass.

Incidentally, you may have noticed Tanzy, now aged over 20 years looking a little sad and staying in the home paddock. She has been visited by our local Vet and given some help, we look forward to her recovery. We all say a big 'THANK YOU' to our two Donkey Managers Peter Caccia Birch and John Montgomerie, for their untiring care and understanding with the animals.

After the unveiling we moved to the Betty Paxton Room for our AGM.

Peter Couling, again welcomed everyone to the 2018 AGM. Beth Houlbrooke spoke of the uniqueness of the MOU for the donkeys, about Parks in general and of Cycle & Walkways that are in the planning. Peter acknowledged the appointment of two patrons, Mr Dave Parker and Mr Richard Papworth. The support of local people when needed and in particular our Donkey Groomers. AC's continued interest and funding. Our Honorary Vet and Auditor and the printing of the Newsletter by Mary & John Upton. He thanked the Committee for their ongoing support, recognised the resignation of Ray Harrison, Treasurer who has been of great help to us all. Treasurer Ray Harrison, noted that our net surplus funds have been helped by the Donation Box contributions, which in turn support our declining membership numbers/funds, despite the Annual Subscription \$10, remaining the same as previous years. A reminder to everyone that our subscriptions are now due.

**HELP!** The donkeys and the Society need the *help* of a new Treasurer. The task is not onerous. It is well set out for a new person to pick up the books and trot with. If you are able to help please phone our Chairman, Mr Peter Couling 425 5766 or Mr Ray Harrison 4256101. Thank you in anticipation.

\* If you have changed your details please let us know.  
As well - we do not give your details to any other group.

*Shona Duncan*

## HIGHFIELD DONKEYS INCORPORATED SOCIETY

Annual Subscription July 2018 to August 2019

\$10

Name:

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Address:

Bank details: ASB 12 3095 0254516 00

or Post to Membership Secretary L.Cornwell: 483 Mahurangi East Road, North Auckland 0920

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Remember your Name!