

# Donkey Serenade

NEWSLETTER: No 20

MAY 2017



Congratulations to Giselle Grimmer, winner of the Inaugural Trophy, known as the Annual Roberts Challenge Race for up to Year 6 Primary students.

The trophy, created by Peter Caccia-Birch from a piece of swirled Totara branch was inscribed by Steve Cleverly another local resident. The race, held at our Fun Day which was sponsored by Highfield Donkeys and Auckland Council.

It wasn't till the last minute that the weather came to the party and we were able to hold the function and what a memorable time we all had. Allison & Ted Roberts would smile to see our Community all working together having fun at the park.

We held races, tug o war, lolly prizes, BBQ and donkey rides. How great to see parents and children helping each other and racing together. The park and the donkeys were both beautifully groomed thanks to those Community members who volunteer at our Tuesday morning 'Working Bees'.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for your support.

Our next event is the **AGM - Monday 24th July 2017 2:00pm** Betty



Three legged race under starters orders from John Montgomerie.



Council staff worked hard to provide our BBQ and helped us clean up afterwards, meanwhile our Donkey handlers providend endless rides for the children. -  
**Thank you all!**



Congratulations to our Donkey Manager Peter Caccia-Birch for his recent Community Service Award. Presented on behalf the Warkworth Rotary Club, by its president, Mick Fay and Long-time Rotarian Ross Lynch. We all agree Peter is a most worthy recipient of such an award. Thanks to Mahurangi Matters for their article and photograph.



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

All Donkeys are sound in wind and limb. At the end of February, our Farrier Frans, trimmed all seven Donkey hooves and reported all in good order.

In April, all Donkeys were drenched for worms which is done six monthly on an annual basis.

With abundance of rain in early April the grass has taken off again, hence the front road paddock has been put out of rotation and saved for later.(ASP).

We go into the winter period now, so hope the paddocks don't get too muddy.

My thanks again to our two ladies, Gill and Maxine who have turned up every Tuesday morning to groom the Donkeys. We require additional help, so do please come along.

A big thank you to Ross Lynch for nominating me for the Rotary award, it's been team effort so have not done all on my own.



### Vale **Betty Paxton.**

Betty was always most interested in the happenings at Highfield, whether it was the reserve or the donkeys. As the picture shows Betty remained a friend to Alison, this snap was taken at Alison's 95th Birthday celebration.

Betty was helpful in the setting up of the Highfield Donkey Society and remained a behind the scenes supporter till the end. Its people like Betty and the memories evoked that help make our Community so unique. Thank you.

In the great scheme of things - its the little things that count I've decided! This, after spending time alone with the donkeys early one morning. They are amazingly quiet and patient animals. I imagined they were listening to me chat to them... but perhaps they were waiting for you to bring them a little silverbeet or carrots, or perhaps they were waiting for Peter or John to give them their guidance for the day?

As I massaged Truffle's shoulder, she leaned into my hand and I was sure I heard her say "oooh, that's good keep it up"!

Imagination is a powerful thing, Remember the song with the same title? So...there's not much to write about donkeys, we're just keeping you up to date, till next time, happy patting and chatting and thank you **everyone.**

**Shona Duncan**



Volunteers young and not so young, taming the old 'wild area'. A work in progress on Tuesday mornings.

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, Turvy 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.