

DONKEY SERENADE

Vol 38. August 2022 | Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society Newsletter



This issue of the Donkey Serenade is to inform you of the upcoming AGM of the Highfield Donkeys Incorporated which will be held in the ON MONDAY 15TH AUGUST 2022 AT 4PM AT THE BETTY PAXTON ROOM, SNELLS BEACH COMMUNITY CENTRE, HAMATANGA ROAD

Owing to Louise being away the format leaves something to be desired but hopefully the information will spur you to attend the AGM.

The Agenda follows with the then the minutes of the previous AGM and the proposal to amalgamate the Highfield Donkeys Incorporated and the Highfield Res.

Nominations for the new joint committee have been received and are listed in the Amalgamation proposal. Further nominations may be forwarded to the chair prior to the AGM (j.kelsey@auckland.ac.nz) and there will be a call for further nominations from the floor at the AGM

HIGHFIELD DONKEYS INCORPORATED

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ON MONDAY 15TH AUGUST 2022 AT 4PM

AT THE BETTY PAXTON ROOM

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2021 AGM
4. Matters arising
5. Correspondence
6. Report of the Chair
7. Financial Report
8. Auditors report
9. Merger of Highfield Advisory committee and Highfield Donkey Inc.

Proposed resolution:

“That Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society and Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee be merged into a single entity under the Constitution of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society.”

(Moved Jane Kelsey (Chair, Highfield Donkeys Inc Society), Seconded Peter Caccia-Birch (Chair, Highfield Gardens Advisory Committee)

10. Election of Chair
11. Election of Secretary and Treasurer

HIGHFIELD DONKEYS INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF THE AGM ON 16th AUGUST 2021 at 2pm

IN THE BETTY PAXTON ROOM

The meeting started at 2.05pm

Welcome Jane Kelsey welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced herself. She had been appointed interim Chair due to the resignation of Peter Couling.

Present Jane Kelsey, Peter Caccia-Birch, Helen Whiteley, John Montgomerie, Allan Ford, Liz Duhs, Kay Flower, Franz Jansen, Judith Wright, Chris Mellor, Clair Chatfield, Dave Parker, Marion Jones, Jenny van der Mespel.

Apologies, Richard Papworth, Marj and Brian McGrath, Lou Bartlett, Sheila Ford.

Moved Jane, sec Peter.

Minutes were approved, moved Helen, sec Chris.

Matters Arising Peter explained that the Statutory Committee had been set up in 2003 and Highfield Donkeys Inc in 2009.

Jane reported that a Council review of the management plan was underway.

Correspondence Before the last committee meeting, a letter of resignation had been received from Peter Couling in which he expressed how much he enjoyed working with like-minded people, all concerned with the health and welfare of the donkeys.

Peter Caccia-Birch spoke about the late Peter Couling, having known him for about 30 years. He was a progressive farmer, a member of the dramatic society, and involved with many activities. In the early days of Donkey Inc the committee meetings used to be held in the Betty Paxton room until Peter C invited everyone to meet at his home. He and Val were wonderful hosts. Dave Parker told us that he would be conducting the funeral service on Friday and would like a representative of Highfield Donkeys Inc to speak.

Everyone stood for a moments silence in memory of Peter.

Chairman's report. In the absence of a Chairman's report Helen had compiled a report of the year's activities. A copy is attached.

Moved Peter sec Chris.

Financial.

Marion presented the financial report. She thanked the council for the \$1675.60 it paid for costs incurred. Donations are up, membership is down. Despite the donations box being vandalised the donations were up \$200.

A small amount of tax is being paid on interest until an IRD number can be obtained. This is being organised.

Income	\$3,818.51
Expenditure	<u>\$1,830.35</u>
Net Surplus	<u>\$ 1,988.16</u>
The bank balance at 30 th June	
Cheque	\$5,041.79
Savings Plus	<u>\$5,433.88</u>

Total \$10,475.67

Moved Marion, sec Peter.

Peter asked if the cost of hay and other feed supplements could be itemised separately.

Marion reported that subs remain at \$10 per family.

The **auditor's report** stated that the figures were correct.

Election of Chair Jane Kelsey was elected unanimously.

Election of officers

Secretary Helen Whiteley

Treasurer Marion Jones

Election of Committee members

Peter Caccia-Birch	Donkey Manager
Jenny van der Mespel	Family Representative
Allan Ford	Projects
John Montgomerie	Assistant Donkey Manager
Liz Duhs	Membership
Chris Mellor	Newsletter
Lou Bartlett	Face book

There were no other nominations. The members were declared re-elected with thanks.

Other Business

Algies Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association will have a high profile tag to the donkeys on their website.

Jane is arranging for new merchandise. Sheila has taken a photo of 3 donkeys with Christmas hats on which will be made into cards and gift tags. The library has offered to sell them.

Claire asked about getting a cap. Peter has a small stock and will give one to her as she is a groomer.

Peter suggested having the donkey Santa day on Saturday 4th December. He has been in email contact with Rose Crooks, the new council representative and is due to meet her soon.

Life Membership Peter presented Allan Ford with a life membership certificate and told us about the huge amount of work he has done for Highfield Reserve over the last 30 years. He made sure that everything was straight and would stand up.

Guest Speaker Peter introduced farrier Frans Jansen. He told us about his life, starting in the Netherlands, moving to New Zealand and all the types of work he has done. He became interested in shoeing horses as his wife and children had horses. He has 85 donkeys on his books as well as numerous horses. He told us that worldwide every year more people are killed by donkeys than in airplane accidents. He took over 2 years to write his first book and has started another.

Jenny thanked him and gave him a small gift.

The next committee meeting will be on Monday 20th September at 4pm at Jane's house.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

PROPOSAL FOR MERGER OF HIGHFIELD GARDEN RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTO HIGHFIELD DONKEY'S INC

Proposed resolution for discussion and adoption at the 2022 AGM:

“That Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society and Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee be merged into a single entity under the Constitution of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society.”

Moved by Jane Kelsey: Seconded by Peter Caccia-Birch

Goal: to streamline the Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society and Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee into a single more coherent and efficient entity that can enhance benefits to the local community and interaction with Auckland Council and other bodies, such as local residents' associations.

Endorsement of the relevant bodies: The committees of Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society and Highfield Garden Reserve Advisory Committee have both endorsed this proposal.

Reasons: There are a number reasons for the proposal:

1. The original creation of 2 separate bodies was for historical reasons that no longer apply.
2. The functions of both bodies overlap.
3. There is considerable overlap in membership between the two bodies.
4. The 2 bodies undertake some joint activities (eg donkey fun days).
5. The facebook page and Donkey Serenade cover both entities.
6. External entities, such as Council and residents associations, are often confused about which group to communicate with about what.
7. The Council has downgraded Advisory Committees in its engagement strategy and views them as little more than a “club”; as an incorporated society Donkeys Inc has more standing with Council.
8. The Advisory Group has no income or assets and a small bank account so its dissolution would not be complicated. The donations box already supports both groups' activities.
9. The existing Constitution of Highfield Donkeys Inc includes the functions undertaken by the Advisory Committee. That means a merger would effectively involve the incorporation of the Advisory Committee into Donkeys Inc.
10. Refreshing the way Highfield Reserve operates is an opportunity to think ahead, look at how to involve younger people on the committee and in more activities, and develop relationships with Ngāti Manuhiri as mana whenua.

Background

Highfield Garden Reserve comprises 2 land blocks: one bought by Council from the Morrisons in 1976 and the other gifted by Alison and Ted Roberts to the people of New Zealand in 1985. The Council developed a management plan in 1990 for both blocks to be designated recreational reserves and recognise the purpose of the gift maintain the presence of the donkeys and the gardens. This was recognised in the Auckland Council's Reserve Management Plan in 2003.

When Alison Roberts passed on, decisions had to be made about the management of the reserve and care for the donkeys. Those responsible for the reserve through the Garden Reserve Advisory Committee did not want to take responsibility for the donkeys, so a separate entity was established. This was formalised as the Highfield Donkeys Incorporate Society in July 2012.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in January 2014 with the Rodney Local Board on behalf of Auckland Council regarding the care of the donkeys and related maintenance of the reserve. This was recognised in the Auckland Council's Reserve Management Plan in 2014. The MoU makes reference to the relationship with the Council being conducted through the Highfield Gardens Reserve Advisory Committee.

A new Mission Statement

A new mission statement, which adapts the original mission statement, would guide the merged entity into the future.

Working alongside the Auckland Council, to protect and care for the unique Highfield Garden Reserve, so it remains a place of peace and beauty for the whole community, as well as ensuring the wellbeing of Alison Roberts' beloved donkeys and their descendants.

Proposed new committee structure

The Constitution of Highfield Donkeys Inc Soc has few formal requirements. There must be a committee that has a minimum of 5 members including the chair, secretary and treasurer, with no maximum. No other functions are prescribed. Currently, the two committees have some overlap of membership. A merger could operate through a committee whose members have specific responsibilities or portfolios, who convene informal groups or sub-committees.

The proposed committee structure comprises 9 members:

- Chair (nomination: Jane Kelsey)
- Secretary (nomination: Maxine Vitali)
- Treasurer (nomination: Marion Jones)
- Membership (nomination: Liz Duhs)
- Representative of the Roberts family (nomination: Jenny van der Mespel)
- Responsibility for Highfield Garden Reserve and related activities (nomination: Steve Luketina)
- Responsibility for Donkey care and related activities (nomination: Ox Wightman)
- Responsibility for communications (nomination: Louise Bartlett)
- Member at large (nomination: Peter Caccia-Birch)
- Observers: Community board members

A sub-group of the committee will liaise with Council, with the Chair as the contact point.

In anticipation of approval of this merger, nominations have been received for those positions as indicated in brackets. Further nominations may be forwarded to the chair prior to the AGM (j.kelsey@auckland.ac.nz) and there will be a call for further nominations from the floor at the AGM. If necessary an election will be held for the contested positions. If the merger is not approved, nominations will be taken for the Highfield Donkey Society Inc committee as in previous years.

Consequential changes

Updating the Highfield Donkey's Inc Society Constitution: The current Constitution covers all the functions of both groups. New legislation just passed requires some operational aspects of the Constitution to be updated within the next 4 years. That gives time to see how the merger works and make any adjustments before amending the constitution.

Minor change to the Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU that protects the right of the donkeys to graze on Highfield Garden Reserve and provides for engagement with Council through the Advisory Group can be varied with agreement between the Council and Donkeys Inc. This could be achieved by a minor variation agreed with council and annexed to the MoU. Council officials indicated support for such a change.

Name change. It would be appropriate to amend the name to "Highfield Garden Reserve and Donkey Society Inc" when the Constitution is revised during the next 4 year

