

DONKEY SERENADE

Vol 40. Mar 2023 | Highfield Donkeys Incorporated Society Newsletter



Truffle and Tilly II are excited for Donkey Day.

Gearing up for Donkey Day

Donkey Day at the Highfield Garden Reserve will be held on April Fools Day - Saturday 1st April - commencing at 11am.

At 11.30am, there will be a Health and Safety briefing, especially regarding feeding the Donkeys. As well as seeing the donkeys, a traditional programme of games will take place. Drinks and barbeque will be provided - and of course there will be donkey rides.

Cancellation will happen if it is raining at 9am - please check on Facebook and listen out on your local radio for any announcements. We hope to see you there!

Fun for the family

- Pin the tail on the Donkey
- Running races
- Sack races
- Relay races
- 3 legged races
- Egg and spoon races
- Roberts Trophy Race
- Lolly scramble
- Tug of war



Steady as you go!

TRUFFLE UPDATE

Truffle, our lovely brown donkey, is back from her honeymoon with Ted. She spent three cycles with Ted in the hope of falling pregnant. However, we won't know for a while if she is expecting - we can only wait in anticipation! It sure is lovely to have her back, she was missed by many, especially her daughter Tilly II, pictured here together for grooming.



Highfield Garden Reserve Sign recovered and restored

The wonderful Highfield Garden Reserve sign, so wilfully stolen by sawing off the support 100mm square posts, has now been restored.

The community was saddened to hear of the vandalism and theft at the end of last year. The sign is an iconic part of the reserve and local area. Peter Caccia-Birch and local handyman Mark Becroft worked together to reinstate the sign. Sally van Praag, a local teacher, kindly lent her time and artistic skills over Xmas to repaint our donkey head (see before and after). Thanks to you all!

Mark can be contacted on **027 4780 125** or **apracticalman.nz@gmail.com** for any jobs you may need doing around the home.



Mark Becroft with the finished sign, back up in pride of place.



Before (left) and after (right) of the donkey head.



Peter and Mark working together to get the sign back up.

Meals on wheels!



Highfield volunteers, Ox, Mike and Steve, went and collected 40 bales of hay, for a discounted price, from Sam Paddison in Matakana this week. The shed is now stocked up, ready for the winter months ahead.



Cyclone damage at Highfield

Unfortunately, Highfield Garden Reserve did not escape the recent cyclone and several trees were either blown over or rendered unsafe. Auckland Council will be arranging for these trees to be removed. Please continue to exercise caution as you walk around the reserve.



Fallen trees around the reserve, blocked paths.



Muddy Toes Visit

We love visitors to the reserve and so do our donkeys. We were delighted to see the children of Muddy Toes ELC in Warkworth visit one Tuesday morning and learn about the donkeys and the native bush.



Jane meets Truffle's 'cousin' in Morocco!

Jane, our Chair, met a couple of very friendly donkeys en route between Chefchaouen and Fez in Morocco this month.



For all the latest news and up to date information, please follow us at: facebook.com/donkeyshighfield