

DONKEY SERENADE

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Editor - Lou Bartlett

Special guest Santa being driven by Jack Algie in his vintage Ford Model A.



Merry

CHRISTMAS!

The Annual Highfield Donkey Santa Fun Day was held on Saturday 7th December. Many people came along to our event on what was a beautiful sunny day. The volunteered and supported by Auckland Council event, was made slightly shorter this year to allow families to head over to Warkworth for the Santa Parade at 2pm.

The day kicked off with the Donkey parade, with 7 of the donkeys walked into the reserve, decorated in tinsel. Ox Wightman, Donkey Manager, opened the day with a welcome speech followed by a health and safety briefing. Shortly after, Santa arrived in a vintage Ford Model A, driven by owner, Jack Algie. Santa then took his place on the stage in front of the shed and children lined up to share what they wished to find under their Christmas tree this year.

The prestigious Roberts Challenge Race was won by Maddisyn Blackburn and Jenny van der Mespel, granddaughter of Ted and Alison Roberts, presented her with the trophy.

Other activities included the ever-popular Donkey Rides and Pin the Tail on the Donkey. The BBQ provided free sausage sizzles. The membership table sold Christmas cards, including the new design featuring Peter Caccia-Birch with Truffle, as well as the Highfield Donkeys branded bucket style hats for a special price.

Special mentions go to Auckland Council for supplying the BBQ and food, the continued support of Park Ranger Dan Marrow and to all the volunteers involved in the preparation and delivery of the event.

See photos on page 2.

Santa Donkey Day



Family fun on a beautiful day.



Donkey rides.



Relay races.

Free sausages for all.



Queues for the BBQ.



Donkey parade.



Turvey in tinsel.



Winner of the Roberts Challenge Race, Maddisyn Blackburn.



Children lining up to see Santa.



Tug of war.

Screening of 'Sound in Wind and Limb'

A premiere screening of the AUT student documentary, 'Sound in Wind and Limb', took place at 4pm on Sunday 3rd November at the Salty Dog pub in Snells Beach. Katie Bilbrough and Tiana Marsh chose Highfield Donkeys along with Peter Caccia-Birch as their subject for their final film in their final year of Screen Production at AUT. There was a fantastic turnout for the screening and the suggested gold coin entry on the door raised nearly \$300 for Highfield! There has been great interest in the film and Radio New Zealand (RNZ) interviewed both the students and Peter last week. To listen to the interview, go to www.rnz.co.nz and search 'The filmmakers and the man dedicated to the donkeys'. To view the documentary online, go to: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5WaBO5Lsbew>



AUT Students Katie Bilbrough, Tiana Marsh and their crew alongside Peter Caccia-Birch and Jane Kelsey.



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