



Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANISATION INCORPORATED #1638328

www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz

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Newsletter No. 3

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Here is **Dixiebelle** taking an early morning stroll along the road with Liz.

Dixiebelle has been returned to Trust care as her first adoptive home did not work out. She is now with Liz Alexander being cared for and assessed.

Jasmine of the Trust

see page 5



Honey

see page 5

While we look forward to summer with its kinder weather and warm temperatures, we must also remember to check that our donkeys have plenty of fresh water in this hot period. Although it is a busy time for holidays and events we should be sourcing our hay and straw for the winter. It is more economical to buy it 'behind the bailer' if we can. Make sure you buy enough feed to last until next summer. It is good to have some hay and straw left over to use until the new season's feed has matured a little. Also we do not know if it is going to be a hard winter and some feed in reserve might be needed to keep our donkeys warm and well fed. Hay and straw are the best feeds to keep our equines warm as they are more filling and keep them much warmer than a hard feed.

Friends of the Trust:

It is now time for many Friends to renew their association with the Trust. We hope you will continue to remain a Friend of the Trust because you provide important support by doing so and it is greatly valued. Through people remaining Friends of the Trust they provide not only moral but also financial help which is needed if we are to continue the work of rescuing and rehabilitating donkeys.

We keep a constant eye on donkeys for sale on [Trade Me](#)

The Trust always contacts Trade Me when it sees donkeys or mules being auctioned instead of being sold for a fixed price. Horses and ponies are not permitted to be auctioned because like donkeys the owners need to be sure that the animal is going to a suitable home. If a donkey is auctioned it goes to the highest bidder regardless of whether the purchaser can provide a suitable home or not. Since our last newsletter the Trust has contacted Trade Me five times and the sales have been changed from auctions to fixed price sales. Just before Christmas we contacted Trade Me again when a jack was being auctioned. However this time Trade Me queried whether we had an agreement with them to take down donkey auctions. Luckily we had the original letters sent to Trade Me and the documentation of agreement which the Trust and the Donkey & Mule Society had gained. We have now asked for a separate donkey and mule category to be established so they cannot be auctioned. At the moment donkeys for sale can be placed in several categories and some of these allow auctioning. If donkeys and mules had their own category it would only allow fixed price sales. This has not been resolved yet and we hope we will be successful.

There has been continuing good work for the welfare of donkeys, providing advice and practical help. For example, Lin Langdon in Tauranga has been working for at least two years with a donkey owner who does not have the knowledge to manage their donkeys well and the donkeys have consequently suffered. However, a good outcome has finally been achieved through persistence and good communication. Congratulations Lin. Education of young people by showing them how to look after animals with care and consideration is an important way to establish empathy between the students and animals. Our Auckland Representative Marion van Dijk is involved in such an education venture with Alfriston College. This college has

many students from low socio economic backgrounds. Donkeys are one of the types of animals that she takes to the college to help improve the way students relate to animals.



Marion van Dijk with one of her American Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys donkeys on a visit to the college

Trustees

Since our last newsletter Joanne Hardy has resigned as Trustee and Elton Moore has been elected. Elton is a Trust representative as well as a Donkey & Mule Society Area Rep. Elton is active in providing support and advice for the welfare of donkeys and he has rescued and rehabilitated several donkeys.

Recognised Rehoming Centres

The Trust has established a special relationship with three existing Rehoming Centres in New Zealand. This has been achieved through a formal agreement with each of the Recognised rehoming Centres (RRC). The RRCs are North Waikato Rehoming Centre; Ikaroa Rehoming Centre (covering the North Island south of Taupo); and the Canterbury Rehoming Centre. In this way it is intended that regular communication and support will be maintained through the Trust. All organisations are working for the same end and a formal relationship will enable greater effectiveness and efficiency when rescuing and rehabilitating donkeys and mules in New Zealand. The total number of people doing this work and resources are small so it is essential that we all work together as appropriate to achieve our common purpose.

Reports from the Rehoming Centres follow for your interest

North Waikato Rehoming Centre

They have five donkeys that they will be looking for new homes for in the future (four geldings and a jenny). They are at different stages of training for being haltered, led and having their feet done. Four donkeys have already been rehomed over the past six months.

Ikaroa Donkey & Mule Rehoming Centre

Rehomed two donkeys in November, one was rescued as a bull donkey and required retraining. There are no donkeys in the centre at the moment but advice and practical help is given.

Canterbury Rehoming Centre

Rehomed a donkey for work as a pack donkey in the Marlborough Sounds. Ongoing help and advice for owners with feet care and handling problems.

Trust Donkeys

Wendy of the Trust

Wendy's care givers report that 'She has adjusted well over the last year to her new surroundings and paddock mates. Wendy is a very placid and friendly girl and we are finding her a pleasure to look after. The equine dentist identified a few problems so she is having six monthly treatments to realign her bite and keep her free of hooks. But she has no hoof issues.'



Jasmine of the Trust and Honey

Both donkeys are well settled in the same home and are happy in their surroundings. Honey has completely recovered from the long term wound she had on her hindquarters. They are brought into covered yards each evening and enjoy the attention and grooming.

Paddy of the Trust

Paddy's paddock name is Dillon and he is doing well. His carers report that his hooves have really improved since he was rescued. They are still taking him for walks down the road. Their grandchildren periodically ride him and they report that he is so gentle. His carer works at a Rest Home and she occasionally takes several residents to visit him. She said 'Dillon doesn't mind all the petting he gets. His weight will always be a problem, so we are very watchful of this. I thank you again for our lovely donkey, he is loved so much'.

Basil of the Trust

In the last newsletter we introduced you to our newest Trust donkey Basil of the Trust. Sadly he developed colic and could not be saved. Although we had him only a few months he was such a loving donkey that he claimed a part of our hearts. It was a very sad day when he had to be euthanised. Basil has a peaceful resting place with a view of paddocks, trees and other donkeys.



Paddy of the Trust

Trust Website:

The Trust has a website at www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz. It has information about the trust as well as a list of our:

Trust Representatives

Northland:	Neil & Ann Cook (09) 436 3623
Auckland:	Marion van Dijk (09) 238 9350 Trevor Stevens (09) 2947155
South Auckland:	Anke van Dijk Ph (09) 2334486
Waikato:	Jenny & Bryan Clausen Ph; (07) 824 3735 Elton Moore Ph: (07) 883 7228
Rotorua:	Jenny Parker Ph: (07) 333 2207
Bay of Plenty:	Lin Langdon Ph: (07) 573 8502
Hawke's' Bay:	Nancy Neal Ph: (06) 856 6020 Susan Rogerson Ph: (06) 844 9611
Manawatu:	Andrea Thomson Ph: (06) 328 9812 Wendy Macpherson Ph: (06) 329 9869
Wairarapa:	Jenny Mason Ph: (06) 375 8504
Tasman – Nelson:	Sharon Parkyn Ph: (03) 542 3096
North Canterbury:	Sherryn Green Ph: (03) 313 1666 Coralie & Robin Winter Ph: (03) 312 5216
Canterbury:	Diana Humphries Ph: (03) 329 7871 Jan Wright Ph: (03) 329 9272 Margaret Salkeld Ph: (03) 326 5072
South Canterbury:	Lea Hullett Ph: (03) 686 0735
North Otago:	Marianne Smith Ph: (03) 434 8187 Wendy Greenwood Ph: (03) 431 7768 Jocelyn Gray Ph: (03) 434 6393
Southland:	Joan Rabitte Ph: (03) 236 0765

Andrea Thomson
Chairperson
Pemberley, Kiwitea,
RD 7 Feilding 4777
pemberley2113@farmside.co.nz

Wendy Macpherson
Secretary/Treasurer
183 Highway 56
RD 7 Palmerston North
Wendy.neal@xtra.co.nz