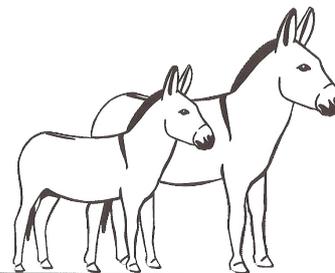


No. 24, July 2019



TRUST NEWS

The Donkey and Mule Protection Trust Newsletter

**Donkey and Mule
Protection Trust NZ**

NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANISATION INCORPORATED #1638328

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Editorial

During the weekend of May 10-12, the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust and the Donkey and Mule Society held their AGMs at Heartlands Cotswold in Christchurch. This was my first AGM and a great opportunity to meet with such a large and diverse group of people with one thing in common—a love and passion for the welfare of donkeys. It was a time of sharing and learning, comradery and business and included two very exciting site visits: one on the Saturday to visit Linda Bellamy's Mathews Xing Stud, where we met the magnificent Marco, and one of the Sunday to the Cotswold Stud (also the Canterbury Rehoming Centre) run by Diana and John Humphries to see miniature donkeys.

It was an opportunity for me to put faces to names and to build the relationships that make it easy to ask for advice and continue the learning we all need if we are to be effective carers of these very noble creatures. I am a relatively new donkey owner, having acquired my two girls, half sisters, in April 2018. They are wise and patient teachers,

helping me understand their needs and giving me endless amounts of pleasure in return. Because of them I have learned new skills (hoof filing), engaged in new activities (donkey fun days), made new friends (other donkey owners) and learned about the plight of those donkeys world-wide who have been neglected or abused (compliments of "D is for Donkey" a book by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen that I got at the AGM).

It is for this reason that I am delighted to compile and edit the newsletter for the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust, and report to you, our supporters, on the great work that the Trust is doing to rescue, care for, rehome and protect donkeys and mules in need of help in this country.

In this edition you'll get to meet some new members of the Trust, read some great stories of donkey rescues, learn a cautionary tale or two and be brought up to date with all that the Trust is doing.

It is my pleasure to share with you all the exciting activities of the Trust and I look forward to receiving your contributions and comments for future editions.

Lesley

Lesley Catterall, *Editor*

Contact us:

Click on the links (underlined) to learn more about what we do or go to our website: www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz



Marco, the mammoth-teamster cross we met at Matthew Xing Stud.

This beautiful gentle giant was a winner with all who attending the site visit on that foggy morning.

He had a soft spot for Joan though and I think the feeling was mutual.

Rehoming Centre Reports

Mamaku, Bay of Plenty : *Christmas* is a white donkey that was in a terrible state. The donkey's owner informed our trustee Pauline from Mamaku that Christmas hadn't had his hooves trimmed for a year. The owner was asked to get a farrier to trim them before the donkey could be transported. The owner claimed she had booked a farrier but when he didn't turn up she arranged for the local vet to come. When the vet saw Christmas he phoned Pauline to say that Christmas was unable to be handled, didn't lead and he, the vet, couldn't get anywhere near his hooves. In the end the vet sedated Christmas but was still unable to properly trim the hooves, all he did was cut the tops off whilst the donkey was standing. Christmas finally came to the centre on 17 November.

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HOME FOR A DONKEY

Rachel Campbell wanted a donkey. She worked in a high stress job and she'd heard that donkeys were good for the soul. More than that, she'd recently bought a lifestyle block with her partner, Jared, and she knew she could offer a donkey a good home.

Rachel phoned around the local breeders and the rescue and rehoming centre, no donkeys available! So Rachel's mum popped an ad on Facebook and to Rachel's delight there was a response from a woman whose friend had two donkeys for sale.

No time was wasted, Rachel and Jared went to see them the following Sunday, that was January 27. Beautiful though they were, the donkeys were not what Rachel had imagined.



Hazel, the mum

They were fat and unkempt, their feet desperately in need of care and their eyes had that dull, bored, despairing look to them. Hazel and Sylvie were mother and daughter respectively but they couldn't have been more different, Hazel was smaller, and quite shy.

Sylvie was fat and must have been in quite a bit of pain with all that weight on those tender feet.

"They looked so sad. I couldn't leave them there, knowing how they were," said Rachel on reflection. "I just had to have them."



Sylvie, the daughter

Rehoming Centre Reports, continued

It's taken this long to get him microchipped and his teeth done due to the Centre's vet being away on holiday. Christmas now leads, ties up but still hates his hooves especially his back ones to be picked up. "I had to put him in a crush to trim them," says Pauline. Celia. The Centre vet, examined Christmas and advised that he has a weakness in both of his back upper legs, muscle wastage which will cause him problems in his later life. Christmas is currently 18 years old.

Motukawa, Taranaki: Update on **Moses and George**, March 2019: Moses was gelded and both he and George had their teeth done. Both were microchipped.

Mamaku, Bay of Plenty, April 2019: **Biskit** was found running wild with another jack stallion on a big block full of timber, iron, wire and rubbish. He was only handled once a year when the owners rounded him and his mate up with quad bikes, and chased them into the yards. Then they were roped to the ground and a farrier did their hooves. This happened most recently a year ago. I (Pauline) had seen the donkeys in poor condition and contacted the SPCA who then forced them to get a farrier. There were other donkeys on the property, the owner shot two and kept 5.

I bought the two jacks as the owner did not want to surrender them for free. While waiting for me to organise pickup, unfortunately one of the jacks got his leg caught in wire, the SPCA noticed it and rang to tell me and insisting that a vet go urgently as the leg was full of weeping pus and was not able to bear the donkey's weight. The vet was called but due to the extent of the injury the jack was put down. That left Biskit who I picked up the next day.



Home for a Donkey, *continued*

Arrangements were made and the following weekend Hazel and Sylvie were brought to the Campbell's property in Otatara, Southland.

Rachel had spent the whole of the intervening week chasing up donkey people and learning all she could on how to look after her two new donkeys.

Rachel recalls, "When they got here, they (the donkeys) were nice as, but when their old owners drove away, they turned wild on me. I thought, 'OMG, what have I done!'"

Ann Heffernan from Donnbrae Stud and Joan Rabbitte from Fernhill Rehoming Centre each came and gave Hazel and Sylvie an appraisal and Rachel some advice. Ann with her camera and Joan with her hoof care kit.

Rachel decided that her two new donkeys would never learn to trust her unless they got to know her. So she spent heaps of time with them just hanging out.



Sylvie, a little wary of Tammy, who came to visit.

To help manage the weight problem, Hazel and Sylvie were on limited grass for the first few months and were kept in a smaller paddock. They had to go to Rachel if they wanted something more exciting than straw.

"I bought them heaps of new stuff: brushes, new leads and toys to give them something to do. I stood in the paddock with treats and waited for them to come to me – everyday!"

It took a good couple of months but eventually Hazel and Sylvie got used to Rachel and all the strange people that came to visit. They got used to the grooming and the handling, and even got used to walking on lead. They still hate having their hooves done, Sylvie in particular who has soft hooves that might never come right, but they tolerate it especially when Auntie Joan comes with her kit, because they feel so much better afterwards.



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Rehoming Centre Reports, *continued*

Biskit's hooves were long and twisting, whilst he was sedated for gelding, I trimmed off what I could. He was in poor condition. Our vet was on holiday so I planned to wait for her to return to get his teeth looked at. It just so happened that Amy Blok was going to Taupo and she was able to pick Biskit up and take him home with her. I asked Amy to get a vet to look at his teeth which she did. Biskit had lost an incisor, and fractured another which was removed along with his wolf teeth which were infected.

The latest news on **Biskit** is that he's gone from a thin, unhandled, scar-filled, newly-gelded donkey with bad teeth to a nice rounded Biskit, that children enjoy riding, and now goes to shows. He won reserve champion adult donkey at his first show, 2nd in pack donkey, 1st in pairs with Barney and received placings in performance donkey. He is a very different donkey indeed. He loves going out.



Biskit

Mamaku, Bay of Plenty May 2019: **Scorpio** and **Jesus** (pronounced "hay-SOOS") came from Waiheke Island with five others. The late Elton Moore had rehomed these two to a family in Tauranga. The family found that Jesus was just too hard to be handled or trained to harness. As I (Pauline) was unable to take them, they gave them to a friend of mine



Jesus, now renamed George, in his new cover. Note the shelter in the background, built by Matt Collins. Search for him on Trade Me.

who contacted me to advise that she had them.

My friend Marianne, had a shelter built by another of our friends, Matt Collins in Rotorua, and the donkeys settled in well.

Their hooves needed urgent attention, so she got a farrier in and also got them vet checked and their dentistry done. Same story, if she hadn't taken them they would have come to me for rehoming. Marianne advises that she and her children have been working with Jesus and Scorpio and now one of her children are actually riding Jesus! (Now

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Home for a Donkey, *continued*

Rachel has a good routine in place and her two girls know it well. Now they've lost a lot of that grass fat, they free range in a much larger paddock that borders the road. Every day they are up at the fence line waiting for Rachel to return from work. They bray greetings to passers-by and are popular with the children walking home from school mid-afternoon. When they see Rachel's truck approach, they can hardly contain their excitement. Their winter coats gleaming in the late afternoon sun, they kick their heels and canter down to the shed. Rachel is home and so are they. They say home is where the heart is, to Hazel and Sylvie, that's Rachel.



Waiting for Rachel to come home, Hazel and Sylvie are two very different donkeys these days.



Rehoming Centre Reports, *continued*

called George.) Great news.

Motukawa, Taranaki, April 2019 : I've got 7 donkeys coming this month, 4 this weekend and 3 at Easter. That gives me 9 donks to rehome. It's either feast or famine here. All seven need micro-chipping and there is one older Jenny so I'll get her teeth looked at as well. The other 3 the owner will bring herself. I'm not really geared up for this many donkeys so my vet has offered to graze some at no cost. Thank goodness.

Update 10/4: Andrea went up and collected 1 of the 5 yesterday and said 2 of the 4 that I'm picking up are in very poor shape and all their feet are appalling however the person surrendering the donkeys has said he'd make a donation to the Trust. I hope he does. So I'll get the vet to look at those two and check their dentals.

Ikaroa, Lower North Island, May update: Eeyore was one of the donkeys I picked up for Barbara of Motukawa. He had the worst feet (see photo). We did the feet of the four that Barbara was going to take as a first go and left Eeyore till we got home. He has to learn all over again how to walk properly.

I did his feet for the third time yesterday but the off fore is still badly twisted under and will take a long time to grow down straight. Poor Eeyore had the worst worm burden I have ever seen, and he does not like being caught but I do about 6 times a day. He is a lovely boy, but has no tail!!

Apparently he was born without



Eeyore's feet—the photo does not do justice to how terrible his feet were

Did You Know? How the Trust Came to Be

The Donkey and Mule Protection Trust was set up by the Donkey and Mule Society to create an organisation whose primary focus was the welfare of donkeys and mules—a Trust that could lobby other organisations or government agencies on behalf of donkeys and mules if required, and most importantly, gather donations for its work. Without funding the continued rescue and rehabilitation of donkeys is pretty difficult. A secondary focus for the Trust was education.

At the start, the Trust had donkeys that it took in and undertook to look after for the rest of their lives. Over time this has changed to the Trust working with the Recognised Rehoming Centres RRCs who do the rescuing and rehoming. The Trust came to realise it did not have the resources to ensure the donkeys it took in were properly cared for and was better able to provide support to these centres in the form of sponsorship of those donkeys unable to be rehomed, or financial support for the rehabilitation of donkeys ready for rehoming.

There are seven trustees appointed by the Donkey and Mule Society, and five appointed by the Trust. It was structured this way to ensure that the Trust always had a majority of trustees who knew about donkeys and mules and was not one day captured by people who were into welfare only but did not really understand about donkeys and mules. This close association between the Society and the Trust is healthy and mutually beneficial. However, they are separate organisations.

Andrea Thomson



Report from retiring Trust Chair

NEIL COOK

15 June 2019

It is with very mixed feelings that I am retiring from the position of Chair of the Trust. I have enjoyed and been challenged by my role as a trustee for more than nine years. Most of that time I have been chairperson and for a considerable number of years I was also the treasurer. I have appreciated greatly the support of the Rescue and Rehoming Centre (RRC) owners and especially that of Wendy Macpherson in my earlier years, then Lea Hullet and Andrea Thomson, both of whom retired last year.

I am however thrilled that the new blood coming in as chairperson, newsletter editor and publicity officer, along with last year's appointments of a new treasurer and a new secretary, will reinvigorate the Trust, providing stimulating new perspectives and ideas!

I suppose that because of my background I tend to look at technological changes as a driver for what has happened in those nine years with banking and communication advances to the fore. At the same time though, there have been very significant changes in the Charities Act and the way Charities must report, along with much more interaction with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and animal protection. The IRD rules we need to follow are another part of our changing world and although our prime objectives are still the wellbeing of donkeys and mules along with the education of their owners, the framework in which we operate is in a constant state of flux. I don't see this rate of change decreasing.

I will be carrying on as a trustee for as long as I can usefully contribute and I look forward to keeping in touch with the many friends and contacts Ann and I have made in the donkey circle.

Kind regards,
Neil Cook

2020 Calendar

Support the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust

The same size and layout with nice big squares to write stuff. Public holidays, anniversaries, school holidays, moons etc.



Price: One calendar \$16 plus P&P (within NZ). More than one calendar \$14 ea. **plus P&P**
POSTAGE: \$4.10 up to 3 in envelope. Up to 10 in a PO Bag \$6 (Additional \$3.70 if it is RD and another \$1 if it is tracked).

A great gift for family and friends and support the Donkey & Mule Protection Trust.



Orders are being taken by Andrea Thomson, 'Pemberley' 2113 Kimbolton Rd., Kiwitea, RD 7, Feilding 4777. Phone 06 328 9812 or email pemberley2113@farmside.co.nz

There will not be a reprint so order early

Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

TRUSTEES

Neil Cook, out-going Chair (Northland)
Pru Hunter, Chair Elect (Wairarapa)
Anne Julian, Secretary (Taranaki)
Judy Weild, Treasurer (South Otago)
Rebecca Kent, Public Relations (Wairarapa)
Pauline Sainsbury, RRC (Bay of Plenty)
Barbara Jones, RRC (Taranaki)
Sharon Parkyn, RRC (Tasman – Nelson)
Joan Rabbitte, RRC (Southland)
Lesley Catterall, editor (Southland)
Alan Baguley (Bay of Plenty)
Nick Page (Canterbury)



Rescue & Rehoming Centres

Supported by the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz

Mamaku (Bay of Plenty) Pauline Sainsbury 07 357 5435
Motukawa (Taranaki) Barbara Jones 06 756 5844
Ikaroa (lower North Island) Andrea Thomson 06 328 9812
Nancy Neal 06 856 6020
Brightwater (Nelson) Sharon Parkyn 03 542 3096

Canterbury Diana & John Humphries 03 385 5497
Margaret Salkeld 03 326 5072
Jan Wright 03 384 6902
Lea Hullett 027 686 0735
Fernhill (Southland) Joan Rabbitte 03 236 0765

Introducing—The New Chair

PRU HUNTER

Pru Hunter, the new Chair for the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust from 1 July, was appointed as a trustee on 5 June 2019 with the support of the Donkey and Mule Society. Pru has nine rehomed donkeys on her 700-acre farm in Masterton so there is plenty of room for her donkeys.

Pru also works as an office manager in Wellington part-time.

“One of my personal goals in taking on the role of chair is to find opportunities to introduce more people to the uniqueness of donkeys and increase awareness regarding their care,” says Pru.

“It would be wonderful if there were no more donkeys to be rescued or protected, it would mean the work of the Trust to educate and inform was effectively changing perceptions and teaching donkey owners how best to care for these beautiful creatures. Perhaps one day we’ll be so successful at this that the Trust will no longer be necessary, until that day we very much appreciate the support you provide that enables us to continue helping donkeys in need.”



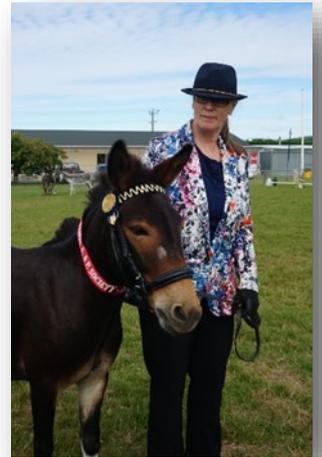
Pru with Chloe (left) and Portia at the Carterton A&P Show 2017. This was the first show for them all.

Introducing—Trust Treasurer

JUDY WEILD

I have always had a soft spot for animals and have been involved with equines since I was a child. Moving to Australia, and living in Brisbane for 35 years, didn't allow me to have large animals, so as soon as we moved home to New Zealand 4 ½ years ago, to our 10-acre patch, I started to indulge my passion – donkeys and mules. I am now the proud “human” to seven donkeys and a small mule, as well as my Great Dane puppy who arrived from Australia last December.

I began showing my donkeys in our local A & P shows and really enjoyed it, so I continue to show my miniature jenny and my little Jack (who is part AMMD/miniature), as well as my mule. It is great to get out and about with the animals and here, in South Otago, local donkey owners often get together for fun days.



I can't remember a time where I wasn't involved in animal welfare in some way, shape or form. Many a stray/sick/injured animal has found its way to my place, and many never leave, it's hard not to get attached to them. While I'm not hanging out with the donkeys, or cleaning paddocks, I work as a primary school teacher. Life is busy, but there is always time for the donkeys, be they mine or others. Being a Trustee, and also a Donkey and Mule Society Committee member is a great way to give back to others, and I hope to be able to do this for many years to come.



Judy's seven donkeys.



A CAUTIONARY TALE!



In April this year, I received a call from a person who wanted a jenny donkey to milk. This person claimed they wanted the milk to help with skin conditions. I informed the enquirer that donkeys have milk enough for just one foal. Donkey twins are very, very rare and so the only way one could milk a donkey would be to take her foal off her.

The caller stated that they are in the process of sourcing donkeys from elsewhere and even asked about several of the donkey studs registered with the Donkey and Mule Society. I told the caller that as a Donkey and Mule Protection Trust it would go against our creed and ethics to help or even condone this type of practice.



The closest thing in composition to human's milk is donkey. Donkey's milk is primarily used today throughout Europe for infants that are allergic to cow's milk protein and sells for over 50 euros (85 NZD) per litre.

The milk is also used to make cosmetic products that are supposed to have many anti-aging factors. Ice cream, cheese and liquor are also made from the milk. Donkey's milk cheese is considered to be the most expensive and indulgent dairy in the world. To get sufficient milk for these processes, there can be no sharing of it with the foal.

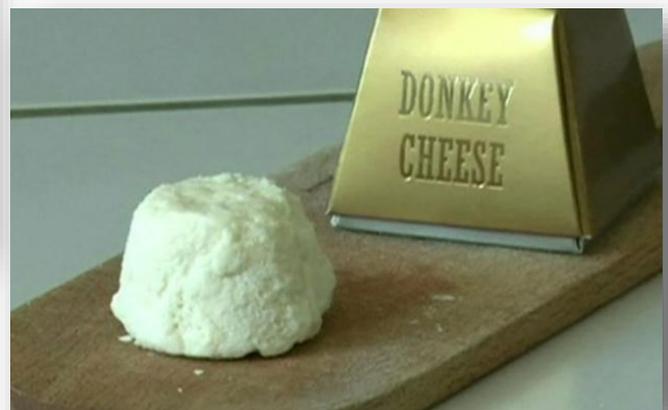
Most baby donkeys are therefore culled off, just like bobby calves, and used to make salami, ravioli and as the main ingredient in some high end stews. Such a horrible fate for human vanity. This is a practice from which the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust wants to protect the donkeys in this country.

I asked the caller what would happen to the off spring, who, if they were kept, would have to be hand-reared using a formula that would be significantly less value

for the foal than its mother's milk. I was told that the jennies would be used to build up the herd and the jacks would be sold off for breeding or pets. I told the caller that jack stallions can be extremely dangerous and were totally unsuited as pets. I explained the reasons why and that the Trust would only rehome gelded jacks for that reason.

Now that I have told this person of our standing on this issue, it is unlikely that during further enquiries they will say why the donkeys are wanted. For this reason and for the sake of our beloved donkeys, our donkey breeders need to be wary of anyone enquiring after jenny donkeys in foal. We should always ask any enquirer why they want the donkeys and check to see if they are registered members of the Donkey and Mule Society or have had any experience with donkeys in the past.

Alan Baguley, Bay of Plenty



Always Ask

Our Trustees often receive phone calls from people looking for donkeys for sale. We advise everyone to always ask the caller why they want the donkeys and what they will be used for.

A recent call received by one Trustee was from someone wanting working donkeys for a plantation in Samoa. The caller was acquiring donkeys to be shipped there from NZ. He sounded really dodgy and quite vague at times. He was told that he would be lucky to find such donkeys as there is no one breeding large working donkeys in NZ, only miniatures. He got rather upset and said, "No, I want working donkeys!"

The caller didn't give his name, and it's hard to know from enquiries like these whether he is genuine or not. If in doubt, share any enquiries you might get like this with one of our Trustees and we'll keep tabs on it.

Our donkeys depend on your donation

The Donkey and Mule Protection Trust has had a busy first 6 months of the year rescuing and rehabilitating donkeys across New Zealand. This has put the usual pressure on our cash reserves and once again we are asking for your support.

We have a number of new trustees from June this year including a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Further details are in our newsletter for June 2019. We sincerely thank the retiring trustees for their significant contribution to the Trust.

As a supporter of the Trust we want to update you on the standard costs the Trust incurs when it assists with the rescue and rehabilitation of donkeys by our volunteers at the Rescue and Rehoming Centres across NZ.

- Gelding Jack Stallions - \$410
- Dental Work - \$120
- Farrier - \$60
- Cost of keeping a donkey (unable to be rehomed) - \$30 per month

These indicative costs vary considerably depending on where the donkey is in New Zealand. Often the donkeys will require more than one visit from the vet for dental work and from the farrier for their feet depending on their condition when rescued.

Our June newsletter is now available on our website www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz . We will also send it to you via email or post if you provide us with your contact details below.

We thank you in anticipation of your support

Pru Hunter



Please complete the following information and email to j.a.weild@gmail.com or post to the **Treasurer:**

Name:

Donation Amount

- \$30
- \$20
- \$10
- Other \$

Send your cheque made out to the
Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ to:

Judy Weild, Treasurer
 Donkey and Mule Protection Trust
 1096 Lakeside Road, RD2, Milton, 9292

If you require a receipt, please provide your email or postal address:

Email:

Postal Address:

All donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible within allowable limits. NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORG. INC. #1638328

- I would like to be a Friend of the Trust and therefore agree to my contact details being held by the Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ for the purposes of future communications
- I would like to sponsor a donkey for a portion or all of its monthly keep. Please send me the details. I have included my contact details above.

Internet banking:

03 0633 0136784 00 (D&M Trust)

Please enter your name as the code and DON as ref.



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