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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

The festive season is upon us, which is always a popular time for donkeys, particularly with nativity plays, parades and visits to local schools, hospitals, and rest homes as well as involvement in A&P shows and other community events.

In this issue we explore the ideal fodder for donkeys in New Zealand. What's good for them and how donkeys can be kept healthy by giving them a variety of the sorts of foods they would forage for themselves if they were able to do so.

We also have an update on our sponsored donkeys, our RRC reports—though thankfully not a lot of action is happening there, and we introduce two more of our Trustees.

I also learnt something new about donkeys while doing the research for the feature article and we share some great photos of donkeys promoting the Trust at different events around the country.

We are always on the lookout for special themes and ideas to report on to our supporters so if there is anything you want to know about, drop us a line and we'll look into it .

Lesley
Editor

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DonkeyMuleProtectionNZ/>

Keep in touch with us more regularly by Liking our Facebook page. Follow the stories of our donkeys as they move onto pastures anew and learn new tips and tricks about donkey care.

Encourage your kids and grandkids to get involved with donkeys by following our page. If you or they have any questions about the work we do or the donkeys in our care or just generally about donkeys, then send us a message or contact us and we'll have our donkey experts get back to you with an answer.

To Navigate the Newsletter or to Contact us:

Click on the links (anything underlined) to move around the newsletter, to learn more about what we do, to send an email or go to our website: www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz
Click on the donkey shelter on each page to return home:



Rebecca's donkeys
Wilbur and Pippi

WHAT TO FEED A DONKEY

There are many and varied reasons for owning a donkey, but keeping the grass down is not one of them ...

Donkeys are great companions, they are an excellent first mount for a child, they can pull carts and carry loads, and most live for the working life of their owner. They are great pets, they have personality, are soft to cuddle (if well groomed) and have an empathy I've only seen before in dogs. But if you thought that getting a donkey would help keep the grass down, think again.



Donkeys are browsers, not grazers. They originate from arid climes where dry, stinky, sparse prairie grasses were the normal fare. The lush, sweet, green grass of New Zealand is antithesis of that – it's the Coca Cola or Froot Loop human equivalent – too high in sugar and too low in the nutrients that donkeys really need. Feeding donkeys predominantly grass just makes them fat and causes painful conditions like laminitis. Add the fact that New Zealand soils are sadly lacking in essential trace elements and minerals and you have the donkey equivalent of a fast food outlet.

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SPONSORSHIP NEWS

After our last newsletter we are delighted to report that all ten of our needy donkeys now have sponsors to support them. With this regular on-going financial support, the future looks bright for these rescues.



Beverley Coles is sponsoring the needs of Chocolate Soldier and co-sponsoring Clevedon Fudge both of Brightwater, a big thank you to Beverley.



And Rhonda Shirley is kindly sponsoring the care of Chester of Mamaku and Mintie of Ikaroa at the Mamaku RRC in the Bay of Plenty. Many thanks to Rhonda.

[More on page 4](#)



What to Feed a Donkey, continued



Donkeys of all types and sizes can be found the length and breadth of New Zealand, in all sorts of climates and conditions, which makes deciding what's best to feed your donkeys where you are, not such an easy task. As luck would have it our Trustees and RRCs also span the country, so we asked them to tell us what they typically feed their donkeys and we were amazed at how varied the responses were.

The feeding regimes that follow are an indication of just how varied a donkey diet can be depending on a whole range of factors, including, but not limited to:

- Climate: Rainfall, Temperature, Weather predominance: Sunshine, rain, fog, frost, high humidity, hot and dry...
- Terrain: Rocky, sandy, peaty, clay...
- Altitude
- Available browsing fauna: shrubs, bark etc
- Breed of donkey



Where in the Country Are We?



- Number of donkeys
- Age of donkey
- Health of donkey

Donkeys like variety but can also be fussy eaters. They are particularly good at avoiding foods that are likely to be toxic if they have the choice.

Donkeys are also good at telling the time. They know exactly when feeding time is and are not shy of letting all and sundry know when their meal should be delivered.

Nine Trustees and RRC managers responded to our call for feeding regimes. These are spread the length of the country and experience very different conditions so their feeding regime reflects a lot about where they are.

We've pinned each regime to the above map of the country which indicates where each of these donkey homes can be found so you have an idea of just how variable the climate and terrain might be.

CLICK on each number to go to the regime for that area and CLICK the MAP icon to return to this page.



Feeding Regimes



1: Lesley's place, Forest Grove Park, Invercargill

My two jennies— a 12 year old and 3 year old—pretty much eat the same thing. They're on limited grass grazing which is not of very good quality because it has grown in sand on old sawmill tailings.

Morning a biscuit or two of late cut Seed Hay – very stalky, no clover; barley straw mixed with chaff, dolomite, garlic, kelp powder and multi-minerals every other day (though I swear they suck out all the good stuff and just leave the straw) . Willow branches, native branches such as olearia and broadleaf, hazelnut, toe toe, gum bark and flax to browse on.

Treats: carrots, celery, parsley (when it's gone to seed), puha and apples in season, and a salt and mineral lick available all the time.

2: Joan's place, Fernhill Stud, Central Southland

My donkeys always have hay ad lib because we have our own gear to make it. They don't get high quality hay it is normally the toppings so not getting any clover. Our mule gets straw as well to try to keep his weight down. They all have multi mineral blocks in their paddocks. When I am working with them I will often give them cut up carrots or apples for rewards. Only when I am close to weaning foals do I give the jennies some nuts to help train the foals onto hard feed. I feed them hard feed for a few months sometimes I add milk powder into feed if they need it.

3: Judy's Place, Milton, South Otago

I have 7 donkeys and the mule - all donkeys are fed the same: I use British Horse Feeds speedi-beet (just a few scoops soaked for a while and then shared amongst all of them - so really only a handful each. On that I sprinkle the Calm, Healthy Horse mineral mix, I also use a little flaxseed and a handful of NRM Coolfeed for crunch (and to make sure all minerals are eaten). I will also toss in a couple of handfuls of chaff per bucket during winter. Five donkeys share a wheelbarrow full of barley straw and two big biscuits of hay each day, the other two have a hay net with a biscuit of hay and a lot of straw. Mine also enjoy branches from willows when we come by one. Their grass is sparse, two are on a track part of the day too.

The mule is on grass at the moment, during the day as it is not good grass (we've not fertilised in years). She comes in in the evening to her pen and has some chaff with minerals and the same coolfeed for crunch. She won't touch speedi-beet or flaxseed.

Treats: The occasional piece of apple, a bit of watermelon, carrot, and have been seen pinching a strawberry or two! They also enjoy the occasional Whiterocks Timothy Hay Pellet (the horse food) when training.

Sponsorship News, *continued*



Nibby of Mamaku



Neddy of Mamaku

Nibby of Mamaku is being sponsored by Nikki Scott, along with another supporter. And young Neddy receiving support from both Nikki Scott and Jan and Murray Willis.

Kim Houghton is providing sponsorship for Theresa of Motukawa. And Ester, Rosie and Suzy of Mamaku are each receiving support from other sponsors.

The donkeys and their caregivers are most appreciative.



Theresa of Motukawa



Ester of Mamaku



Suzy of Mamaku



Rosie of Mamaku



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Feeding Regimes, *continued*



4: Sharon's place, Brightwater, Tasman—Nelson

We have used or are using a variety of feeds depending on the condition of the donkey.

McMillan Equine Feeds: Coolfeed (base to add things to), Rapid Gain (skinny or old donkey), Protein Plus (skinny or old donkey) and Equin Hoof Food (instead of Dura-Hoof)

Dunstan Horse Feeds: Beta beet (base to add things to), Eezy beet (skinny or old donkey), Sugarbeet (skinny or old donkey)

Mitavite Horse: Breeda pellets (skinny or old donkey), Gumnuts (skinny or old donkey)

Reliance Feeds: Farmfeed nuggets (bribe if needed)

Enfield:Dura-Hoof (2 tsps weekly, as a sandwich, between 2 slices of damp bread), Fortevite Extra (instead of Dura-Hoof)

Placide Toxin Aid (given daily when a donkey gets staggers)

AHD Oral -mag (farrier suggested it for Fudge because of her appearance)

Seales Winslow: Horse Feed block with Mycotoxin Binder (buy one and move it between mobs) and Lifestyle Block for all grazing animals (a treat when they come into the yards for the farrier)

Summit: Multi mineral salt licks (available at all times)

All the donkeys have access to rough grass on banks or good grass strip fed using a hotwire. We also feed out rough hay every day. Or ryegrass straw, which is the plant minus most of its seed head. We do not use chaff or balage although we do make balage for our cattle. I note that Pauline uses balage, so this winter we may use some balage on our older donkeys.

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Georgia and Christobel, Mamaku

Rehoming Centre Reports

Mamaku Rehoming Centre, (Bay of Plenty):

Violet and Indi: Two Ponui's returned to Mamaku in October after one, Violet, foundered. Both making progress, grazing with other donkeys now. Looking for an experienced home with a good farrier.

Georgia and Sunlova Christabel: doing well. Their previous owners are paying for their upkeep and come help Pauline every two months.

Chicco, Peppy and Pedro: Chicco sadly had to be put down after moving to Mamaku, but Peppy is doing well. Picked up Pedro in November and hoping he will bond with Peppy so they can go to a new home.

Harry: (story on [Page 6](#)) has been gelded and had feet trimmed so now needs a new home.

Katie: registered as a Mamaku donkey and is looking for a sponsor.

Motukawa Rehoming Centre (Taranaki):

Elliott: Only one donkey to rehome since my last report and that was Elliott of Motukawa who had lost his companion to old age. He was a super donkey well socialized and well mannered. I found a forever home for him with 2 jennies in Auckland. A very knowledgeable donkey home and from the report I had last week he has settled in well and welcomes everybody with a very loud bray.

Ikaroa Rehoming Centre, (Lower North Island)

Seamus: a 33 year old donkey who was basically neglected for the first 16 years of his life, came under the attention of our Hawke's Bay rep, Susan Rogerson, and things started to improve. However, his buddy died some 3-4 years ago and while no longer neglected, poor Seamus was ignored and became depressed. When the property where he was living was sold, the new owners were not able to care for him. The Trust got involved when the owners put him on Trade Me for free. Andrea went to get him and brought him to Ikaroa. He was very frail, skinny and laminitic, with no top teeth so it was difficult to feed him. Sadly a few weeks after Seamus arrived at Ikaroa he had a stroke and had to be put to sleep.

Brightwater (Nelson):

Chico and McGhee have been rehomed.

Canterbury Donkey Rehoming Centre (Motukarara):

No update available.

Fernhill (Southland):

No activity since last time.



Feeding Regimes, *continued*



5: Pru's place, Masterton

Nine donkeys and counting... At the moment they are on short grass most of the day but are allowed a small strip of fresh grass daily. They get 4-5 biscuits of hay between them in the morning and the same again at night plus three biscuits of straw in the middle of the day if they're not getting extra grass.

Two of them have slight respiratory issues in the summer so I have just started them on a beet (without molasses), Dunstan betabeet flakes, that I soak it in hot water for about 10 mins and chaff mix rather than straight hay to minimise the dust they consume. I am not religious about it but try to do it each evening.

I also have one who is a bit light as her front teeth don't match up so she struggles to eat short grass. She and her best buddy are getting some extra chaff and beet as well.

I give them all granular salt rather than a lick. They just dip in their tongues. And they have many trees to ring bark (!) and get carrots very occasionally as a treat.

6: Rebecca's place, Carterton

Our four donkeys are on a track system meaning they have next to no grass at all. They are not fat, but my hoof trimmer says that their feet are reacting to the spring growth, so I use the track due to that.

They get a large bowl (50 litres) each, morning and night, with 3/4 barley straw, and 1/4 meadow hay. Then they also get another bowl of straw during the day, that they can nibble on as required. They didn't like the mineral blocks, so they have a salt lick on a rope in their house.

I feed selenium every month, and I get them blood tested every year (when their teeth are done) to ensure they are at the right levels. NZ soils are deficient in selenium and therefore we should all be supplementing it. But, carefully. You can overdose, and the effect of overdose is as bad as under-dosing, so it must be monitored.

Now that the grass is starting to dry off a bit, mine will probably get a bit of Timothy chaff (Timothy grass is used to make it, and this is considered low sugar / starch etc, safe for laminitic equines) and speedi beet too. I feed more to fill their tummies than to fatten / skinny them. I'm very lucky not to have any fat or skinny donks. I give Devil's claw for anyone that is sore / stiff etc. I buy the whole root and then grind it down and add it to chaff. And I give them the usual treats.

7: Andrea's place, Ikaroa, near Feilding

I have 17 donkeys and unsurprisingly some of them are fed differently from the others. This is because of age, metabolism, our property and our local weather.

All About Harry

Harry looks very much like "Kong" the donkey in the Mitre-10 advertisement and he has a personality to go with it.

I had an email from Harry's owner requesting that they would like him to go to a new home, reason being: Harry was chasing and biting his friends, two steers and a Kune Kune pig. Of course Harry was doing this as he was an entire jack (Stallion male) and he didn't have a donkey friend. Harry's owners did the right thing as they realised Harry needed to be gelded (castrated) and have a donkey for a companion.

Wendy and Alan Baguley and myself arranged a day and time to pick Harry up who lived over an hour and a half away. Alan uses his reliable wagon as its 4 wheel drive and is diesel run, we use my horse float because it has a camera mounted inside of it (thanks to the Donkey Protection Trust) so we can see how he travels and if he is stressing.

It was a beautiful day when we arrived to meet Harry, his owners had him close to the road and with Alan's expert backing, backed the horse float into Harry's paddock.

It took Alan, Wendy and me some time to be able to put a halter on Harry but finally we did it. Then the challenge to put him into the horse float began, Harry just didn't want to leave and for a "little guy" it turned into a slow mission. We took our time and finally got him safely in the float. His owners gave him lots of cuddles and said their goodbyes, a sad time for them but a new beginnings for Harry.

Wendy watched via the camera in the float on how Harry was travelling, no problem, just a lot of "ear flicking" which meant that he was listening to the sounds of passing traffic.

On arrival to Mamaku Donkey Rescue, Rehoming & Sanctuary, Harry wasn't too sure where he was and didn't want to venture out of his safe place of the horse float. Eventually he took a big leap and jumped into his new surroundings.



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Feeding Regimes, continued



I am not in a good area for donkeys as we live upland and have a lot of rain. We also get strong winds quite often which create a bad chill factor and can cause pneumonia even in summer if the donkeys do not have shelter or are not covered.

I have one old rescue donkey of probably 28 years with Cushing's who is allowed minimal grass as he had foundered before he came to me; he is kept close to my sheds as he gets medication twice a day. He has ad lib meadow hay, and a hard feed of chaff, speedi beet, salt, vitamins and balancer nuts and a few chopped carrots twice a day.

He is on his own as his companion died and none of the other donkeys are gentle enough with him, but he is next to the jack for company and the mob for much of the day.

My Teamster jack stallion whom we imported from Australia cannot tolerate our dairy grade grass and is in a paddock with lots of gum trees and poor grass, he has ad lib hay and a bucket with chaff, carrots, salt oil and balancer nuts twice a day.

The mob of 15 donkeys are out in the paddocks, and are rotated with sheep to cross graze and control the grass. In winter they get a bale morning and night and at this time of year a bale at night. I give them hay as roughage as I do not want them just filling up on grass. We make our own hay and grow it until it is stalky and good donkey hay, sweet but with plenty of roughage, the problem is getting it in without rain on it and sweet; as it takes so long to dry and often requires a lot of turning more than hay normally does. I used to feed barley straw but found the donkeys made a lot of mess with it and especially when there were so many donkeys in the group. I don't have any wastage with hay,

In winter I feed the hay in big open feeders. The mob get a bucket every day with vitamins and minerals, salt, oil, a pinch of copper sulphate, chopped carrots or apple depending on the season, 1/8 cup balancer nuts with no grain in them.

The donkeys never get grain or feed made from grain e.g. bread. If I have one with a foot problem like crack I will give it biotin in carrot in my hand. I throw the donkeys the gum bark which I have a lot of, and they adore, there is a lot of it and it contains minerals and the roughage is good for them.

I will vary what I feed as conditions change to try and keep their weight right. I find that my donkeys look their best when we have a long dry spell with little grass and I am feeding hay.

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Personalised Plates FOR SALE



Due to a very generous donation the Trust has been given a pair of unique plates to sell. **Asking price \$990.**

You can find them at www.kiwiplates.nz

All About Harry, continued

We let Harry "chill out" for a week and then with the help of the Donkey Protection Trust organised for Harry to be gelded (castrated). The day came and the operation went well by my experienced vet.



Harry hadn't had his hooves trimmed for at least eleven months, so I trimmed his hooves which were long and broken a few days before he was gelded. He was great with his front hooves but very kicky with his back ones, so once he was sedated for his gelding I trimmed his back ones. This is my next challenge to come...

As I'm writing this, it is a week since Harry has been gelded, he is recovering well and I hose his wounds every day to help reduce the swelling, he really enjoys the cold water and is settling down but his rather loud bray hasn't got any quieter.



So it's looking like more chocolates and wine for my neighbours who have to listen to Harry braying in the early hours of the mornings.

Harry is a handsome lad and I'm looking for a forever home for him with another donkey. Thank you to Wendy, Alan, Debbie and Celia my vet, who have given Harry a new opportunity to enjoy a pampered life and also thanks to Harry's previous owners who were willing to gift Harry to us so he could just be a donkey with a donkey friend

Thanks Wendy and Alan for the photos.

Pauline Sainsbury



Feeding Regimes, continued



8: Barbara's place, Motukawa, Taranaki

My feeding regime is very basic. My place is mainly old colonial pasture and steep. Summertime they are on grass only with a mineral supplement. I use Seales Winslow with the supplement already in a bucket. The summertime one I use has a toxin binder in it. Wintertime they get hay plus the Seales Winslow supplement and whole oats with the hay biscuit in the morning and again at night.

9: Pauline's place, Mamaku, Bay of Plenty

Presently I have 15 donkeys here and because my permanent donkeys have different health/age issues I have them in groups that require the same food. I hard feed 5 jennies all through winter and one of those I hard feed all year round.

Winter feed for our two elderly donkeys: *Ester and Suzy*: Oaklane Steam Cured lucerne chaff, Matavite gumnuts, Dunstan sugarbeet or copra, Trace Mineral Concentrate (diluted) by Phoenix Pharm, Auckland (once a day), Tablespoon of Macro Psyllium husk (once a day), Tablespoon of salt (once a day), Quarter cup of vege oil (or whatever is on special) twice a day), half scoop of Grand Meadow Grand Flex Senior (for joints once a day). They get 3 hard feeds a day and also hay or balage. As it gets warmer I start to decrease their hard feed and up their hay. They do have access to grass. Treats: carrots, silverbeet, spinach, oranges, bananas, rose cuttings, and apples.

Winter Feed for *Sunlova Christabel and Georgia*: They came with a supply of feed, once this has been used up they will be fed the diet above. Oaklane meadow chaff, Dunstan Betabeet without molasses (once a day), Half scoop of Willow bark powder, Half scoop of Equilibrium B1 Cool Mix (vitamins). Fed twice a day with hay twice a day. Treats: carrots and limited apples (they don't seem to like anything else)

Winter feed for *Rosie*: Fed three times a day in winter and once a day in summer, Oaklane lucerne chaff, Mitavite gumnuts, Dunstan sugarbeet or copra, tablespoon of salt (once a day), Trace Mineral Concentrate (diluted), Tablespoon of Macro Psyllium husk (once a day), Quarter cup of vege oil (twice a day), half scoop of Grand Meadow Grand Flex Senior (for joints once a day). Rosie gets 3 hard feeds a day and has hay or balage twice a day. She can have as much grass as she wants in winter as she has no front teeth. Treats: carrots, apples

Winter feed for *Violet, Indi and 7 geldings*: They only get hard feed in extreme cold weather, Oaklane lucerne chaff, Mitavite gumnuts or NRM Coolade. Otherwise they get hay or balage three times a day. Treats: carrots, native branches, apples, rose cuttings, oranges

In summer I also give my donkeys salt blocks and the donkeys above Horslyx which has vitamins in it.

GALLERY

Right: , Lacey greeting children at the Wairarapa A&P Show.



Below: Oscar and Lacey promoting the Trust at the Wairarapa A&P Show.



Above: Pippi (red hat) and Winter at the Carterton Xmas Parade

Left: Winter watching the parade.

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Introducing—Our Public Relations Trustee: REBECCA KENT

I have always had a passion for horses. As a kid I used to go to the horse riding school after school on my Raleigh 20 bike, out on SH1, and muck out their paddocks 3 days a week, in return for 1 riding lesson a week. At first my parent's just bought me some lights for my bike but after a year they let me start having proper lessons and leasing horses. When I was 13 I became vegetarian as I just couldn't bare to eat animals. So you could say I've always been a softy for animals.

As a travel broker I am lucky enough to travel a lot, bit this has meant that I have seen many a sad donkey particularly in the Middle East and Northern Africa. When my partner, Grant, and I moved out of Wellington to the Wairarapa 4 years ago, we decided that we would have donkeys. We couldn't save all those in the Middle East, but we could offer a loving home to a couple in NZ that had been let down by mankind.

Before we had even moved in, we had found ourselves two rescue donkeys, Wilbur and Pippi. They are the most adorable gentle souls. Wilbur wasn't to start with, he was freshly gelded and a very scared and angry wee man. But now he is a complete mummy's boy! Pippi got sick for a while, and we were told to expect the worst. We quickly found another donkey, Winter, hoping that once Pippi went, the new donkey would help Wilbur heal. Winter had been living alone for a couple of years, and while her owners loved her very much, she was terribly lonely.

A few months later, someone approached us about taking on their donkey, who had lost her mother some time ago and hadn't stopped grieving. Noelle's earlier past is a mystery, and there are definitely some demons in there. She's been with us for 18 months now and am not allowed to pat her. I'm pleased to say that Pippi made a full recovery, so now we have a happy little herd of four grey donkeys. I always joke that the neighbours won't notice another one if it's grey!

We take the donkeys for walks around a lake, or to the park down the road. We do the local A&P shows, but purely to make up the numbers. We also take them to the retirement village at Christmas time, and the Anzac Day Parades. We sell their doo at the front gate and that money goes into their money box and is spent on their care.



Rebecca with Pippi

Working with the Trust enables me to help more donkeys by raising the profile of what the Trust does and the issues our donkey's face.

Rebecca Kent



Winter and Pippi outside a Retirement Home at Xmas

Rescue & Rehoming Centres

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

North Island

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

South Island

Brightwater (Nelson)	Sharon Parkyn	03 542 3096
Canterbury	Diana & John Humphries	03 329 7871
	Margaret Salkeld	03 326 5072
	Jan Wright	03 384 6902
	Lea Hullett	027 686 0735
Fernhill (Southland)	Joan Rabbitte	03 236 0765



Report from Chair PRU HUNTER December 2019



Introducing—RRC Motukawa BARBARA JONES

Over the last few months the Trust has had some wins, some misses and two sad losses. I'm delighted to report that some of the donkeys being cared for by our rehoming centres have been placed in new homes while others have been found new owners directly with the assistance of our Trustees with no need for a stopover at the RRC. We can only wait now to hear if those rehoming have been successful for both the donkeys and their new owners.

Sadly though we did lose two donkeys in the most final way. However the wins outweigh the losses so for that we can be grateful.

On a personal front, my donkeys and I have also been experiencing some downs and ups. One of my donkeys got an eye ulcer possibly by poking himself in the eye with a branch. His eye was very weepy so I called his vet soon after noticing it thinking it was just a blocked tear duct but this was not the case. Three weeks later after putting cream in his eye six times a day and having his eye covered as the pupil had been dilated, he recovered well and there have been no after effects. With that and and a repeating outbreak of lice, we were all glad to see the back of winter.

On a much happier note, I took two of my donkeys, Oscar and Lacey, to the Wairarapa A&P show to increase the awareness of the Trust. We were given a great location next to the petting area and the donkey pen was three deep in children wanting a pat. Oscar and Lacey were perfectly behaved the whole time. I was so proud of them especially at it was the first time I had put them into such a situation (see the photos on [page 8](#)).

Lacey again showed her stuff, this time at the Carterton Xmas Parade alongside one of my other donkeys Portia and two donkeys, Pippi and Winter who belong to Rebecca Kent, another of our Trustees. It was a marvellous day and again the donkeys were extremely popular.

Once again I want to acknowledge the marvellous work our rehoming centres do and I hope that each of you ,and your families, (including donkeys and mules) have a wonderful and safe Xmas.

Kind regards,
Pru Hunter



Lacey and Portia



Where do I start .I've been involved with donkeys here and in Australia for 30 years and riding horses for 60 years and still riding.

Re-homing donkeys started by accident. I was at a horse sale in Queensland and saw two poor donkeys put up for sale as pet food so I bought them. They were the best watchdogs I ever had and I never had a dingo problem with my calving cows and of course the best ever pets. I wish I had bought them home with me.



Barbara with Breeze, Theresa and Harley

I came back to NZ in 2004 with one horse and two dogs. Moved to the South Island and saw advertised a donkey day at Kaiapoi so went along enjoyed it so much I became a member of the Society and I'm still a member.

Moved to the North Island in 2010, bought 10 acres and found that people were contacting me regarding unwanted donkeys.



Theresa, Harley and Breeze

They had gotten my details from the Society website as I was the area representative and everything has evolved from then. I work full-time in the Health industry and any donkey issues take up the weekends. So my three donkeys: Breeze, Theresa and Harley share the space with my mule, horse, goats and a couple of cows.

Barbara Jones



ASK ANDREA

In compiling this newsletter I did a bit research into the impact of different feed and I asked Andrea Thomson to validate my findings...

I'd made an assumption that eating soft rich food would weaken and rot a donkey's teeth—I couldn't have been more wrong. Andrea wrote: *[Your] mention of teeth going rotten on sugary grass I have never heard of that before. I have never had a donkey with rotten teeth—long teeth, wave mouths etc but not rotten—through food or at all in all my years with donkey rescue.*

I did some more research and came back to Andrea with another question: **would it be fair to say that on soft food like lush grass the teeth aren't kept in check like they would be browsing on hard feed?**

Andrea's response was most emphatic and she shared a story that made me realise just getting in the horse dentist to file a few teeth is not good enough.

She wrote: I think regardless of feed; teeth need checking at least every two years, (and if you have a bit in their mouths it needs to be annually) they vary from donkey to donkey. Also they need to be sedated if the back teeth are to be done properly despite what the technician followers say. I had one of the top technicians in NZ doing my donkeys' teeth, trained in the USA and she trained others and one of my donkeys teeth grew so long at the back she could not close her mouth in the end. When my vet and I discovered it I had to take her to Massey University where only they had a tool slim enough to get between her teeth to gradually file them down with visits every 6 months, I was asked if she was a rescue and was mortified to have to admit she had been with me all her life, I had bred her. It was a ghastly shock for me that took a lot of getting over.

So that got me thinking about how donkeys and their equine cousins, horses, deal with the tooth issue when in the wild.

Donkeys typically roam up to 15 km in a day in the wild, during that time they are constantly browsing—grasses, trees and shrubs, and a lot more beside according Dr. Dennis S. Chapman, PhD, EqDT (though his answer was in relation to horses): *"Horses in the wild graze 18 hours a day on natural grass/vegetation and in the process also chew all of the granular dirt, pebbles, and sand associated with wild vegetation. Some of their razor sharp aberrant points wear down with the constant grinding of the teeth. Think of sharp rocks on a jetty into the ocean. The rocks at first are sharp and jagged but*

with the constant pounding of waves, they become smoother."

But there is more to it. We typically keep our donkeys until they are well into their 30s. The normal life expectancy in the wild is generally much shorter and their teeth might have something to do with it. That extensive granular chewing will keep some of the sharp points in check for a while; as the points continue to grow though, and hooks, ramps, and broken teeth appear, the donkey's ability to eat decreases, and with it the life expectancy.

So regular dental check ups equals happy, healthy donkeys, which is what we all want. For more information check out:

<https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/what-we-do/knowledge-and-advice/for-owners/dental-care>



Help Save a Donkey, All Donations Welcome...

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

As with just about everything, there has been an increase in the costs the Trust incurs when it assists with the rescue and rehabilitation of donkeys. Without the support of the Trust, these costs would be borne by our volunteers at the Rescue and Rehoming Centres across NZ. Costs typically include gelding Jack stallions, dental work, farrier to trim and treat hooves, medication or vet treatment for wounds or conditions the donkey may have and the day to day cost of keeping a donkey that is unable to be rehomed.

Costs can 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.

Further details are on our website and Facebook page: www.donkey-mule-trust.org.nz
<https://www.facebook.com/DonkeyMuleProtectionNZ/>

All registered supporters are sent a copy of our newsletter which is published quarterly and sponsored are sent quarterly updates on the donkeys they are sponsoring. You can find our donation form on the next page. We thank you in anticipation of your support.



Our donkeys depend on your donations

Please, if you have not already made a donation this year or you are thinking about sponsoring a donkey, take a moment to complete the form below and **donate today**. Help us help the donkeys in our care.

Complete the following information and email to j.a.weild@gmail.com or post to the **Treasurer** with your cheque:

Name:

Donation Amount

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

If you require a receipt, please provide your address:

Email:

Postal Address:

All donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible within allowable limits. NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORG. INC—CC21227

- 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.

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

Internet banking:

03 0633 0136784 00 (D&M Trust)

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



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Lacey and Portia watching the parade at the Carterton Xmas Parade

Donkey and Mule Protection Trust NZ

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