



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DONKEY SANCTUARY AND WERE 18 YEARS OLD



Donkey Serenade

NEWSBRAYER • SANCTUARY HAPPYNINGS • DONKEY BRAYINGS

Christmas is coming—July 12th

The bills are mounting up so we need to keep fundraising; please don't disappoint us.

This is a proven quality day-out, fully catered by professionals which means WE too can relax, chat with you and enjoy ourselves (a privilege we don't always get on regular open days).

Remember: we've already hired the big hall in Clarence Town, so you really do need to come. We did this because the recent ones were so successful and last year our regular bush hall was bursting at the seams. Now we'll have space for many more, so please help make up the numbers (it's absolutely vital to our fund-raising!)

You WILL have a great time filled with joy and laughter, especially when you meet Santa and his elf, (we are not sure if it will be Willy Winkle, Jerry Jingle or Spiffy Sparkle) but at least one of 'em will be there—anything can and is likely to happen!

Our pooch therapy mobile will also be there to keep the cuddle supply going until we can visit the donkeys later!

Without you the whole shin-dig may not go ahead and we are sure you wouldn't want to disappoint the many already registered (most of whom did so at last year's event!).

Please let us know you're coming—register today; we'd be most grateful also for any 'phantom seat' donations (BYOG & glass; we only have tumblers).

COMPUTER MALFUNCTION we have lost record of all registrations. Please urgently re-register—we must confirm numbers now.



July Christmas: fabulous festive food, great company and loads of laughs

ONLY \$40 EACH

phone Jo-Anne now: 4996 5596



GSDS THEME PICNIC DAYS

Indeed, a day to remember!

ST PATRICK'S DAY COACH GROUP

The Foster Tuncurry Laurel Club (war widows) came by coach to spend St Patrick's day at the Sanctuary. Naturally we, the volunteers and our German and Austrian Wwoofers, went 'Irish' and dressed accordingly, (including Alex—Jo-Anne's imported husband, Hungarian born but a proud Australian).

We wore *green-everything*, including bowler hats and boater hats complete with shamrocks and much more.

Volunteer/entertainer Richard Lever put on the best Irish accent, told lots of jokes, swung his shillelagh about and got up a good sing-along of old Irish songs; even encouraging some ladies to play instruments including clangers, flutes and tamborine. A racket to be sure, but lots of fun.

And, after our banquet lunch, the ladies had photos taken with celebrity donkeys—resplendent in green headstalls, leads and bandanas.



Wwoofer Notes

Shark-spearing: Candice is from Hong Kong and she is the sweetest little pet (happy with her room, she hugged me and bowed with gratitude).

I had prepared a German meal, in honour of our German visitor. Candice enjoyed it thoroughly and then announced, in her heavy accent, that she had some photos to show; proudly explaining she had recently seen some "shark spearing" and was keen to share them with us.

We looked at each other and, fearing images of dead and bloodied sharks hanging off hooks, wondered why she was smiling so much.

However, to our relief, the photos were of a stage play of "Shakespeare"!

Upon returning from a shopping trip, Sandy mentioned to her they would be going into the stables shortly so perhaps she should change.

Little Candice—who adores animals—went to her room and came out in even 'dressier' attire: a sweet little dress, white cardigan and white shoes!

Water spout: Dorothee and Birdie (German Wwoofers) came sprinting down the veranda to the office, both frantically speaking but, in their panic, neither were using English.

After some desperate translation I learnt the problem was a burst water pipe and, as we're on tank-water, knew it was serious.

Not being able to repair it myself, I instructed them to go and stand on it or get Roy to put his finger in it! (Roy is Dutch and they're experts at plugging leaks with fingers!)

"It's too big, it's too big" the girls yelled, "Come and see, water is spurting up as high as the roof!" If that was the case, I wasn't going to waste time going and looking.

I phoned Alex who was at the Sanctuary farm but—of course—out of range. I then rang volunteers, neighbours...everyone who could help.

Almost all could come and they did. However, the trouble was they all arrived at the front gate at the same time; almost causing a traffic jam!

Everyone rushed around the back to assist with the problem, with Bill Pitkin saving the day by calmly going over to the tank removing a tin cover and turning a tap off!

Just then Alex turned up wondering what was going on but of course all the excitement was over! Thankfully we had good rain over the following days which has replaced all that was lost in the drama.

Room service: There are several notes in the wwoofer's room informing them of various good things to do.

One of these is to keep the bedroom door closed at all times as otherwise the *little darlings* will go in and cause havoc in their room.

However, our recent German and Austrian girls had forgotten to close the doors and, being a rainy day, the *little treasures* were loose in the house.

Well, when I walked in underwear and clothes were strewn from one end of the house to the other; the dear little pets had had a wonderful time 'sorting out'.

What a mess but we all thought it was hilarious and the three little darlings responsible were thanked for all their hard work and rewarded with many hugs and kisses.

Foot loose: Anne Walsh (our little Leprechaun volunteer on loan from the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie) also left the door open on her last stay and our dear little pets took and hid her tiny (size 3!) slippers in other parts of the house.

We are sure the little ones wait for their chance with every Wwoofer changeover and delight in performing the same tricks.

Anne is a great sport and we thank her for loving the donkeys and helping us; we consider her as part of our family and thank God for sending her.

Wwoofers, Sanctuary members and friends.



DONATIONS? Please deposit directly to our account: Account no. 1022 1064 BSB: 062 813 or you can use our website: www.donkeyrescue.org.au

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The Donkey Sanctuary, Devon, UK



*Donkey Serenade: Jo-Anne Kokas OAM, Editor/Writer © GSDS Inc., 2008

Saturday 10-3pm, Sanctuary Pinebrush Farm

International Day of the Donkey



The day's entertainment includes a superb display of the donkeys in our world and the amazing contribution they have made (and are still making).

- A Living history of the donkey (10am to noon) including: *Egypt, Europe, War Times; People and their donkeys from around the world; Working donkeys*
- Your country not listed above? Please call if you'd like to be involved and are prepared to come in national costume (especially if you represent Sicily, Greece and Italy). We'll give you a position and a donkey for your display; just phone our Secretary (02) 4996 5596.
- Shrek and Donkey Monty (our very special guests)
- 18th Birthday bbq picnic lunch
- Bargain auction new and near-new goods (please contact us to donate new or 2nd-hand goods)
- Donkey Derby: The Sanctuary Slipper our famed gala event and grand finale

And there's much, much more, including:

- Jerry Jingle (Santa's favourite elf) and donkey Snow White
- Paddy McNamara esq. with his donkey Shamrock
- Clarence Clown and his colourful donkey
- Mediaeval Lady Scotia of Dal Reagh and donkey
- "Fairy Godmother" from the Enchanted Woods
- Bray Mart Donkey Shop
- Childrens' activities
- Hunter Valley Tractors; an amazing display of old machinery
- Espresso Essential exotic coffees, fudge, slushes and donuts

A fantastic day out for only:
\$8 per adult, \$4 per child or
Family (2 adults, 3 children): \$25



PLEASE REGISTER
Let me know you're coming so
I can give you directions to my
place, call (02) 4996 5596

TOCAL REPORT A Mammoth Job

May comes around faster every year. Before we knew it TOCAL was once more upon us and we needed to pack information, shop stock, umbrellas, posters... and 7 donkeys; an over-whelming job before we even start the 3 day stint!

The horse challenge saw Nikki, again, beat all the horses—breezing through the obstacles and performing various tricks.

Sharlene then took 6-month Casanova into the arena; taking only one round to adjust, he loved it.

Giving Nikki a rest, she then took Casanova into the arena to challenge all the horses and dog! He performed brilliantly and stole the show winning two more Challenges.

Of six challenges, the donkeys won three with a border collie taking two. What a great effort from our dear little donkeys.

We were exhausted but it was a superb weekend (though the unpacking went well into the following week).

TOCAL DONKEYNO We thank those who supported the donkeys by donating their valued products for the TOCAL DonKeyno: Merial, Pet Essentials & Goodwood Equine Dental Services, GSDS Inc's vet Stephen Mrljak, Barrington Veterinary Group, Dr Neils.

Winner of TOCAL DonKeyno:
K. R. Thompson, Central Coast

SPECIAL THANKS
John Kohnke generously supports us with donations of his superb range of equine supplements.
www.kohnkesown.com



Above: Niki joins the Police Force! Right: Sharlene Goodworth (equine dentist) and Casanova performing tricks.



We host several coach groups each month but we need more so please spread the word or send me details of your local coach companies, clubs, anyone who organises bus outings...and I will forward them information.

Our special days are suggestions for larger group-visitors; and they include:

- picnic 'themed' days for coach groups
- a superb BBQ lunch (catering for vegetarians and diabetics)
- fresh food prepared in a well-appointed and hygienic kitchen
- easy access and comfortable facilities with clean and roomy toilets
- and we do a great 'Surprise Birthday Bash' for seniors in bus groups.

A happy, inexpensive and carefree day is sure to be had by all (our secret formula is based on a dose of GSDS Inc donkey-therapy).

March	St Patricks Day Picnic (Irish theme)
April	Choice of Easter-theme or ANZAC
May	Mothers Day Picnic Lunch (fashion judging)
June	Garden Party à la Pom (English theme)
OPEN DAY July 12th	Christmas in July (sit-down full menu)
August	Donkey Derby Picnic and Spring Carnival
OPEN DAY Sept. 27th	International Day of the Donkey
October	German Picnic Fest (Aust./German cuisine)
OPEN DAY Nov. 29th	Christmas Pageant (evening event)



Please note: visiting groups **must register with us prior to any event** to ensure the correct catering and other preparations have been made e.g. providing for vegetarian diets; sending directions to the property.

Courtesy: ABC News, Internet

Villagers turn to donkey-power

The English village of Chalford is taking a page from its past by employing donkeys to haul groceries to homes on top of a hill.

Resident Anna Usborne says cars can't make it up the steep slope of the hill. "There's about 30 houses that don't have car access, so everyone has this long, winding, torturous path to climb," she said.

Ms Usborne is raising funds to buy village donkeys and to keep them on her land and organise volunteers who will guide them up the hill when locals have heavy loads to carry. Older residents may find this conjures up memories of donkeys delivering provisions.



A scene from Clovelly showing how donkeys helping with daily village life.

"They [donkeys] were very much part of village life," Ms Usborne said. The picturesque Cotswolds village has already purchased special panniers in anticipation of the donkeys' arrival.

SANCTUARY STAR 2008 Donkey Monty

Monty, a much loved donkey, had lived with his best friend Whinny for many years. Unfortunately, his owner had to move to another farmlet which was unsuitable as it was always wet with lush grass (donkeys gain weight quickly and readily develop problems with their feet).

By moving them to the donkey-paradise that GSDS Inc provides, their condition greatly improved as they settled in. But good things come to an end and dear old Whinny died—leaving Monty to grieve. And, despite adjusting to life without his companion, he never chose another special friend.

However, the movie Shrek has transformed Monty into a star as he is so like the 'donkey' character. Naturally, he plays the part of Shrek's donkey in our outings and they'll be appearing on International Day of the Donkey,

Do come and meet them at Sanctuary farm, Sept 27.



The 1st Christmas Join us for a truly unique nativity pageant featuring carols with donkeys and the Clarence Town Choir

We know of nowhere else in the world where the story of 'Abib' (the donkey who carried Mary) is told within the Nativity play.

Our pageant begins with Abib being bought by Joseph and continues with the Arch Angel Gabriel's appearance through to the birth of Jesus.

This will be a beautiful living-Nativity with costumed volunteers and donkeys mingling with our audience. So bring the family—and a camera—and capture their delight.

We invite you to come in costume. Children adore dressing-up and they'll thrill at being part of the celebration. And even if you can't sew it's easy: cut a hole in the middle of 3 metres of plain material (an old sheet?), a cord around your waist and a simple head piece. You're ready!

PLEASE REGISTER We'd like to hear you are coming so we can cater accordingly, please phone (02) 4996 5596

November 29 • Saturday evening

Sanctuary's Pinebrush farm gates will be open for 2 hours (only) between 5.30-7.30pm giving you time to meet the donkeys, enjoy a BBQ and be seated as the pageant begins by 'dark'.

Please note: sanctuary fire safety means open-flames are not permitted—torches only; byo cushions, chairs and blankets; all weather protection; our BBQ will serve food until 7.45pm.