

APC Newsletter

Mid-year Edition, 2022



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gaynor Brown

Tena Koutou Katoa Greetings to All,

It is with both relief and pleasure I write that Ambury Park Centre, apart from a few restrictions, is operating as



normal. The atmosphere is positive amongst all, with all programmes off to a good start.

The students and adult clients returned full time with enthusiasm, with therapy rider numbers building back steadily, and community activities opening again for the adult clients. The students too are venturing back into the community. Other positives are that the grass is lushly green again supporting the health of our horses including three recent arrivals that Equine will describe. Usually in March we hold the Ambury Park Centre car boot/gala day but unfortunately this year a decision had to be made to postpone early in the year, when outdoor numbers were Covid restricted. We look forward with optimism that we there will be a gala day in 2023.

In mentioning Covid, the Centre has had a small number of cases this year to date, although they have not generated from the Centre or spread in the Centre. Precautions were well adhered to, and the goal remains for masks indoors. Throughout the lockdowns

and restrictions Vicky Cox, the Director/Principal, planned strategically with staff to best care for the horses, provide for the students and adult clients remotely, and as people returned gradually there was a focus on safety for all. The Centre has been safe and continued to offer well planned sessions for its therapy riders, adult clients and students. The board is very grateful to Vicky for her leadership in this and for the staff for their tireless efforts throughout the hard times. The board is grateful for the generosity of our charitable and community trusts and other donors throughout these times that helped keep this unique Centre going and thriving. We continue to be so very grateful to our volunteers without whom we would not be able to offer what we do, especially in riding therapy and Ambury events when they are occur.

Sadly, Vicky resigned from her position as Director/Principal effective as of the end of Term 1. Vicky is now living further from the Centre and wished to have more time for her two sons. We thank Vicky hugely for her innovation and mahi for Ambury. She brought energy and vibrancy to the Centre, dedication to supporting all programmes, care for the students and clients, and the horses. She contributed much to finding younger Ambury horses to rejuvenate the herd. We thank Vicky and wish her well in her next venture and know she will be no stranger to the Centre.

In early June we welcomed Patricia Simeon to the position of Director/Principal. Patricia, recently the Assistant Principal of Northland College, brings much experience in supporting rangatahi with learning and pastorally. Like Vicky, Patricia is an experienced and keen rider. The board and staff look forward to working with Patricia.

Thank you again to our donors, staff and volunteers for all that you do for Ambury 's successful outcomes.

Ngā mihi,

Gaynor Brown

FROM OUR OUTGOING PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR

Vicky Cox

Kia ora whanau, it is with utter disbelief that I write to say that I am finishing at Ambury Park Centre. I feel extremely sad to be leaving such a special place, one that well and truly has a tight hold of my heart. I unashamedly love our community; our students, clients and riders. I am so proud of our rangatahi. They have had to fight their way through a world that often does not make sense, but they take on the challenge and are always seeking to better themselves. I have had the best conversations, the best advice, the best support and the best moments when I have been walking this journey with them. The students of Ambury, I have no doubt, are going to rock this world.

The adult clients are my joy. They have lifted me when I have been tired and encouraged me when I have been low. Their smiles make them so special and their love and affections are unconditionally open. I have learnt so much from them. One of my biggest sadness about leaving Ambury will be no longer hearing the beautiful tunes that come from the Vocs' room on a Wednesday; music day. I appreciate every single one of our parents and extended whanau.



You have supported us when we needed it most, especially through this pandemic. Ka pai ta tātau mahi ina mahi tahi tātau. We work best when we work together.

It has been an honour to serve this community alongside such a stunning group of staff. They bring their hearts, their dedication and their passion each and every day. Thank you team – you are amazing. I'd also like to acknowledge our sponsors, many of whom are incredibly passionate about the work that we do.

Without you we wouldn't exist and without you there

wouldn't be the success stories that we have to share. Thank you. I'm sad to be leaving but excited to take on a new challenge in a new community, who also thrive on aroha and whanaungatanga. I am looking forward to spending more time with my children and less time on the motorway, looking at brake lights!

It's a joke amongst our staff that no one ever really leaves Ambury, we stay connected and often we bounce back.

Ambury is a place that is forever ingrained in my heart and I will continue to serve in the best way I see possible moving forwards. Ka kite i a koe ākuanei. See you soon. Arohanui. Vicky Cox

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR



On Tuesday 7th June our new Principal/Director Patricia Simeon was welcomed into the Ambury whanau with a waiata (and impromptu haka from Fergus that gave us all goose bumps!) Patricia has a strong commitment to staff, client and student wellbeing as well as genuine warmth and heart, and is excited for the future of Ambury Park Centre. We've all really enjoyed getting to know her!



Community

Students at Mt. Richmond Special School in Otahuhu are benefitting from using Ambury Park saddles in the classroom as part of their RDA programme. Children who have difficulty sitting still find they can remain on the saddle for an extended length of time, while others who have low muscle tone find they are more comfortable sitting or lying down.



Teacher Jane Videtta says: "Sitting on the saddle in class or riding at Ambury is helping our students to learn about waiting for turns, sitting still and staying focussed."

Kinsella: An Ambury Legacy

From Debbie Freeman, past Equine manager:



It is with a heavy heart that I farewell Kinsella on the 7th of March at the age of 36.

Kinsella's passing marks the end of a legacy. He was the last of the Connemara Ponies bred specifically for riding therapy through the generous donation of a stallion (Chiltern Sunsilk) and a couple of mares (Irish Mist and Bonnie Jean) to Ambury Park, from Sir John and Lady Marshall back in the 1980's. Of the foals born, Ambury Kinsella, Ambury Rising Sun (Cloudy), Ambury Summer Dawn, Ambury Holly, Ambury Gift, and Ambury Meteor (Dawn's son) ended up at Ambury Park due to suitability of temperament. (There was also O'Jon, not bred as part of the Trust but the offspring of Chiltern Sunsilk and a Clydesdale mare owned by a long-time supporter of Ambury Park.) The fact that seven foals 'made it' fulfilled the vision of the Marshall's and the late Dr Jill Calvely, first Director of Ambury Park.

Kinsella was the only one to spend his whole working life at Ambury Park - the others came to riding therapy after gaining experience in the general horse world and quickly became an integral part of a very select band of therapy

horses. They worked right through until age, unsoundness or illness caught up with them, all reaching their 20's (with the exception of Meteor, who didn't make it to old age due to colic.) Kinsella really did leave a huge mark - 30yrs giving so much to staff, students and therapy riders.

Kinsella was named by one of the therapy riders and was a character from day one. Once he was 'broken in' he was leased to a pony club family to experience life before coming to Ambury Park to be a therapy horse. Kinsella's character and strong personality was too much for the family, so he came to Ambury Park much earlier than originally planned as he was oh so naughty! Kinsella had an exceptionally powerful jump - no fence was too big for him. He was incredibly brave, but one of his quirks was to buck on landing, especially when putting in extra effort to clear the jump. If the rider wasn't ready for this, they'd be brushing sand off their jodhpurs!

His excellent rhythm in all paces made him a suitable horse for vaulting. The suspension in his trot and canter helped the students to vault on --- although if you missed sitting into the correct place he would 'help' you by putting in a little buck or two! As he was so good on the lunge, he was the 'go to' horse for teaching students the rising trot. There won't be many students who came to Ambury Park who didn't learn their rising trot on Kinsella. Due to being voice trained he was often the students' first canter as he would pop into it with such great ease.



He retired sound and well but after nearly 30yrs being handled and ridden by so many different people he was 'over it'. His personality stayed with him right to the very end. There was a certain glint in his eye that said, 'watch out, I'm about to leave', and if you didn't listen ---- he did, 36 years old or not! Kinsella gave his all to riding therapy and now he is finally able to fly free with his other 'horsey friends and relatives'. I am sure he will have been met at the 'Rainbow Bridge' by his great mate Fred who between the two of them kept us amused for hours as they reared, bucked and ran together in their Ambury Park paddock. RIP Kinsella 1986 – 2022

Equine

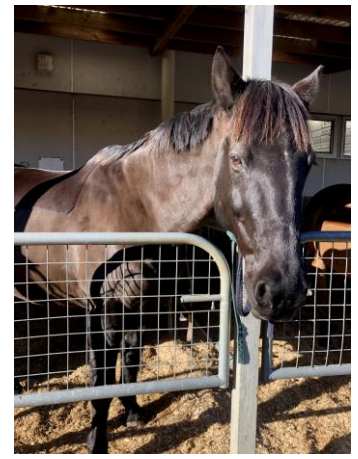
Andrea Menzies

Since our last publication we have had a refurbishment in our horse paddocks, the result of being constantly on the lookout for that elusive unicorn - the perfect equine able to faultlessly perform his duties, serving without question, never aging or falling ill. That dream of course, is obviously as realistic as raising the perfect child. We do however feel we have selected some real gems to work in partnership with their humans as a tight team.



Patch: Kindly on lease to us. Patch is a beautiful brown and white gelding, with the kindest nature. He is solidly dependable, with his sole vice being extremely fond of his food. (If that is the extent of all that is bad, we can certainly live with that, as many of us too can be accused of the same!)

Ernie: The type of horse conjured from childhood fantasies, images of tall, inky black stallions bowing to our every wish. He is very tall at 17.11hh, but as for being totally at our command, well he may perhaps insist on some input of his own - and we'd have it no other way.



Manuka and Paleo came to us as a twofer deal, an arrangement which suited us admirably. Manuka is a full Clydesdale mare with the temperament of a saint, loving her new job and very keen to please. Paleo is a very pretty full-sized pony in training to work with therapy clients and students.

Peter Duck has a vibrant personality as distinctive as his name. He is what we would describe as a true 'school master' with all the skilful moves pre-programmed in his system but needs to be asked for correctly and politely in order for it to show.



Sammy, a beautiful newly arrived pony is also generously leased to us. She is settling in well and loving the fuss and attention she receives with her routine morning groom. Sammy and her sweet nature are certain to become a real asset in being able to proudly operate our unique brand of therapy.



The Academic Programme

Claire Hall



This year it's been wonderful to have our students back at Ambury with few external disruptions. The resilience students have shown has been highly commendable. During such an unsettled time, each one of them has continued their learning as best they can. They have been utilizing their digital skills to engage and share learning (and fun photos!)

through Google and Seesaw.

In addition to English, Mathematics, and Te Kura Correspondence courses, new in 2022 is a Practical Science programme for all students focused on their individual learning level.



This term we have had fun exploring the microscopic world around us that we can't see and finding "Who Dunnit?" through using our newly acquired Forensic Science skills. This year we have had the opportunity to take many educational and fun visits as part of our EOTC programme. Sports sessions at the Māngere Gym have focused on team building activities and inclusive games. Explorations have included a "Whale Tale" trail, beach scavenger hunt, Ihumātao and Te Pane o Mataaoho geological walks. At Auckland Museum, we got to meet Peter the T-Rex and tour the new exhibits. A particular highlight this term was attending the Matariki Ki Te Ao Festival. Together with the Vocational team, we travelled to the Matariki Dome at David Lange Park for a powhiri, singing and games; this was followed by hands-on Matariki activities at the library. It was fantastic to celebrate this event and new holiday together.

Last term we celebrated Sea week and science week with a focus on Antarctica, joining a webinar with Antarctic researchers. Other highlights included Pink shirt day (lots of pink fingernails!) and Samoan language week. For Tech Week, we joined a webinar with famous NZ game developers and took part in an hour of code with OMG Tech. All the students have been growing their coding skills in our new Technology classes, with Bayley from BrainPlay returning this year for advanced coding and programming class.

With restrictions lifted, all our students have been helping in the garden and learning new recipes; the staff have particularly enjoyed tasting the hot cross buns, nachos, burgers and cupcakes! We have replanted our garden with winter veggies and seem to be winning against the slugs and pukeko's at the moment! It's been a fun and action-packed start to the year and we are also pleased to have a wonderful group of new students join us this year: A big warm welcome to Lucy, Tayla, Zion, Eli, Lee-Ara, Ella, Kylan, Zion-Mateus, Chris

and Angel. This term we are saying goodbye to three of our senior students who are moving on to their next adventures; we wish Caleb, Ariana and Princess all the best for the future and look forward to you visiting and catching us up on all your news :-)

This newsletter is very timely as we celebrate Matariki, reflecting on the past year and planning for the future; we look forward to a productive and fun Term 3 and 4 - Mānawatia a Matariki.

The Vocational Programme

Julie Wharton



This term we have had the luxury to get out and about in the community. We visited Waste Wise at the Waitakere Refuse Station, learning about waste and what we can do at Ambury to reuse, reduce and recycle.

On the 23rd of June the vocational clients, staff and students together attended the Matariki dome at David Lange Park, Māngere. There was a great presentation on Matariki and plenty of games and activities, enjoyed by all.

This term we have also celebrated Samoan Language Week and Anti bullying week. The vocational team also worked within the riding community, setting up

and packing down the Clevedon arena.



Art/Mahi Toi - Farewell to our wonderful Ellen!

Ellen Williams

This year in mahi toi (art class) the Secondary Students and Vocational Clients have been working on a range of projects. We have celebrated language weeks such as Samoan and Rotuman, making art that honours the culture as well as learning kupu (words/language). The clients and students also participated in world oceans day and world environment day, making a multimedia artwork promoting recycling and saving our oceans.

A colourful tribute painting to the now retired Boaz was also made. The clients and students are now working on art pieces that celebrate Matariki, the Māori new year.

It is with bittersweet sentiments, that I will be leaving Ambury at the end of the term to pursue my teacher qualifications at AUT. I have loved my time at Ambury, working with the Secondary Students, Vocational Clients, and the horses. Highlights include summers in the paddocks getting to know the herds, craft/art with the VOCs class on Friday afternoons and working with the students and clients towards exhibitions on Ribbon Day and Prizegiving. I am immensely proud of the artwork created by the students and clients and am blown away by the talent and passion at Ambury. I will miss everyone tremendously, but I will be back with a full kete of knowledge and skills to share.

Ngā mihi maioha, Ellen



Riding Therapy & Physiotherapy Sessions

Marjolein Harting



Dear clients/ riders and family and whanau,
I have the privilege to introduce you to two new staff members in our team, Toni and Grace. Most of you will have met them already but you might not know much about their background.

Hi, my name is Toni and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to provide physiotherapy in an equine setting. I have worked as a physio in the area of neurological rehab for many years in a variety of settings: acute hospitals, inpatient rehab centres and in the community. I then worked in a non-clinical role for Motor Neurone Disease New Zealand for 4 years before the lure of

clinical work and horses became too much! I have been around horses since the age of 7, starting off with riding lessons before getting my own pony and attending Pony Club. I rode competitively for many years but sold my last horse when I had my first child. Since then, I have ridden on and off with friends on their horses but am rusty! I am currently completing the American Hippotherapy courses online and working alongside Marjolein to gain practical knowledge and experience of hippotherapy. I am also completing my RDA coach training. I am really enjoying being part of the Ambury Team and feel that I have found my dream job.

My name is Grace Goodman, I am 26 years old and originally from Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast. Horses were a huge part of my childhood I had my own horses from age 9 - 15. I sold my last horse when I moved to a Feilding high school to pursue farming. After school I worked at Xtreme sport horses whilst saving to go to Canada, where I moved to at the age of 18, working at Anchor D guiding and outfitting as a trail guide. We trekked through the mountains and foothills of Alberta, and it was here that I learnt all about work horses and western riding. After a summer on the ranch, I worked on ski fields, a passion I have chased for several years all over the world. I have been lucky to continue to ride with good friends throughout the years I spent in the mountains.

In November last year I moved to Auckland from Mt Ruapehu as I was looking for a change came across the job for RDA coach on TradeMe, and the rest is history! I am loving the new challenges that come with coaching and am stoked to be a part of the Ambury family!

A big welcome to Toni and Grace, I am looking forward working together with both of them and make our corner even more exciting!

Celebrating Volunteer Week

Grace Goodman

RDA has had its bumps in the road this year navigating the Covid absences but coming into term 2 it has settled down and allowed us to bring on seven new riders. It has been a fantastic term 2 with lots of our riders achieving there riding goals for the term. Some highlights have included the Easter egg hunt and the grooming game. Looking into term 3 we are excited to plan our Ribbon Day! As well as welcome new riders to fill some remaining slots.

We had National Volunteer Thank You Week from the 19th to the 26th of June. We celebrated on the Wednesday by inviting all the volunteers to join us for some kai and horse riding. Toni and I set up a relay in the arena where the volunteers got to play one of the games our riders play. It was a lot of fun with lots of laughs and smiles. Our volunteers make everything we do here at Ambury possible, they truly are the heart of our centre it was awesome to be able to give back and celebrate all their help this year.



Autumn Holiday Programme

The Equine team once again offered a holiday programme for the Autumn school holidays – “Horsing Around at Ambury”. It was incredibly popular and booked out very quickly – as has our Winter holiday programme! Feedback from participants and parents alike has been overwhelmingly positive.

The three-day horse programme includes riding, horse management and horsemanship, giving children a taste of what it is like to own their own horse and the opportunity to have fun with other like-minded children. April's participants enjoyed tractor rides, grooming and a demonstration by Equine team member Bonnie on treating horses with asthma.



Follow Ambury Park Centre Inc. on Facebook and now Instagram to be kept up to date with future events, lots of photos and interesting articles.

How can you help?

The Centre being a 'not for profit' relies heavily on its supporters to ensure it can continue to provide the level of service requested by the community. If you or somebody you know could help in the following areas please don't hesitate to get in touch with Debra or Barbara in the office. Any assistance is greatly appreciated - Thank you!
office@amburyparkcentre.org.nz

- Volunteer as a friend of Ambury on a weekly basis throughout the school term and in school hours.
- Become a member of Ambury Park Centre Inc. society, which enables you to be involved in the Centre's affairs. The fee is \$25. If you wish to join please send your contact details - name, address and email to office@amburyparkcentre.org.nz
- Spread the word about the programmes that we offer and what we do in the community.
- Organise a volunteer group for a morning to help with gardening and/or other jobs.
- Donate product or services that would benefit the programmes that we run, i.e. breakfast for our students, activities or outings for trips or sponsor one of our wonderful horses!
- Follow Ambury Park Centre Inc. on Facebook or Instagram as we sometimes put shout outs for items we need - wet weather gear for our students, blankets for our horses etc.
- Make a donation to our Ambury Park Centre Inc account 06-01930-0154558-026
- Horse manure is wonderful for the garden at this time of year and is readily available for bagging or to load onto a trailer for a koha.

The Board is most appreciative for grants both substantial and generous.

A very sincere thank you to all our donors. Throughout the year our many trusts and donors have significantly supported Ambury Park Centre programmes. The board and staff are deeply grateful for this.
Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust, Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust, J M Thompson Charitable Trust, Woolf Fisher Charitable Trust, Peter and David Picot Charitable Trust, Chenery Memorial Trust, Kelliher Charitable Trust, Nell Erne Adams Charitable Trust Foundation, Foundation North, NZ Lottery Grants Board, NZ Community Trust, ARA Lodge No.348 IC Charitable Trust Board, Samar Kand, Four Winds Foundation, Trillian Trust, Rotary Club of Mangere, Manukau Arenas, Rano Trust, Goodman Contracting, Michael Otto, L R Daniels, Amir Halabi, A K Potts, Janet Hepi, Sam Hugli, Barron Foundation, D and A Alderslade, Changli Xuan, Shams Alchalabi, Longmuir Trust.

Save the date

Ribbon Day 2022	Thursday 22 nd September 2022
End of term 3	Friday 30 th September 2022
Term 4 start	Monday 17 th October 2022