

ESELTJIESRUS DONKEY SANCTUARY - McGregor

Newsletter / Nuusbrief #12

PBO 930028734

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November 2009 to January 2010

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A message for you from Eeyore:



Good day, and hee-haw, folks! I have been chosen by all the donkeys at Eseljtjiesrus to write donkey news to you this quarter!

We are enjoying the warmer weather and the succulent young grasses that emerge in Spring. We notice that our large field has had extensive new irrigation installed, so the far-off corners there will soon have lovely soft growth to nibble on. For those of us who are long in the tooth, this is good news! We still enjoy our evening feed of a mix of hay and (our favourite) lucerne.

Our vet is filing a few donkeys' teeth at each visit. (Luckily mine are still fine after last year's session.) One chews so much better when the sharp edges and hooks are smoothed.

Recently we welcomed a new she-haw: she says she lived in Swellendam all her life, in a small backyard, on her own. She must be thirty or more and has hardly any teeth. Her humans said they loved her but did not know how to care for her, feed her, remove ticks, or have her feet trimmed. An animal lover called Tony spotted her and arranged to remove her. She was too frail to travel far so she spent two weeks at the vet, Jacques Malan in Swellendam, where she was fed, cleaned up and dewormed. Then she traveled to Eseljtjiesrus in a horse-box. My word, but she is thin! Bella looked after her for 10 days and then she came to join our group. She is quite perky and a bit of a loner, but we are forming good friendships. Her hair is very tatty, but she will soon look as nice as the rest of us. Shame, she loves visitors and doesn't seem to realize that she looks so much worse than we do. (Fortunately we don't have any mirrors!)

Arrival at The Sanctuary



Soon all you humans will have year-end holidays and we expect a lot of visitors to our Sanctuary. This can be quite exhausting, especially on a hot day, so forgive us if we retreat to the shelter to rest. Our humans are also looking forward to visits from old friends, so they are hoping to have a short breather too. (I am sure they will arrange for us to be cared for as usual, though.) But the Sanctuary will be closed to the public on some days.

This time of the year is always special, filled with friends, parties, gifts and fun. We donkeys are all so very grateful for the support from you guys out there. Many of you have never even been able to visit Eseljtjiesrus, but we truly feel your compassion and love. We love you too! **All the best for 2010!**

Love, donkey hugs and a bray, from Eeyore, on behalf of all the long-eared residents.

St. Francis Day & World Animal Day



This was again a highlight of the year's activities. Over 80 animal lovers attended, with accompanying dogs and a bunny, to be blessed by Brother Richard (together with our donkeys of course). Many people placed stones on our Memorial Cairn, and did the meditative walk. Don't miss this next year! (First Sunday in October.)

Donkey Treats



Education project



This has been a very busy year, with 100 or more learners visiting the Sanctuary per month. The schools receive materials to use in the classroom and each visit is assessed by Patricia, our Education Officer.

We wish to thank **all the generous folk** who supported the project to date, either by donating materials, expertise and/or time. Without your input the project could not have reached the scale that it did! The success will be measured in long-term change of attitudes, and in the respect engendered in the children's minds: for animals, people and the world around them.

Communication

One aspect of the Sanctuary work that is most enjoyable and interesting, is attending to the enquiries we get from the public, often through our website. We most certainly do not have all the answers, but we do know where to look for them! Recently we could advise on bottle-rearing a 4-day old orphan donkey foal, by referring to the veterinary handbook of The Donkey Sanctuary in UK. The foal is now thriving! We also enjoy communicating with potential and new donkey owners about the responsibilities involved.

Ons kry dikwels navrae van mense wat donkies soek om aan te hou as troeteldiere of om skape op te pas. Ons probeer seker maak dat hulle beseft dat eienaarskap van 'n donkie (of liever twee!) 'n verantwoordelikheid meebring, om die diere goeie en gepaste sorg te bied.

Ingeligte eienaars = gelukkige diere.

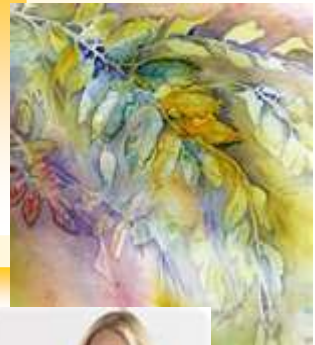


Donations in memory of loved ones



From time to time the Sanctuary receives donations in memory of loved friends or family, or pets. We value these gestures, and assure the donors that their thoughtfulness results in a better life for a needy donkey.

Please remember that we are a registered charity and we do all our own fundraising. We derive no benefit from any items sold by the padstal/nursery, which is run independently as a business. Debbie and Jimmy stock a small range of our Sanctuary souvenirs in their restaurant, and those proceeds go entirely to the donkeys.



Competition result...

Thank you to all who entered our competition!

The quotation in the previous newsletter is to be found on the Horse memorial in Port Elizabeth. In a lucky draw on 1st October, the prize of a small selection of Esetjiesrus gifts was won by Frances Doering of McGregor. Congratulations!



**Mad rush...crowds...no parking...wrong size or colour...what can I get him / her / the kids?
Let us remove the pressure- and provide a meaningful gift that lasts a whole year:**

Adopt-a-donkey...

Adoptions form the backbone of our support system and provide the funds for the daily care of the donkeys. An adoption is a **unique gift**, and provides an "anchor" for friends or relatives living overseas. The adopter receives a certificate, photograph and a six-monthly report on their special donkey, as well as our quarterly newsletter. ANY level of support is welcomed! The adoption payment can be made monthly or as a one-off amount. Details from us, or from our website. **Shop early for Christmas!**

You will hear from us again: The next Newsletter should reach you early in February 2010, and if you are an adopter your six-monthly Donkey Progress Report will arrive during March. Please contact us if you are missing out on any of these communications or if your contact details change.

December and January visiting days...

As Eeyore mentioned earlier on, we too are looking forward to some relaxing time with loved ones (apart from the donkeys!)

The Sanctuary will be closed to visitors on
25th December and 1st January, and also
for the first two weeks of the first school term in 2010.



This is our last newsletter for 2009! The Sanctuary is a blessed project, with heart-warming support from donkey lovers—not only financial but in all the supportive messages and assistance graciously given. We salute you our friends!



Warmest wishes for a peaceful year-end and
may 2010 bring you only the best!

Johan, Annemarie and all at
Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary

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Account Name: "Donkey Sanctuary"
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Skakel gerus met ons in Afrikaans!

Please note that Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary will be CLOSED to visitors from 11th January 2010, re-opening on Thursday 28th January 2010.

To remove your name from
our mailing list, please
[click here](#)

Questions or comments
Please E-mail us [here](#)

Or call 023 625 1593

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