



# LANG-OOR NUUS - DONKEY TAILS



## Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary - McGregor

Newsletter/Nuusbrief # 19  
PBO 930028734

Patron: David Kramer

Augustus tot Oktober 2011  
NPO 056-575



Goeie dag, almal - good day to you all - my name is Ida and I am honoured to write to you in this newsletter. I am one of the oldest donkeys here, and I am so blessed to live out my twilight years at Eseltjiesrus, after decades of being a cart-donkey on a farm nearby. I worked very hard and was often beaten and shouted at, although I tried my best. The harness used to rub raw places on my skin, but I never complained. I realised that my owner did not have the resources to improve my lot. I could hardly believe my eyes when Thabo and I pulled the cart to Eseltjiesrus, and we were outspanned for the last time and received with such love and care! I enjoy every day here, and trust the humans to look after all my needs. We took in two yearlings recently and they have taken me on as a surrogate mother, running to me when they are unsure of themselves. I even allow them to take lucerne out of my mouth! They make all of us pensioners feel younger. We thank all of you who make this possible, with your donations and support in so many different ways.



### 67 minutes - for the donkeys!

Samantha Sharkey, a keen supporter of our work and a member of our Advisory Board, came with her staff on 18<sup>th</sup> July to give 67 minutes of their time, and energy, to help with our daily donkey care - cleaning hooves and eyes, grooming and loving! Thank you from all the donkeys!

### **The Sanctuary opened its gates to its first donkeys over four years ago!**

We feel privileged to care for our resident donkeys, but also humbled by the opportunity to assist much further afield by communicating with donkey lovers all over the world. The support from you - the public - has enabled us to grow and expand our influence in ways we never imagined. The status of donkeys needs to be addressed on an on-going basis, and this is part of our mission.

### **Advisory Board meets in McGregor**

We are very excited that our valued Advisory Board will meet in McGregor on 2<sup>nd</sup> September! The members are all extremely busy professional and business people and the Board normally meets in Cape Town, to save time and costs. This time they will travel to McGregor and visit the Sanctuary, as well as discussing possible future developments with us. Thank you, each of you, for your dedication and generous donation of your time and skills!

### **The Donkey Sanctuary, Devon: We were saddened to hear of the passing of the founder, Dr Elisabeth Svendsen:**

The world is a better place - for donkeys, children and all living creatures, as a result of the inspiration, dedication and high standards expressed in the life of Dr S. We here in South Africa have been inspired by her, and together with organisations all over the world, will endeavour to improve the lot of donkeys by spreading "A culture of caring". Our sincere condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. May her memory live on in her work.



## News snippets

### DONKEY INDABA

We are compiling a database of Donkey Sanctuaries worldwide, with the view to exchanging news and discussing common problems. To date we have contacted over 80 such Sanctuaries, in countries such as Cyprus, India, Canada, Australia, Antigua and many others, and all the responses received have been positive and enthusiastic. Many thanks to Mike and Kay Puttick for helping to get this organised!

### MORE DONKEYS IN NEED

Increasingly we are being contacted by concerned folk who notice donkeys in need - either to intervene ourselves or to advise on how to get help. Recent calls have been about donkeys at Citrusdal, Swellendam, Cape Town and surrounds, Stellenbosch, Cradock, Vermaaklikheid, Barrydale, Worcester, and even from the northern provinces - thank you for caring and taking the trouble to do something! We are also in communication with the St Helena National Trust about the donkeys on the island! There is a wonderful network of caring people out there. The donkeys cannot speak for themselves, and rely on compassionate, concerned humans.

### EDUCATION PACK FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Material from our resource packs "Donkey Nibbles" and "Donkie Happies" will be featured in the education pages of *Die Huisgenoot*, *YOU* and *Drum* magazines, probably on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The combined circulation of these three publications is over 700,000 - and hopefully many of these readers will see donkeys in a new light, as worthy animals! We hope that many more schools and educators will be inspired to use our material in the classrooms - please contact us for more information about the packs.



### ST FRANCIS DAY AND REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

This will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, and we are planning to involve more local animals and animal-lovers. Details of the venue and programme will follow - do diarise now!

### How can I help?

The Sanctuary is not a crisis intervention organisation, but provides a long-term solution to the problem experienced by rescued donkeys - where do they go after being removed from horrendous circumstances, or after a life-time of hard work?

To provide a sustainable secure future, we rely on bequests. Even if you are unable to support our work at the moment, please consider us in your Will. We are a registered NPO and PBO with tax and estate duty benefits attached to donations. We have a brochure to help you with this - please contact us!

### Visit us:

We are open to visitors from Thursdays till Sundays, 11am till 4pm. On Saturdays and Sundays our guides are available at certain times to take you into the fields to meet the donkeys. On Thursdays and Fridays please use our self-guided leaflet.

We are a registered charity, independent of the restaurant and padstal, and admission is by donation.

The sanctuary is to be found on the road between Robertson and McGregor, three kilometers before McGregor and opposite the McGregor Winery. GPS reading is: 33°55'58.42"S and 19°50'56.56"E

## Adopt-a-Donkey!

The day-to-day running costs of donkey care are largely covered by contributions to our **Adopt-a-Donkey** programme. Adoption makes a perfect gift: we post a certificate, photo and some donkey souvenirs, and you make your donation monthly or as one annual payment. Some adopters support up to three donkeys! YOU decide the level of support you give - every little bit helps! Do visit our website or contact us for details.

## Het u geweet...

Ons is onlangs gevra deur 'n predikant of ons die kakebeen van 'n esel kan leen vir 'n preek oor Simson. Ons moes antwoord dat al ons kakebene tans nog in gebruik is!



### You will hear from us again:

Donkey Reports to adopters go out during September, and the next newsletter will appear during November.

**PLEASE** inform us of any address changes!

Please let us have the names and emails of others who wish to join our mailing list. Thank you.



### Follow us on Facebook!

You can follow us on Facebook by joining as a fan of 'Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary'. We already have over 530 fans. Become a Fan today!

### CONTACT DETAILS:

PO Box 29, McGregor, 6708 - Tel: 023 625 1593 - Fax: 086 614 7777

Email: [info@donkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:info@donkeysanctuary.co.za)

Web: [www.donkeysanctuary.co.za](http://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za)

**Skakel gerus met ons in Afrikaans**

### BANK DETAILS:

“Donkey Sanctuary” Standard Bank, Robertson, Branch Code 050413, Account no 2882 444 19

**Warm wishes from all at Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary  
See you at St Francis Day (Sunday 2nd October)!**

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with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line.