



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #74 August to October 2025

Message from Oscar: A grand hello to you all. In this newsletter you will find articles on:

- The September Music for Everyone concert
- Our new feed store currently under construction
- News from our Board Chairperson, Joe Samuels
- Details of our AGM in August
- News about our donkeys and the care they receive
- Regular Book sales; and lots more.

Happy reading and thanks to all you wonderful people
who contribute to make this possible.



Fine music benefits donkeys and people

A feast of music awaits – the much-loved Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra will return to the Langeberg region on Sunday 14 September. This event is hosted by Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary which aims to bring people together through music. The 55-member orchestra brings a multi-cultural mix of talented musicians. The venue features the acoustically-superb Oos-Kerk in Robertson where every seat is a good one. Add to this the magnificent organ which lifts the music to great heights. We expect a full house, so early securing of tickets is recommended

Make someone and the donkeys happy!

Unable to attend? You can still support donkey welfare and give deserving persons a day to remember. We invite you to sponsor tickets for any of the following from local communities: choirs, bands, blind persons, old age homes and children's homes. You can sponsor any number of persons at your discretion. Both the donkeys and the recipients will greatly appreciate your generosity. To sponsor attendance at this remarkable event or to purchase your own tickets, please contact: adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za.

If you plan to attend, tickets cost only R180 for adults and R90 for students. Contact Tourism offices in Montagu, Robertson and McGregor. In Worcester contact the Durban Street Animal Clinic (Gerhard de Wet).

If you require further information, contact Johan van Zijl on WhatsApp 083 429 3217.

Thank you for your compassion for donkeys and for thinking of those who would otherwise miss this marvellous music event.

Johan van Zijl (Event organiser)



Book Sales at the Sanctuary: After our successful 4-day Book Sale in June we are planning to have two more this year. So book the dates: 25 to 28 September and 11 to 14 December. Here you will find a huge selection of new and great quality second-hand books on every subject from Books for Cooks to Fiction, Gardening and Coffee Table Books. Join us at these Book Sales and stock up on your reading and gifts for others. All inquiries email visitors@donkeysanctuary.co.za

You are warmly invited to our AGM: 18 years of caring at EDS

Wednesday 13 August 2025 at 6pm via Zoom (or email)

To register for the AGM via Zoom please use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/c9clTBFFT6yWCCptc4QqTQ>

Or email with your full name to: admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za. We will send you the AGM documents.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last meeting of 14 August 2024 (available on our website)
3. The work of the Sanctuary
4. Business matters:
 - Annual Financial Statements as at 28 February 2025 (available on our website)
 - Appointment of auditors
 - Election of the Board of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

RSVP to: admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za by 12 August 2025

Please invite your friends and anyone wanting to know more about our work.

Living Our Values: Equity and Ethical Investment at Eseltjiesrus

As Chairperson of the Board, I am pleased to share two critical steps that the Board of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary (EDS) has taken in recent months. These actions are firmly rooted in the values and strategic priorities of our new Strategic Plan (2025–2030), particularly our commitments to **inclusion, integrity, and long-term sustainability**.

Addressing Employment Equity and Building an Inclusive Organisation

Our Strategic Plan identifies *Organisational Capacity* as one of its four key pillars. This includes a specific and urgent commitment to addressing employment equity and building a more inclusive and representative workforce. Concerns raised by staff and others over time made it clear that we needed to take meaningful action. The Board asked our Executive Manager, Tony Saddington, to prioritise this work. With the support of an experienced HR consultant, confidential one-on-one interviews were conducted with staff to understand their perspectives, concerns, and suggestions. These conversations informed a detailed report, which the Board discussed. As a result of this process:

- The Board adopted a clear and principled **Statement on Employment Equity, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion**, reaffirming our belief that a fair, diverse and inclusive workplace is both a moral imperative and a strategic necessity. (See the statement in this newsletter.)

We are now in the final stages of adopting **EDS's first-ever Equity Policy**. This new policy will provide the framework for ensuring equity in our hiring, development, and workplace culture, and includes mechanisms for transparency, accountability and implementation. The Executive Manager will continue leading this vital transformation, and the Board will provide ongoing oversight to ensure our equity values are embedded in daily operations, recruitment, leadership, and staff development.

Aligning Our Investments with Our Values

The second significant step taken by the Board is a revision to our **Investment Policy** to include clear **ethical investment guidelines**. This aligns our financial decisions with the values that have always guided our work with donkeys and the broader environment.

Under the new guidelines, EDS will not invest in companies or funds that:

- Conduct animal testing involving donkeys or other equines,
- Trade in products derived from donkeys, such as hides or meat,
- Engage in practices that harm the environment or contribute to ecological degradation.

Instead, our investments will prioritise organisations that:

- Promote animal welfare, especially for donkeys and equines.
- Support sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation,
- Uphold strong ethical and social responsibility standards.

This change affirms that our principles must shape not only what we *do*, but also how we fund and support it. It will take some time for this alignment to be completely implemented.

Looking Ahead

These initiatives are part of a broader renewal underway at EDS, one in which we aim to live our values more fully and visibly across every aspect of the organisation. As we implement the Strategic Plan, we are not only advancing the care of donkeys and expanding outreach, we are also strengthening the heart of EDS: our people, our practices, and our principles. We thank our staff for engaging honestly and openly in this process, and we thank you, our wider community of donors, adopters, volunteers, and friends, for your continued belief in and support for our shared mission.

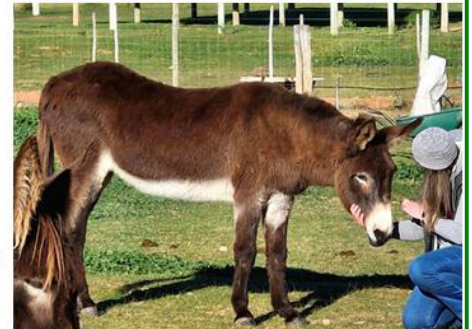
With warm regards, **Joe Samuels**, Chairperson of the Board, Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

At the Sanctuary

Stan Davidoff, our Donkey Care, Welfare and Farm Manager, reports that the donkey herd are in a good place at the moment, with no serious ailments or problems. This is due to constant monitoring of every donkey focussing on their eating, behaviour and temperament around people and each other. We monitor the feeding and needs of different donkeys and change it accordingly.

We do realize that we have quite a few older donkeys who's health can change overnight.

At the end of July we had to inform adopters that we had some very sad but not totally unexpected news about their adopted donkey "Sheila". Sheila had not been herself lately. We monitored her closely to make sure she was comfortable. In the last few days she became unstable on her feet. We discovered she had laminitis in all four feet. She lay down most of the time, was very unresponsive and had no fight left in her. In consulting with the vet, we both agreed that Sheila's quality of life had reached the point where the most humane and respectful decision was made to help her gently to her last resting place. Sheila arrived at EDS in 2007 approximately five or six years old. She has had a wonderful, well-cared for life at the Sanctuary and will be missed by all.



Over the last few months we had a few hoof abscesses, Mindy had a mild colic and some lameness that disappeared in a couple of days.

March was treatment month: Farriers from the Cart Horse Protection Association came to trim everyone's hooves.

We dewormed everybody, and will monitor their worm count every six months.

The equine dentist treated 11 donkeys, and inspected five more that are okay for the moment. The next batch will be checked later this year.



A few months ago we noticed some of the donkeys licking the ground, and realized that they were lacking something in their diet. We obtained some mineral blocks and they didn't last very long. We have since replaced them a few times especially for the bigger group.



At the end of April we finally collected Elizabeth, Lizzy for short, nicknamed Ore from the Agulhas Housing Estate. It was quite an ordeal as she had to be darted and tranquilized to load into the horsebox for transport. She was introduced into Sonop and Granny's group and is doing really well. From not even able to get near her, she will now take treats from your hand.

The temperament, handling and disposition of the donkeys has improved in the last few months. Some that were hardly able to be handled, now accept grooming and closer attention. We have had many compliments about their condition and how friendly the donkeys are.

(Picture opposite is Lizzy happily frolicking in the winter sun)



At the Sanctuary continued...

Feed Store and Solar Project:



This R2.3 million project is now well underway. In the past financial year we raised just over R800k for this and donations continue to come in from our adopters and donors.

The Feed Store and Solar Project plans were approved by the Langeberg Municipality in late May. The first site meeting was held the following week.

After removing the irrigation pipes and infrastructure from the site and relocating the fencing for the donkey's paddock we broke ground in mid-June with the levelling of the 250-square-metre site and digging of the foundations. By mid-August we will be at roof-plate height with the walls and expect to have the trusses in place within three weeks. Then will come the roofing and installation of the solar panels. We also have to lay approximately 480 metres of armoured cable to connect the solar panels and inverters to our electricity supply. This is our most ambitious capital project to date. When completed in just over two months it will provide secure storage for a year's worth of feed as well as house our solar energy project which aims to cut our electricity bill by 50%.



Donkeys for Africa, an international online portal supported by Eseltjiesrus, is dedicated to promoting donkey welfare across the continent. People from around the world come together with a shared passion for ensuring that donkeys are treated with respect and care. We invite you to visit www.donkeysforafrica.org to read our newsletters and reference library. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or have any items of interest for publication, please contact editor@donkeysforafrica.org to be added to the mailing list.



We are open for visits Thursdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm.

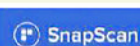
The donkeys will be delighted to meet you. Entrance is by donation. Visit our book and gift shop while you are here. Our coffee shop serves light meals and a variety of toasted sandwiches and drinks. Dogs are allowed on leashes. The Sanctuary is wheelchair friendly.



Make Eseltjiesrus a beneficiary on your MyPlanet Card.



We accept PayFast, Zapper & Snapscan along with traditional EFT, card and cash payments.



Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans.

Visit our website to securely donate, adopt a donkey or renew your adoption. Find out more about donkeys and use it to contact us:

www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

Email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

Call: +27 (0)23 625 1801

Facebook: www.facebook.com/eseltjiesrus-donkey-sanctuary

Instagram: www.instagram.com/eseltjiesrusdonkeysanctuary

View our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCRseHdhyztM6nOLSThl-hw



Find us on Google Maps

You will hear from us again: Adopters will receive a new donkey report during September 2025. Our next newsletter during November 2025. Please inform us of any address changes. Where possible we request that postal communications change to email.

Sincere thanks to all our Donkey Ambassadors for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our AGM! Hartlike dank aan al ons Donkie-Ambassadeurs. Ons hoop ons sien julle by ons AJV.



Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Board Statement on Employment Equity, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

The Board of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary reaffirms its steadfast dedication to fostering a workplace culture that champions the principles of Employment Equity, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. We believe that a diverse and inclusive workforce not only reflects our values but also drives innovation, resilience and long-term success. As an organisation dedicated to the welfare of donkeys and the communities that depend on them, we recognise that our mission is deeply rooted in the values of compassion, justice and respect for both animals and people.

We recognise that systemic barriers continue to exist in many workplaces, and we are committed to identifying, addressing, and removing those barriers to ensure that all individuals (regardless of race, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or socio-economic background) have equitable access to employment opportunities, career advancement and a respectful working environment.

Our commitment includes:

- ♦ **Employment Equity:** We strive to create fair hiring practices and advancement opportunities that are free from discrimination and bias, ensuring representation of historically marginalised groups.
- ♦ **Diversity:** We celebrate and value the differences that make each individual unique and actively seek to build teams that reflect the rich variety of our communities.
- ♦ **Equality:** We promote policies and practices that ensure equal access to opportunities and resources for all employees, creating a level playing field for success.
- ♦ **Inclusion:** We are committed to fostering a culture where every employee feels valued, heard, included and empowered to make a full contribution.

The Board believes that a diverse, inclusive and equitable workplace enhances our ability to serve communities, advocate for animal welfare and make a positive contribution to South African society. The Board is committed to providing oversight, leadership and accountability to ensure that these values are embedded in our organisational culture and operations. We invite our leadership, staff, partners and funders to join us in creating a workplace where everyone can thrive.

9 July 2025