



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #76 Feb to April 2026

Hello to you all, welcome to our latest newsletter with many exciting updates. Happy reading!

Feed Store and Solar Project completed

In June 2025 we began building a feed store big enough to hold a year's worth of feed. In the past, our feed stock was stored in the donkey shelters. The feed store is now finished with minor ground works still to be done. In addition, we decided to install solar power (linked to Eskom). This sits on the feed store roof and was completed in November. The solar system has supplied us with the bulk of our power since then, resulting in significant savings. The funding for these two projects came from a range of donors and bequests to the Sanctuary, for which we are very thankful.



Breaking ground
18 June



Walls go up -
18 July 2025



The Feedstore is complete
and solar panels installed
18 Nov 2025



First load of feed arrives
18 Nov 2025



Packing the feed in
the store
18 Nov 2025



Two more loads of
feed being packed
December 2025



Our Book Fair is back!

Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 May 2026

10am to 4pm

in the Oos-Kerk Hall,
van Zyl Street, Robertson

Thousands of new and pre-owned books at
bargain prices, in all genres.

There will also be a wide selection of books
available at the Sanctuary (Visitor Centre),
which will also include Sunday 10 May.

Enquiries: 023 625 1801

Email: bookfair@donkeysanctuary.co.za



Promoting the welfare and status of donkeys through a culture of caring

Adoptions

Adopting a donkey is a meaningful way to support our work. Your adoption helps us raise vital funds for rescue, veterinary care, food, and the daily care our donkeys depend on. Each adopted donkey represents a second chance - a life now safe, valued, and lovingly cared for. If you would like to help us with a donation or by adopting one of our donkeys, please go to:

<https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help>



Mother's Day 10 May

This Mother's Day, treat Mum to something truly special.

Come spend a gentle day in the country, meet the donkeys, soak up the fresh air and enjoy a delicious lunch together.

Slow down, connect and make memories that matter.



Dates for your diary:

Valentine's Day - Saturday 14 February

Book Fair - Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 May

World Donkey Day - Friday 8 May

Mother's Day - Sunday 10 May

Father's Day - Sunday 21 June

AGM - Wednesday 13 August 6pm via Zoom

St Francis Day - Sunday 3 October

Watch our Facebook page for details of these events and the specials on offer on these days.

Easter Weekend Opening Times 3 to 6 April 2026

We'll be taking a pause on **Good Friday** and will be **closed for the day**. Otherwise, we're open on Thurs, Sat and Sun from 10am to 4pm as usual, plus we are open on **Easter Monday** (10am to 4pm). Thank you for your ongoing support, and Happy Easter to you all.

Bequests:

A Bequest in your Will helps ensure the long-term care of rescued donkeys. Such gifts support essential costs, including feed, shelter, veterinary care, and ongoing rescue work, allowing the Sanctuary to continue operating sustainably into the future. Remembering the Sanctuary in your Will is a practical way to support animal welfare beyond your lifetime. Please contact us, and we can send you a leaflet with guidelines about this.



EDS in the news:

Over the past few months, there have been updates and articles published in Plus50 Magazine, Heritage Magazine, Standard Newspaper and on prominent online platforms such as GoodThingsGuy, Lifebrands and News24. In addition, there were radio interviews on PretoriaFM, MFM and Radio Helderberg and special mentions in segments on RSG and KFM.



Also in the news:

David Kramer, our Patron, has recently had the Freedom of the City of Cape Town bestowed upon him. It's a real honour, and we are basking in the reflected glory.

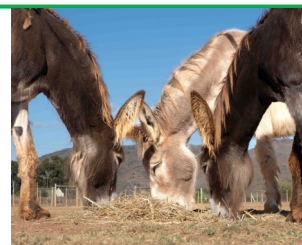
Please join us in wishing David a heartfelt congratulations from Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary and all our supporters.



On very hot and busy days, we may suspend visits in the fields for a while. This is also to safeguard our Visitor Guides, who often work outside all day. Please chat to the Visitor Guides on your arrival at the Sanctuary to see what the situation is. Thank you for understanding.

Donkey News

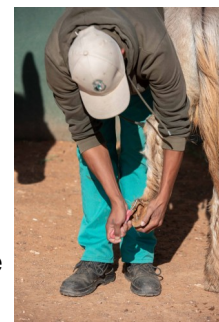
2026 has started out hot and dry. The donkeys don't seem to mind as they are well-adapted to harsh, arid areas. Due to special attention to feed and care, the condition of the donkeys has improved. Monitoring each individual gives us an idea of how they are doing. Several of our older donkeys are showing their age, but any changes are picked up and attended to right away.



In February, the pampering cycle begins. We begin with a visit from the farrier, followed by deworming and then a check-up from the dentist in March. Daily handling and care allows us to show them love, and get the shy donkeys used to being handled.



We are introducing daily enrichment for the donkeys. A few, such as the scratching posts, are already in place. Feeder puzzles in the form of blocks or baskets with treats sticking out and hanging edible branches and hay nets to occupy them longer. With all stimulation, we consider safety and treat-overload. Hopefully, the golden oldies will participate. We invite donkey fans to send us other creative ideas.



Farm maintenance continues as usual, focussing on clean, neat and tidy. Due to the extreme heat and fires in our area, a fire-prevention programme has been put in place.



Water has been a problem this year, with many areas experiencing drought. In March we will clean our dam, which involves removing plants, debris and logs. This will enable us to store a larger volume of water. We will also install a new above-ground reservoir (370kl) for water storage behind the Visitor Centre, helping us to get through the dry times.

We look forward to new volunteers assisting us this year. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in volunteering, please contact us for more info.

Visitors often ask what the donkey carers do each day:

At 8am the donkeys get breakfast. While they eat we roam among them making sure everyone is eating, healthy and no injuries. Then the staff cut up carrots and get the grooming brushes ready for morning care. This involves greeting and stroking each donkey, brushing (which is also cleaning and stimulating), scratching itchy spots, wiping the sleep around the eyes, cleaning the hooves with a hoof pick and finishing off with fly repellent. All get this kind of love daily. Thereafter, the donkeys move off to graze, and the care staff do farm chores. At lunch time, the donkeys come up for a quick snack and carers check that all are eating. After lunch, the carers do more farm chores and duties and prepare for evening feed at 4pm. The donkeys are checked again and tucked in for the evening. This is a normal day. Sometimes we have the vet, farrier or dentist visit, or something else that needs attention. The donkeys are always our top priority.



We would like to thank you for your continued support. Without it, we cannot offer these donkeys a forever home and also be able to help others in need.

Stan Davidoff (Donkey Care, Welfare and Farm Manager)

Be a forever Valentine with the perfect gift Valentine's Day - Saturday 14 February

Adopt a Donkey as a Valentine's Gift for your loved one (anonymously if you prefer) for a gift that will last all year long.

Adopt a donkey via www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help

Choose the amount you want to contribute and we'll do the rest.

A personalised gift set of adoption documents will be sent to your Valentine, with or without your name.



Woolies MyDifference

The MySchool programme, in its current form, will no longer be active after June 2026. Please could existing MySchool and WRewards customers join MyDifference on the Woolworths App and select Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary as their cause to keep supporting us. Here's what to do:

1. Download the Woolworths App on your phone.
2. Tap My Causes.
3. Please choose Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary to keep making a difference.

Although these contributions may seem small, together, they make a significant impact.
Thank you for your support.



Tax letter reminder

As the end of the tax year approaches, this is the perfect opportunity to ensure your support counts - not only for the donkeys but also for yourself. To qualify for tax relief, any donations for donkey welfare must be in our bank account and cleared by 28 February 2026. SARS now requires additional details for Section 18A tax certificates. If you have not yet completed our relevant form, please get in touch with us at adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za, and we will make sure your certificate is compliant.

Missing details: We sometimes receive contributions in our bank account without contact details or any form of identification. Please email adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za if you fall into this category, or have not received an acknowledgement of your deposits.

Coffee Shop menu update

The menu has changed. Some old favourites remain, and there are a few exciting new additions, such as this delicious vegetarian chickpea salad. Other changes include an All-day Breakfast and a choice of 'Add-ons' such as Rustic Chips or a Seasonal Salad.



EDS - A Meeting Place

We offer a relaxed venue for Book Clubs, Rummikub groups, meetings and celebrations. We can compile refreshments to suit your group. Please contact us: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans

Visit our website to securely donate or adopt a donkey. Find out more about our donkeys and use it to contact us: www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

phone: +27(0)23 625 1801

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/eseltjiesrusdonkeysanctuary/

Lang-Oor Nuus Erratum:

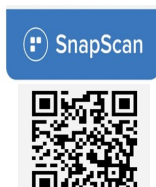
In the previous newsletter #75, November 2025, there was an error which we wish to correct.

In "Donkey News" on page 1 we used the phrase "AHS (Animal Horse Sickness)".

This should have read:
"AHS (African Horse Sickness)"

Our apologies for this slip.

We accept PayFast, Zapper & SnapScan
Along with EFT, card and cash payments.



You will hear from us again:

Our next newsletter will reach you during May 2026 and new donkey reports during March. Section 18A tax certificates will be sent in late April. We welcome visitors from Thursdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm. Please let us know in advance if your group is more than 5 people. Dogs on leads are welcome. The Sanctuary is wheelchair friendly. Entrance is by donation.

By EFT or Bank Deposit: Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary, Standard Bank, Savings account 288244419. Please use your name as reference and send proof of payment to adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za.