



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #71, November 2024 - January 2025

Dear Donkey Friends

Welcome to our 71st newsletter! Settle back with your favourite refreshment and share in the activities at Eseltjiesrus.

From our Fields

We currently care for 30 donkeys and one mule, Duke, at the Sanctuary. They are all well and were happy to see the signs of Spring after a long, cold and wet winter. In October we welcomed two elderly donkeys from Velddrif on the West Coast. Due to her declining health, their owner was no longer able to provide the care they had enjoyed for 24 years. We appreciate her efforts in ensuring that their twilight years will be safe and comfortable.

In November we welcomed Stan Davidoff as our Donkey Care Officer. Stan is well known and respected in equine circles and we hope you will enjoy “upgrading” to donkeys, Stan!



The two new arrivals

Rest in peace, Michael

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our loyal farrier Michael Mangani, in July and extend our condolences to his family and loved ones. Michael had been with us from our inception and his gentle, patient manner built trust in our donkeys.

We searched for a new farrier with care, as donkey hooves differ from horse hooves significantly in shape, size and angle. Fortunately, the farriers at the Cart Horse Protection Association in Cape Town readily agreed to assist us. They are providing their services at no cost as part of their outreach programme, and are also training some of their younger farriers to work with donkey hooves.

In addition they offered to train our staff in basic farriery. This highlights the importance of regular networking and building relationships with like-minded organisations, as we have been doing with CHPA for many years.

Outreach

We were honoured to present guest lectures to the students in the Ethology Department at the Onderstepoort Vet Faculty, University of Pretoria. The sessions in August and October were enjoyed by students and staff alike, and we were delighted by their interest and the questions that followed the lectures. Each student received a manual covering the relevant topics and we trust that these booklets will be valuable resources for many years.

We look forward to a continuation of our relationship with Onderstepoort in the future.



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

Email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za • Tel: 023 625 1593 • Web: www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

Bank: Standard Bank, Savings # 288244419 • Patron: David Kramer • NPO: 056-575 • PBO: 930028734



From our Visitor Centre

We welcome group visits by arrangement, and have enjoyed hosting many such events since we opened in 2007. Each school or youth visit is designed specifically for the participants. This creates a meaningful event, ensuring that they learn about our work and our focus on developing a culture of caring for animals, humans and the environment. During a recent visit in October, we were assisted by the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Sons of God Reach, led by Pastor Eugene Petersen. The Sons of God is a non-profit organisation that focuses on rehabilitating teens struggling with drug abuse.

Please contact Leonard at visitors@donkeysanctuary.co.za to discuss a special visit for your group.

Plan your visits during the Festive Season



Our friendly Guides will meet you at the Visitor Centre, where you can enjoy refreshments from our Coffee Shop and browse through our Donkey Gift Shop and well-stocked Book Shop. The Visitor Centre and restrooms are wheelchair accessible.

Adam's Walk is a short stroll through the Sanctuary with a number of interesting information points along the way. Please note that access to the fields may occasionally be suspended to give the donkeys a break from human interaction, and during unfavourable weather conditions.

Thank you for your understanding.

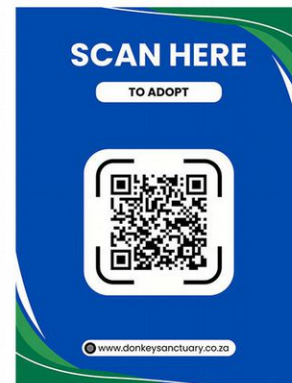
Shopping from your armchair

Are you struggling to find unique and meaningful Festive Season gifts? Adopt a donkey for a loved one! It's so easy - and we do all the work.

First meet our donkeys at <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/about-eseltjiesrus-donkey-sanctuary/our-donkeys>

Shopping from your armchair (cont.)

Then choose the donkey that tugs at your heartstrings and complete the application form.



You will be directed to PayFast, our online payment option. Please note that PayFast only supports one-off payments and does not accommodate recurring payments.

Alternatively you may prefer to set up EFT transactions. We welcome any amount: monthly, annually or at your convenience. Our bank details appear on page 4 of this newsletter.

Feedback from adopters

Twice a year, every adopter and recipient of an adoption gift receives an eagerly awaited report on their special donkey. We love compiling these reports and greatly value the wonderful feedback we receive.

Here are some examples of responses from supporters:

- Thank you so much for sending me an update on Lola. She is just so adorable and her latest picture is so heart-warming to me. Even though I have not met her in person I love her to bits! Her pictures and adoption certificate are pasted on the walls of my office right in front of my desk. Liane
- Thanks for the update. It keeps my heart warm. Alan
- Thank you so much for the detailed report regarding Sheila and Jasper, my adoptive donkeys. The kind hearted, caring attitude towards the donkeys is quite wonderful to note and this inspires us to belong and donate to Eseltjiesrus. Dawn and Pieter

Or



Het jy geweet?

Lalasini is 'n gratis aanlyn publikasie wat in 75 lande gelees word, met meer as 34 600 unieke lesers. Eseltjiesrus is verheug dat die redaksie 'n gratis banier-advertensie vir ons plaas in hul Feesuitgawe wat pas verskyn het. Kyk gerus op bladsy 39 van <https://lalasini.co.za/om/#p=1>. Geniet die tydskrif en deel die skakel met julle vriende, veral in die buiteland. Baie dankie, Lalasini!



COMING SOON

Say hello to our brand new 2025 EDS calendars – the perfect addition to your home or office, and a unique gift! Available from 1 December. Watch our social media pages for details of the price and how to order. The dimensions are 120 x 210mm made up, with each side showing six months.

For more info contact Leonard at visitors@donkeysanctuary.co.za

A secure feed store

Feed is harvested seasonally so is available at certain times of the year at lower prices. Baled feed can be stored for long periods of time if adequately protected against the elements.

A year ago we embarked on a campaign to raise funds for a dedicated facility for the storage of bulk feed supplies, to ensure a continuous supply of feed throughout the year for our donkeys.

We are happy to report that we are making excellent progress. Thanks to our loyal supporters and new partners, we have raised an incredible R600,000 towards building the feed store. This is almost enough to complete the project.

A local architect has developed and submitted plans for approval and we expect to begin building early in 2025. The provisional sketch below shows the planned Feed Store, with the staff facilities and offices that will be added at a later stage.

Further improvements to our facilities

Following extensive research and consultations, we want to install solar panels on the roof of the feed store which will be constructed in 2025.

If we utilize a solar-based grid-tied system, we could reduce the annual cost of electricity required to drive our pumps for irrigation, by 50%.

The total estimated cost for the solar installation is R350,000. We will approach potential funders and also readers of this newsletter for support. We would also appreciate it if you could circulate our request within your networks, or alert us to any potential funders.

For more details please contact Tony, our Finance Manager, at admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za



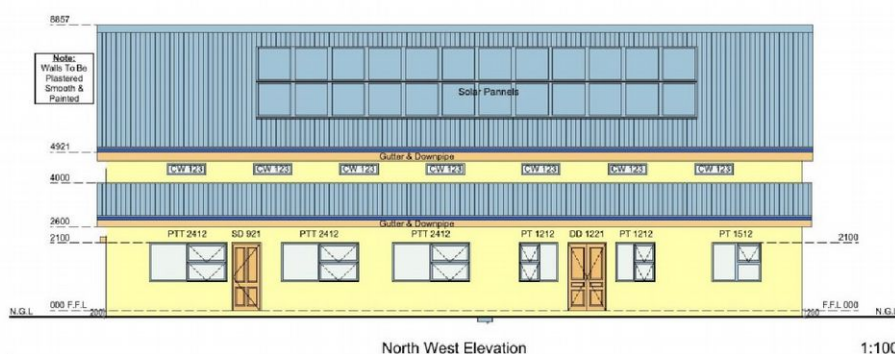
An early reminder about tax relief

As you know, the end of the tax year approaches with the cut-off date being 28 February 2025. To qualify for tax relief any donations for donkey welfare must be in our bank account and cleared by 28 February 2025.

If you have not contributed recently, or want to “top-up” your support, please consider taking advantage of the tax relief available by donating to us before this date.

Please note that SARS now requires additional information for Section 18A tax certificates. If you want a tax certificate and have not yet completed the relevant form, please contact us and we will send it to you to ensure that your Section 18A certificate is compliant with regulations.

We sometimes receive contributions without contact details or any form of identification. Please contact adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za if you may fall into this category, or have not received acknowledgement of your deposits.



Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting on 14 August are available on our website.

The meeting approved the annual audited financial accounts, also on our website, elected three new members to the Board and awarded life membership to Anthony Coombe, Anne Stone and Cindy Lange.

The three newly-elected non-executive Board members are Rika Cilliers, Joe Samuels and Ralston van der Schyff. They join the Board members Andrea van Lille, Lorna Fuller, Carole Hambleton-Moser, Sarah Kvalsvig, Louise Matschke, Jim McNamara, Mirah Ranchod and Marinda Weideman. Lydia Plaatjies was appointed to the Board as the Executive Manager.

Annemarie and Johan van Zijl are the Founders of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary and as such are members of the Board.

At a Special Board meeting on 28 August 2024 Joe Samuels was elected Chairperson of the Board, following in the footsteps of Anthony Coombe and Johan van Zijl.

We appreciate the Board members' dedication to the promotion of donkey status and welfare, and look forward to expanding the impact of our work under their guidance.

Our staff – and our donkeys – wish every one of you a blessed, safe and restful Festive Season.

Mag die jaareinde rustig en vreugdevol wees!



You can help us to help donkeys by:
DONATING • ADOPTING • VISITING & BUYING OUR BOOKS, OUR GIFTS & OUR WINE • VOLUNTEERING
• PUTTING A DONKEY IN YOUR WILL

We accept PayFast (via our website) Zapper & Snapscan along with traditional EFT, card and cash payments.

zapper



Scan here to pay



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

From the Editor

After 17 years and 71 issues, it is time for a new editor to take over this publication. This marks the last newsletter edited by co-founder Annemarie.

Starting from simple beginnings in February 2007, with support from Mulberry Studio in McGregor, the newsletter has evolved gracefully over the years.

Our Communication Consultant, the late Peter Blum, played a significant role in enhancing this important publication. Peter's passion for donkey welfare has left a lasting legacy, visible in our publications, signage, and overall identity. His business card described him as a "Content creator, message maker, thought shaker." You truly fulfilled that role, Peter! We honour your memory and commitment.

We invite you to explore the newsletter archives at

<https://donkeysanctuary.co.za/newsletter-archive>

for a fascinating look at our journey over the past 17 years.

MyPlanet, going paperless



MyPlanet is committed to protecting the planet and is transitioning to digital sign-ups of new supporters.



- ONLINE: Go to www.myschool.co.za and select Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary. You can have up to three beneficiaries on one card.
- SMS: JOIN Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary to 31231 MyPlanet will call you back (SMS is Free)
- SCAN: Use the QR code on the left.



Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

You will hear from us again.

The next Lang-Oor Nuus will reach you in February 2025.

Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans.

Visit our website to securely donate, adopt a donkey or purchase our wine. 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 1593

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/eseltjiesrusdonkeysanctuary

View our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCRseHdhzytM6nOLSThl--hw



Find us on Google Maps

BANK DETAILS: Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary • Standard Bank • Branch Code 050413 • Savings Account: 288244419

You can also pay by SnapScan or Zapper (see the codes above). Donations, adoptions, renewal of adoptions and wine orders can be made via our website at www.donkeysanctuary.co.za through PayFast which accepts credit/debit cards and instant EFTs.

Please identify your deposits so that we can thank you, record your details and issue Section 18A tax certificates.