



# LANG-OOR NUUS

## Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter/Nuusbrief #54, Aug - Oct 2020

## New residents at our Sanctuary

Four donkeys from Animal Rescue Organisation (ARO) in Cape Town join our tribe

The circle of life continues and we welcomed Quagga, Penny, Luna and Eeyore at Eseltjiesrus when circumstances led to them having to relocate from ARO. Once they have settled in the reception camp

and learned our ways they will join the other donkeys. Eeyore (our second rescued donkey by this name) will move to be a companion to Japie, left alone at the van Zijls' home after Valie recently died.



*Quagga, Penny, Luna and Eeyore happily grazing at their forever home.*

## Please join our Annual General Meeting 26 August 2020 at 6pm

This year the AGM will take place via email and the electronic medium Zoom. We realise that not everyone wants to "Zoom" but if you can get to a computer we encourage you to participate that way:

- To participate via email please let us know and we will send you the documents and a reply form.
- To register for the AGM via Zoom please send your full name and email address and we will email you the AGM documents as well as the meeting code and password.

If you prefer to receive the documents per post after the meeting, please let us know.

### Proxy votes

If a member is unable to attend the AGM you may appoint the Chairperson of the AGM to vote on your behalf via proxy. Please indicate as such in your reply.

### RSVP by 21<sup>st</sup> August to

[admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za) or 023 625 1593  
with the following information:

- your full name if you wish to attend our AGM.
- please indicate if you are willing to stand for the vacant Board position (we will then contact you).
- if you would like the Chairperson to act as a proxy on your behalf.
- any apologies.

All current adopters, donors and volunteers are automatically members of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary and are therefore eligible to vote at our AGM. Our AGM meeting is also open to the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at 023 625 1593 if you have any further questions. Thank you for your support and taking an interest in donkey welfare.

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

**Email:** [info@donkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:info@donkeysanctuary.co.za) • **Tel:** 023 625 1593 • **Web:** <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za>

**Post:** PO Box 29 McGregor, 6708, South Africa • **Patron:** David Kramer • **NPO:** 056-575 • **PBO:** 930028734

## Donkey news

### Winter in McGregor

Generally the donkeys have stayed in good condition in spite of the colder weather. There have been a few hoof abscesses and sprains, probably from slipping on muddy ground, but the herd is happy and healthy – and missing the interactions with visitors.

### Fresh food busy growing

One of our big fields has been rehabilitated with fertiliser and fresh seed. The grazing is coming up most pleasingly. This is an expensive exercise and if it is successful we plan to reseed one of our main fields every year.

### Signage

A massive storm a few weeks ago damaged some of our signage and a few trees. We are attending to these.

### Tax certificate?

Have you received your Section 18A tax certificate from us? These were issued in May but many folk have mislaid theirs or not received them. Please let us know if you need yours re-issued.

### A time for learning

We have diligently enrolled for a number of webinars which are proliferating during lockdown. Amongst others

there were the webinar with Ben Hart from The Donkey Sanctuary on How to train Donkeys and mules using the science of behaviour, and discussions on Animal Law. Perfect opportunities to broaden our perspectives.

### Book Fair

Our major annual fundraising event, the Book Fair, is postponed but we still accept donations of books and we sell books at the Sanctuary. We have accumulated a most magnificent collection of books on all topics – the next Book Fair will therefore offer the best selection ever.

### Oumatjie in My Planet Newsletter

Eseltjiesrus was featured in the June newsletter of My Planet, telling the story of Oumatjie. Please remember to use your My Planet card when you shop, and add us as a beneficiary (you can have up to three beneficiaries).

### A donkey adoption

This is a most convenient gift: no wrapping, postage or delivery charges! Recently we sent a donkey adoption gift to a family in the Falklands, as well as one to New Zealand. We welcome any amount for an adoption and you get a tax certificate: surely no other gift could beat this. Visit <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help> to choose the special donkey, complete the adoption form and we do the rest. A perfect gift for loved ones, or spoil yourself.

## Behind the scenes

### Biatrice Losch Guide and Donkey Carer

Biatrice joined the Eseltjiesrus team three years ago as one of our Guides and Carers. She enjoys interacting with the donkeys and says that it is good to know that her work is important.

Biatrice has a young daughter and is very comfortable guiding school groups. She says “it is wonderful to see their faces light up the first time they see and hear a donkey.” She learns from these young visitors as they readily express their thoughts.

During lockdown, when we did not receive visitors, Biatrice did more Donkey Care tasks and found it interesting to see the massive amount of routine work needed to keep the donkeys and the farm in good condition.



## Open to visitors from Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Book your donkey experience with us at 023 625 1593



- **Opening times** are Thursdays to Sundays from 10am till 2pm.
- **Please make a booking** for your visit at 023 625 1593 or via email at [info@donkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:info@donkeysanctuary.co.za) as we will only take a small number of visitors each day. No groups of more than six people will be accepted. We cannot combine groups. Walk-in visitors may have to wait their turn if we have booked groups.
- **Compulsory Covid prevention** measures will be in place: masks, social distancing and sanitising measures. A Guide will meet you at the Visitor Centre.
- **No restaurant facilities** initially. Please support the restaurants in McGregor.

*\*This arrangement is subject to change, depending on the progress of the pandemic. Help us to provide a relaxing interlude while also keeping everyone safe.*

*The donkeys look forward to seeing you again – they have missed their visitors!*

## Farewell, dear Valie



*Valie on the right with devoted friend Japie.*

Some 20 years ago two bedraggled donkeys were rescued from the brick-works outside McGregor and took up residence in the garden of the van Zijls' home in the village. Their presence led to the creation of Eseltjiesrus.

The older, more worn one was called Japie and his younger, more bouncy friend was called Valie. We always thought that Valie would outlive Japie by years. This was not to be: in June Valie developed a neurological condition that did not respond to the best veterinary efforts. He deteriorated and was humanely euthanased on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Fly free, Valie, your inspiration has led countless donkeys to better lives. We miss you sorely.



*Eeyore meeting Japie. He will assist this nearly blind donkey and they will keep each other company.*

### Het jy geweet?

**Blinde donkies kan baie goed klaarkom as hulle 'n maat het wat goed sien en solank hulle in 'n bekende area bly.**

## Donkies op die radio

### Esel tjiesrus participates in a weekly radio discussion about donkeys on RSG

Ons is bevoorreg om genooi te wees om elke Dinsdag om 09h30 op RSG, die nasionale radiostasie, oor donkies te gesels.

We have been privileged to be invited to present a weekly series of talks about donkeys, on RSG, the national Afrikaans radio station, every Tuesday at 09h30.

Do tune in while this series is on the air. We can send you the links to the podcasts if you would like to catch up on this series of talks.

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

The response from the public has been most pleasing, with regular phone calls from listeners sharing their donkey experiences, new adoptions, and requests for information. Baie dankie, Amore Bekker en RSG!



DIS DIE EEN

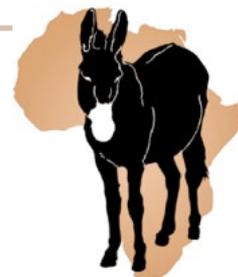


*The herd listens attentively every Tuesday morning....*

**Donkeys for Africa** continues unaffected by lockdown in different countries. This communication portal now interacts regularly with 21 countries on our continent.

Please visit [www.donkeysforafrica.org](http://www.donkeysforafrica.org) for interesting donkey welfare information.

Many organisations have come to a standstill as funding is diverted to combat Covid, but Donkeys for Africa continues to present relevant and educational news. Sincere thanks to The Donkey Sanctuary in the UK for making this possible.



### You will hear from us again:

Donkey reports will be sent to adopters during September and the next Lang-Oor Nuus is due in November. Please inform us of any change in address, and let us know of friends who would enjoy receiving our news. Donkeys need Donkey Ambassadors!



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Visit our website at [www.donkeysanctuary.co.za](http://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za) and follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/EselTjiesrus-Donkey-Sanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/EselTjiesrus-Donkey-Sanctuary)  
Email us at [info@donkeysanctuary.co.za](mailto:info@donkeysanctuary.co.za)

*Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans. Dankie dat u omgee!  
Bly veilig.*

*Warm greetings/vriendelike groete van almal by Esel tjiesrus.  
Stay safe.*

**BANK DETAILS:** Esel tjiesrus 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](http://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.