



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #69, May – July 2024

A new phase for Eseljtjesrus

In April 2024 there was an important addition to the staff at Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary with Dr Lydia Plaatjes appointed as Executive Manager.

Lydia comes with proven managerial experience in overseeing operational procedures and in creating innovative approaches leading to organisational improvement.

Since inception of the Sanctuary, our efforts have been geared to impact positively on donkey welfare, and we welcome her to this challenging and exciting position at our Sanctuary.

The chair of the Board, Dr Johan van Zijl, asked Lydia for her initial responses:

Q: What about this new post appealed to you?

Lydia: "I bring much experience from diverse sectors, though the animal welfare sector is new for me. I embrace this opportunity for first-hand experiential learning, as I've always thrived in new environments and enjoy the challenges they bring."

Q: What will your single main aim be in this position?

Lydia: The achievement within this job would be the donkeys' well-being and quality of life under the Sanctuary's care through the implementation of effective animal welfare practices, developing innovative solutions to possible challenges facing the Sanctuary, increasing public awareness and support for donkey welfare, and fostering a positive and nurturing environment for both the animals and staff.

Ultimately, the most significant achievement would be to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of the donkeys and the community.

Q: Growth is often challenging but stressful, but is a prime requisite for any sustainable organisation. How do you think you will face up to this situation?

Lydia: Navigating the landscape of the non-profit sector in today's economic climate presents formidable challenges. With survival and relevance at stake, the need for growth and adaptation becomes clear. As NPOs strive to thrive in this dynamic environment, embracing change becomes not just a choice but a vital imperative.

Q: Your biggest wish for Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary?

Lydia: After meeting staff and witnessing their deep understanding, love, and commitment to the donkeys' well-being, I'm genuinely inspired. Therefore, my wish for Eseljtjesrus is to experience abundant growth and prosperity.

"Thank you, we are sure that significant support for you in the crucial and constant efforts to aid donkeys, will be forthcoming from many different directions. Alles van die beste!" concluded Johan.



Our new Executive Manager Lydia meets Eseljtjesrus resident Gretel.

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



Donkey Care, Welfare and Farm

Inevitably some of our donkeys are getting quite long in the tooth, but the general herd health is very good. Individual Care is still a treasured part of everyone's day – not only because there is a treat involved, but a thorough Care session together with an apple a day, really does keep the Vet away.

Our donkeys have had three farrier visits over the last four months, and some donkeys had a routine dental check.

After a deworming procedure we were delighted to see that our entire herd's worm egg counts have improved greatly. Individual manure samples were analysed and treatments were targeted.

Bobby, who joined our family in November last year, is settling in and has now been partially integrated into a small herd of his own. He absolutely loves his paddock mates even though he does not always agree with them about everything.

We procure all our winter feed early in the year to ensure that we have enough baled feed to last us through the winter and this year was no different.



Erica van Rhyn with Sheila and Guide Emelisia Filander in the background.



Volunteer Ava Cowgill with her friend Beauty.

We obtained around 1,400 bales of three different grasses and we cannot wait to move them to our new Feed Store being built this year.

A knowledgeable volunteer visited from Plettenberg Bay and we benefitted from our shared experiences. A regular volunteer, Erica, helps every Friday morning and a new young volunteer Ava has joined the ranks. Be assured how much we appreciate these helping hands.

Visitor Centre

We welcome groups to our Sanctuary, to learn about the work we do.

Recently, we again hosted the McGregor Primary School. Their visit focused on the theme of Thankfulness, and what better place to learn about true thankfulness than among our donkeys. The ACVV Huisvergenoege from Worcester was another special group we hosted.

We offer a calm and tranquil space for meetings. The

McGregor Tourism Committee held their quarterly meeting at our Sanctuary. We'd love to host your next meeting.

Whether you're a donkey enthusiast, a nature lover, or love good quality books - visiting Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary will leave a lasting impression.

Contact Leonard at visitors@donkeysanctuary.co.za or 023 6251 801 to arrange a visit. Please let us know in advance if there will be more than five people.



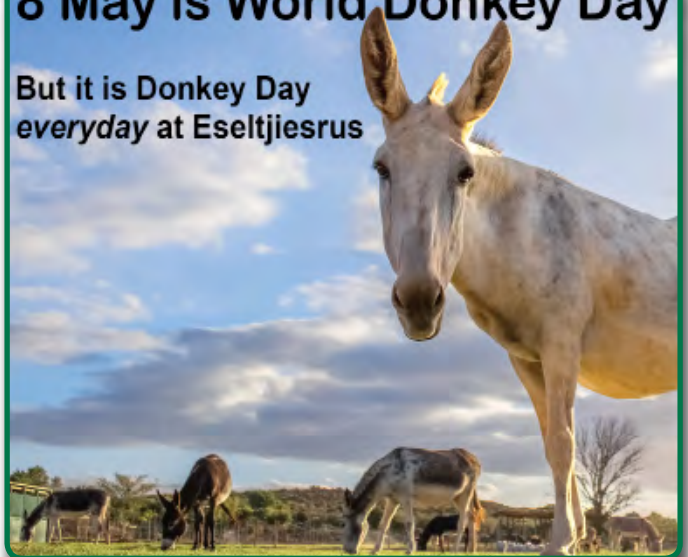
Sports fundraising

Eseltjiesrus benefitted from campaigns run by seven cyclists who rode in the Cape Town Cycle Tour on 10 March this year. Over R41,000 was raised and in the process many of their supporters became aware of the Sanctuary and our work. Our heart-felt appreciation to everyone who pedalled hard, to those who generously contributed, and also to our Board member Carole Hambleton-Moser for driving the campaign so energetically.

If you are taking part in a sports or similar event, why not create a GivenGain campaign and invite your friends and fellow participants to encourage you and at the same time support us by making a donation? We will help you set up and publicise your campaign. Contact us to chat about your ideas.

8 May is World Donkey Day

But it is Donkey Day everyday at Eseltjiesrus



Het jy geweet?

Woensdag 8 Mei is Wêreld Donkie-dag en word reeds in talle lande herdenk.

Dit is 'n kans om hulde te bring aan hierdie hardwerkende en geduldige diere wat elke dag die welvaart van gesinne in veral plattelandse gebiede moontlik maak.



Communication, Outreach and Advocacy

The donkeys lucky enough to live out their lives at Eseltjiesrus serve as the ‘shop window’ for the needs of their less fortunate relatives elsewhere. To extend the impact of our work, we have to communicate widely, and our Outreach and Advocacy work is critical.

Eseltjiesrus featured on the TV programme Platteland Toe – view this at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11YUmUhaQseCAfpao7FLU1alNpnGvvnqn/view> (If you have difficulty opening the link, just download the entire video.)

We gave a talk on our work at the Salon Hecate event at the Noordhoek Art Point Gallery and received a substantial donation from a raffle – thank you to the organisers!

We presented our One Health, One Welfare workshops at Ashers Farm Sanctuary near Pretoria in March, and in Oudtshoorn in April. Both events were well supported and enjoyed. A bonus is the networking that occurs at the workshops, also during tea and lunch breaks.

Feedback included:

“I liked the interactive approach that the workshop offers. The talk makes you think about what alternatives you can do instead of just telling communities what they are doing wrong.”

“I had limited knowledge about donkeys but now my knowledge has increased.”

“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to attend the course, and from my personal perspective, these afford critical networking opportunities between organisations which can only benefit animals in need.”

Ban on donkey skins trade

A ban on the donkey skin trade for use in traditional Eastern medicine, was adopted by the heads of state and government at the African Union Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2024. This generated global approval. South Africa has a legal export quota of 10,500 skins per annum. It is now up to the government to turn this around and legally implement the recommended ban on the trade from our country.



This will take some serious lobbying and advocacy.

Each and every one of our readers, supporters and friends can promote awareness of donkey welfare and its challenges.

YOU can be a Donkey Ambassador. They need your voice. In particular, raise awareness about the need to ban the skins trade from South Africa. Write to the press, mobilise other animal welfare organisations, contact policy makers. We can send you information to promote this cause.

The Nico Benadé Fund

On 9 September 2020 the young veterinarian Nico Benadé was tragically killed in a car accident. Nico had a great love for donkeys and was committed to improving the lives of these hard-working animals.

To honour his memory, the Benadé family established the Nico Benadé Fund, administered by Eseltjiesrus, to provide veterinary care for needy donkeys.



Currently the fund is depleted after covering necessary treatments for a number of donkeys.

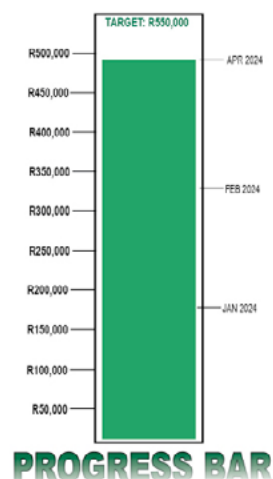
Help us to further the passion of Nico and his family.

Please consider donating into our Standard Bank Savings Account: 288244419 with your contact details and reference NB.

Update on our Feed Store campaign

We are delighted with the amount of just under R500,000 raised to date. Thank you to all the generous donors who supported our appeal.

- The Feed Store will be erected on the edge of the Otter Paddock, just below the dam.
- We are in consultation with an architect, working towards a layout and design concept.
- After that will be the appointment of the chosen architect, final plans, submission of plans to the Municipality, detailed costing for materials, builder and other items.
- The Feed Store roof will serve as the base for the installation of solar power once funds have been raised for that project.



Notice of Annual General Meeting



We warmly invite you to participate in our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 14 August 2024 at 6pm. There is also an email option for participation. The meeting is open to the public.

Enjoy hearing and seeing what you have helped Eseltjiesrus to achieve this past year.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of 2023 AGM (available on our website)
3. The work of the Sanctuary
4. Annual Financial Statements (will be available on our website shortly)
5. Appointment of auditors
6. Election of the Board of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary
7. Any other business and closure.

Election of the Board

Board members serve for three years and each year the term of office for some of them ends. This coming year there are two vacant positions on the Board. We invite anyone interested in standing for the Board to contact us by 1 August 2024.

To take part in our AGM, please send your full name and email address to admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za by Thursday 1 August 2024, indicating whether you will participate via Zoom or email. We will then send you the necessary information and documents. Please also send us any apologies and tell us if you would like the Chairperson (Johan van Zijl) to act as a proxy on your behalf.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. Thank you for caring and taking an interest in donkey welfare.

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

Our Book Fair is back in the village

Note the dates and come visit our donkeys at the same time

2024 BOOK FAIR 14 - 16 JUNE in McGregor

Community Hall, Voortrekker Street, Fri 14, Sat 15 June, 10am-4pm, Sun 16 June, 10am-2pm

BOOK FAIR

Our Book Fair is back at the Community Hall, Voortrekker St, McGregor, this year. Friday 14 June to Sunday 16 June from 10am till 4pm (Sunday closing at 2pm). We will have fresh stock every day, at excellent prices. Large stock of new children's books and special story-telling opportunities for kids. Enquiries: 023 625 1270 or bookfair@donkeysanctuary.co.za

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You will hear from us again:

The next Lang-Oor Nuus will reach you in August 2024. Donkey Reports were sent to our adopters during March. Please let us know if you did not receive yours. Inform us of any changes in your contact details, and tell us of friends who would like to receive our newsletters. Where possible we request that postal communications change to email, but we will post information if that is what you prefer.

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

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/UCRseHdhyztM6nOLSThl--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.