



# LANG-OOR NUUS

## Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter/Nuusbrief #53, May - July 2020

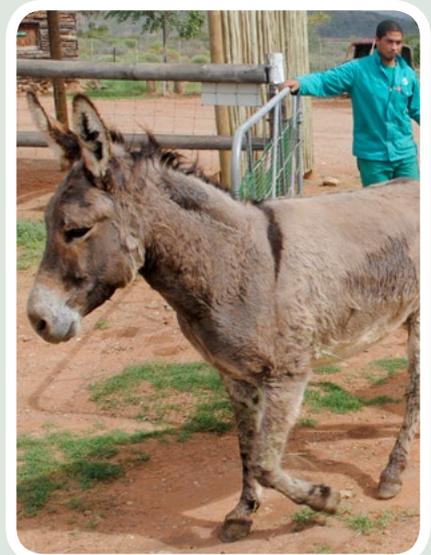
# Greetings from Eseltjiesrus

We are all experiencing a sense of loss in different ways: loss of freedom of movement and choice of pastimes, loss of time with loved ones, loss of pleasurable spontaneous activities. In many cases loss of jobs and

income. Most, if not all, of our readers are in some form of lock-down, in whatever part of the world you are. Here at Eseltjiesrus we have faced some additional losses which are detailed below.



We mourn the loss of Maria Demjan, a member of the Sanctuary family for many years. Maria was our HR consultant and acted as a volunteer Donkey Carer. This gave her insights into the complexities of donkey care and she also acted as Guide Co-Ordinator for a while. We shall miss her energetic presence.



We also experienced the sad loss of one of our donkeys, Patsy. Patsy and Eddie were in the group rescued from a petting zoo in 2010. After a number of years in a foster home where Patsy gave birth to Jasper, the little family came to the Sanctuary last year. A few weeks ago Patsy suddenly developed colic and the best veterinarian efforts were unable to save her. Our sincere appreciation to Juanita, our Donkey Care Manager, who spent the night at her side, and the numerous compassionate people who assisted in comforting Patsy and later making sure that the burial proceeded smoothly.

A loss experienced weekly at the Sanctuary is the loss of our visitors. This results in not only loss of adoptions on site, but also the loss of opportunities to create Donkey Ambassadors. We have had to cancel or postpone welfare workshops, some scheduled school visits and also sessions with local farm schools. Our appreciation to The Donkey Sanctuary for carrying over the funds for our workshops to a future date.

Nature abhors a vacuum so we are finding new opportunities to fill the voids left by these losses.

• We are using technology like Zoom and other electronic media to hold meetings.

• Administrative and communications work is done from our homes.

• Emails fly to and fro daily, not only between staff but also to our supporters.

• Our Facebook campaign of “days of donkey hugs” was very popular. This short presentation introducing our different donkeys and activities is on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/342092666706/videos/228056988258275/>

**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

All is well at the Sanctuary farm. There have been some changes in the herd compositions and use of fields. Donkey has joined Popeye, Bella and Oumatjie in the geriatric group. Here he is the dominant male and this has improved his mood. They have moved to the Olive Field and enjoy the change of scenery. Bella is showing signs of her age, with poor eyesight and needing extra supplements in her feed, and we do all we can to keep her comfortable. A pony blanket is washed and ready to keep her cosy in the cold nights that are approaching.

Our mule, Duke, has moved to the Otter Field next to Juanita's house, bringing him closer to the others. He was getting very lonely in the reception camp especially



*Quiet companions:  
Oumatjie and Popeye wearing their protective fly fringes.*

now that there are no visitors parking there. He exhibits strong stallion qualities and was recently gelded (neutered).

After Patsy's death her remaining family members, Eddie and Jasper, joined the main herd.

The different groups will rotate between the fields to ensure that the grazing rests at times, and to keep life interesting for the donkeys – more necessary now that there are no visitors.

Our sincere thanks to the teams who ensure that the donkeys and the farm are well maintained. We envy you being able to be outside in this glorious weather and surroundings, and we realise what hard physical work is involved. Stay safe.

### Behind the scenes

A friendly greeting from Michelle Uren, our Visitor Centre Co-ordinator, awaits visitors to Eseltjiesrus. Michelle started her relationship with the Sanctuary as a volunteer Donkey Carer.

This gave her a sound understanding of the donkeys' personalities and needs. Since August 2018 she has co-ordinated activities in the Visitors' Centre, working closely with our Guides Leonard and Biatrice, and acting as a Guide herself.

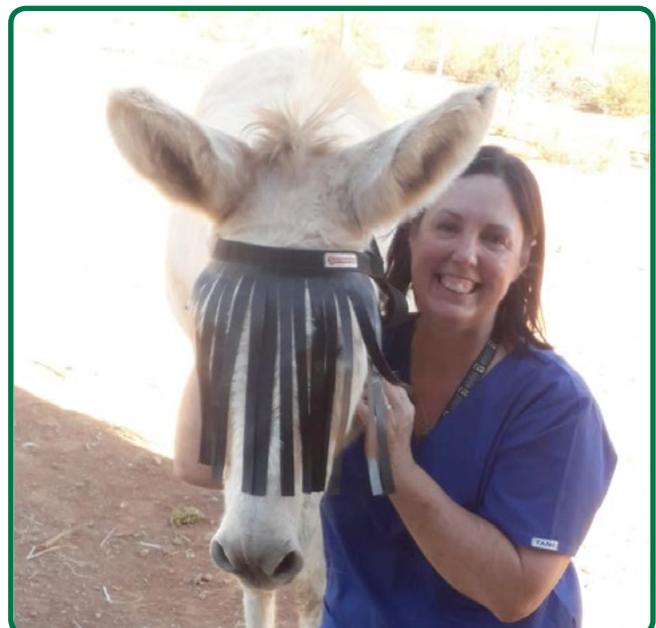
She makes sure that arrangements for group visits are in place and generally keeps an eye on the comings-and-goings at the Sanctuary as far as visitors are involved.

#### Adaptations in duties

Since the lockdown Michelle and the Guides have undertaken Donkey Care duties.

Michelle comments: "I am enjoying working with the care team. Initially I went home exhausted with muscles aching. It got much better after the first few days and it has given me a far better understanding of what it takes to run the farm. It has been good to feel closer to the donkeys again from a different perspective. I have felt a sense of accomplishment in simple tasks such as scrubbing

water troughs and seeing them shine as well as seeing clean shelters free of manure. It has been great to enjoy time in nature and listen to the birds in the early morning stillness. The smells and sounds of donkeys braying in welcome when I arrive are heart-warming. Working with all the donkeys is a privilege."



## Home schooling challenges

With the closure of schools many parents are learning more about their children's schooling than they might want to know! There is a constant search for ways to make work relevant and interesting.

Do look at our Teachers' Resource Pack: Donkey Nibbles and Donkie-happies. Both the English and Afrikaans packs are available as free downloads from our website at <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/resource-pack-english-intro>. They contain information and worksheets (with answers) for Grades 1 to 6, focusing on language and mathematics.

Perhaps suggest use of the packs to your teachers.

A suggestion for a class or home schooling activity: adopt a donkey! You will receive an adoption certificate, the history of the donkey and a report every six months, as well as a portrait of the donkey. Our newsletters provide an interesting variety of items that you can use for language skills, comprehension tests and general knowledge, while creating compassion for animals at the same time. Once lockdown is lifted the learners can come to meet their special donkey. Something to look forward to!

## Ways to support our work – even during lockdown

Adoption of a donkey is armchair shopping at its best. You choose the donkey, send us all the details and we will deliver the adoption to you and/or the recipient of your gift, by email. And you will receive a tax certificate for your donation, which can be as much or as little as suits you, monthly, annually or irregularly.

The cumulative result of your contributions is evident in the welfare of our herd. Choose your special donkey and complete the form at <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help>

We all still have to shop for essential goods. Using a My School/My Village/My Planet card benefits Eselftjiesrus without it costing you a cent. You can have up to three beneficiaries so please consider adding us if you already have a card. Cards are available at Woolworths, or by phoning 0860 100 445 during business hours, or online at [www.myschool.co.za](http://www.myschool.co.za) We are listed as beneficiary Eselftjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary [11431]

Our Donkey Shop at the Sanctuary is a treasure-chest of donkey items, most of which are hand-made by talented supporters. While you are cloistered at home, get creative and see what you can produce: we have knitting, fabric and crochet patterns of donkeys available, or make your own. Scarves or headgear with donkey ears are fun! Other items could be notepads, artwork, placemats or similar.

Our Winter Book Fair is our largest fund-raising event. Sadly this is postponed until the restrictions are lifted. We will keep everyone informed.



Our annual accounts for the year ending February 2020 are currently being audited. Adopters and donors with email will receive their Section 18A tax certificates for the last tax year early in May.

Please contact us if you do not get yours: sometimes deposits are not clearly identified and we have difficulty in allocating them to the correct donor.

### International Donkey Day

May 8<sup>th</sup> is recognised as World Donkey Day in many countries. Spend some time acknowledging the part played by donkeys in sustaining livelihoods and perhaps support a donkey welfare organisation of your choice. Visit [www.donkeysforafrica.org](http://www.donkeysforafrica.org) to see the important role fulfilled across Africa by this humble species.

**DONKEYS for AFRICA**

### Het jy geweet?

Donkies se pelse is nie so waterdig soos die van perde nie. Hulle kry swaar as hulle nie skuiling het teen reënweer en koue wind nie.

## We give individual attention to the needs of every donkey.

Popeye has sensitive feet. He now has soft “booties” fitted daily: spongy material under the hoof, held in place with Vetwrap. These are replaced daily to prevent dampness from affecting the sole. Let’s hope that he finds these comfortable – almost like slippers for an old man.



## Lockdown pastimes

Most of us have tackled the tidying up of cupboards, examining old files and sorting out documents. There is now time to bring your will up to date and ensure that your legacy will live on. A bequest costs you nothing now but reflects your commitment and passion.

A bequest to Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary is a simple but meaningful way to let your love for these humble animals live on. You don’t have to be wealthy to help donkeys in need; even a small amount will make a difference.

Make provision for your loved ones in your will and then allocate a specified amount, or particular items, or the residue of your estate to Eseltjiesrus. This will ensure that we can continue to provide refuge and

Adopters received donkey reports by email during March. Our postal supporters are missing out on our news while the postal service is suspended. If you know of supporters who do not have email, please print this and get it to them somehow.

care to donkeys in need and reach beyond our fences through education programmes, far into the future. Please ensure that you give the correct legal details for Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary.

You do not have to rewrite your will: a codicil is a simple way of adapting or adding to your intentions. Contact us for an example or download a codicil at <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/images/donkey-sanctuary/CODICIL-English-version.pdf>  
Die Afrikaanse weergawe is by <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/images/donkey-sanctuary/KODISIL-Afrikaans-version.pdf>

A bequest to a registered charity can carry favourable tax relief.

The Donkey Sanctuary in the UK presents a series of webinars on topics relevant to donkey welfare. Visit <https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/knowledge-and-advice/webinars> for up-to-date information and recordings of previous webinars.

**You will hear from us again:** we will keep you up to date with developments at the Sanctuary as lockdown regulations change. PLEASE notify us of address changes! Be a Donkey Ambassador: forward and share this newsletter widely with your friends, to publicise our work and the needs of donkeys. We thank all our loyal supporters, adopters and donors for being the lifeblood for our work: enabling us to care for our very special rescued donkeys and to assist other donkeys by still providing advice and guidance on correct care and management through communications. Together we will walk this Corona Camino and emerge wiser and more resilient.



Scan here to pay



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

Visit our website at [www.donkeysanctuary.co.za](http://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za) and follow us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/Eseltjiesrus-Donkey-Sanctuary-342092666706/](https://www.facebook.com/Eseltjiesrus-Donkey-Sanctuary-342092666706/)

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

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

**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](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.