



# LANG-OOR NUUS

## Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #59, Nov 2021 – Jan 2022

# Joy and sorrow

The circle of life continues at Eseljtjesrus

*We welcomed a new resident, Sonop, on 6th September, after a long journey from the Tankwa Karoo, with every African Horse Sickness protocol strictly observed along the way.*

A number of heroes played a part: the owner of the farm where the donkey appeared and who fed him for many months, the person who facilitated the process of moving him to Eseljtjesrus, the vets involved, the quarantine station who treated him royally, the farrier who did the initial trim, and many others who opened their hearts to this lone donkey.

He is now happily ensconced in the "oldies" group with an attitude of "I knew this needed to happen". He has a sweet, grateful nature and a very short tail.



**Every donkey that enters the Sanctuary will be loved and cared for until its last breath: that is our promise.**

*Oumatjie was gently laid to rest in September after her health had failed to the extent that she no longer had the prospect of good quality of life.*

This sweet donkey with the floppy ear crept into the hearts of so many of us, prompting a supporter to write: "I swear, looking out at the night time vista, past the haze of mist, there was a crooked star, as if with a floppy ear looking down on us."

Juanita, our Donkey Care Manager, wrote: "You embraced your life here at the Sanctuary from day one with gusto: love, dignity, shelter, food and friendship were yours for the taking and you made sure you got as much of it as possible. You will be so, so dearly missed, but we'll be looking out for that floppy ear one day ... till me meet again, sweet girl."

## Support Climb4Hope in Montagu on Saturday 13th November.

Three charities benefit from this well organized event and Eseljtjesrus is one of them. Even if you are not a rock climber or hiker, your donation will increase the amount distributed to the charities, or you can help by donating prizes.

Visit <https://climb4hopesa.co.za/> for details and to register online. This is a safe, fun event to challenge the enthusiasts while benefitting animal and human welfare. The event ends off with a prize giving evening.

**Eseljtjesrus Donkey Sanctuary**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2021**

**CLIMBING AND HIKING IN MONTAGU**

**Please support this event to raise funds for:**

The Climb4Hope climbing and hiking charity event will be raising funds for Eseljtjesrus, DKMS and AML. Enjoy a weekend in the idyllic Breede River Valley setting, hiking or climbing. The event will be hosted at de Bos Guest farm in Montagu as in the previous two years and the format will be much the same. Please come and support this event, Climb4Hope are hoping to raise R100 000 for the three charities.

**www.climb4hope.co.za**

Climb4Hope SA Foundation is a registered NPO 243-300

*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:** [www.donkeysanctuary.co.za](http://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za)

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

## At the Sanctuary:

The main herd spends weekends in the Guiding Field to be easily accessible for visitors. During the week they move to different paddocks.



*Above: Our donkeys have weathered the winter well and we are at the first building stages of erecting an additional shade structure in the Guiding Field, for their comfort in summer.*



*From left to right: Leonard Jordaan, Sonop, Biatrice Losch, Emelisia Filander, and Jamein Stevens.*

We congratulate Leonard Jordaan on his appointment as Visitor Centre Manager. Leonard is well known to many of you and is supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated team of Guides. Biatrice has been with us since 2018 and Jamein and Emelisia joined us recently. The visitors, and donkeys, are in good hands.

### Het jy geweet?

Daar is wel ander Donkey Sanctuaries in Suid-Afrika. Wat Eseltjierus uniek maak, is ons opleidings-slypskole wat deur die Veeartsraad geakkrediteer word.

### Behind the scenes

## Sam Godongwa

**Visitors often comment on how beautiful and neat our gardens are.**

Sam Godongwa helps to tend our gardens that so many of our visitors love. He is an expert in making things grow in our arid Karoo region.

Sam is a local gardening legend and we are privileged to have his expertise for our gardens. When asked, he said: "I love working next to these donkeys, and here on this farm. Everything is so natural and I like making things blossom here."

Look after yourself, Sam

– you are an inspiration to us.



*Sam with some of our prolific indigenous spekboom (Portulacaria Afra): a good plant to grow in our region.*

Sam Godongwa versorg ons tuine. Hy is oorspronklik van Queenstown in die Oos-Kaap en het 40 jaar gelede na McGregor getrek om naby familie te wees. Sam is baie lief om in tuine te werk en geniet sy dae by Eseltjiesrus. Mooiloop, Sam.

# Energetic fund-raising

The donkeys appreciate all the action on their behalf

**Our donkey supporters have been busy, raising awareness and funds while testing their skills and fitness.**

Lorraine Walton, Thomas Flood and Grant Watson completed the Cape Town Cycle Tour and raised R14 500 for Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary.

Catherine Warrender, whose son has adopted Oscar, recently completed a Robben Island crossing swim and raised over R11 000 for the donkeys.



*Hard earned medals from the Cape Cycle race. Over R27 000 has been raised recently via GivenGain.com*

Purple Carly also raised more than R1 800 for Mandela Day via GameforGood.

Thank you to these passionate and compassionate participants and to all who supported their fund-raising campaigns. We hope to grow this sort of fund-raising in the future.

Please think of the donkeys when you are training for an event and contact us to set up a campaign. There is no minimum amount expected.



**Want to avoid noisy shopping malls, crowds, parking problems, queues and unappreciated impulse buys?**

At Eseltjiesrus you can buy Festive Season gifts for the whole family, in tranquil surroundings with free parking, lovely garden areas and our Coffee Shop to relax in, knowing that every purchase improves the lives of our rescued donkeys.

Choose from local craft beer, our Eseltjiesrus wines, hats, caps, beanies, T-shirts, donkey art prints, soft toys, stocking fillers and of course our books.

**Or, adopt a donkey for a loved one.** You choose the donkey and the amount to give, and we do the rest. Your gift consists of a personalised adoption certificate, photo, history of the chosen donkey as well as half-yearly reports and our quarterly newsletter: a gift that lasts for a whole year. All this can also be done via email or on our website at [www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help/](http://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/how-you-can-help/) And you get a Section 18A tax certificate – what could be better?

**Talking of books:** our magnificent selection of books, all in excellent condition and mostly brand new, are on sale at bargain prices all year round at the Visitor Centre. The Sanctuary has become the “go to” destination for book lovers and also for folk wanting to donate much loved reading matter to a place where it will find an appreciative new home.

**Do you love working with books?**

**We need book volunteers**

New donations arrive weekly and need to be sorted, classified and priced, as well as restocking of the shelves in the Visitor Centre.

Please contact Johan at 023 625 1593 to offer your services.



To help you plan your visits and your festive donkey cuddles, please note:  
We will be open from Thursdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm  
– with the following changes:

## Our recent AGM

The event took place via Zoom and we thank everyone for their interest and support. The Eseltjiesrus Board currently consists of:

### Non-executive Board Members:

- **Eberhard Bertelsmann** - Arbitrator and commissioner in insolvency enquiries and former Judge of the High Court and past President of the Pretoria SPCA.
- **Iris Bolton** - Educator and former Front of House Manager at The Fugard Theatre.
- **Anthony Coombe** - Governance & Financial Consultant, Past Managing Partner of PWC Cape Town, Past President of Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- **Johan du Preez** - Businessman, past CEO of Rooiberg Wines, entrepreneur, conservation & animal welfare activist.
- **Lorna Fuller** - Director of Project 90 by 2030.
- **Carole Hambleton-Moser** - Past Chair of the Heart Charitable Investment Trust at Heart Capital, former Vice President Credit Suisse, Geneva, and former Head, Credit Suisse Representative Office, Cape Town.
- **Sarah Kvalsvig** - Lawyer and consultant at Cullinan and Associates Inc.
- **Louise Matschke** - Green Skills & Partnership Strategist, Cape Town Environmental Education Trust.
- **Jim McNamara** - Chair of the Animal Welfare Society of South Africa and former Executive Director, Development and Alumni, University of Cape Town.
- **Andrea van Lille** - Chartered accountant with RGR Inc.
- **Tozie Zokufa** - Executive Director Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations.

### Ex-officio Board Member:

- **Johan van Zijl** - Co-Founder and Chair of the Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary Board.

### Members of the Executive Committee as Board Members:

- **Annamarie van Zijl** - Co-Founder, Communication, Outreach & Advocacy.
- **Tony Saddington** - Financial Manager, Chair of the Executive Committee & Secretary of the Board.

Our Annual Review is available at <https://www.donkeysanctuary.co.za/images/donkey-sanctuary/documents/EDS2021AR.ia.pdf>.

Hard copies are also available on request.



- Friday 24 December we will close early: 10am to 2pm
- Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day): **CLOSED**
- MONDAY 27 December we will be OPEN: 10am to 4pm.
- Friday 31 December we will close early: 10am to 2pm
- Saturday 1 January 2022 (New Year's Day): **CLOSED**



Donkeys in the mist. Early morning at the Sanctuary.

## You will hear from us again:

Another Covid-year is coming to an end, and Eseltjiesrus is healthy and optimistic. As previous activities slowly resume, we look forward to - perhaps – presenting our big Book Fair in 2022, and resuming our Donkey Welfare Workshops in different parts of the country. We will keep you informed.

Please let us know of any changes in your contact details, and let us know of friends who would like to receive our newsletters. Where possible we request that postal communications change to email, please. The postal service in McGregor is suspended and elsewhere can be unreliable. But we will always post information if that is what you prefer.

We wish each and every one of you a blessed, safe and happy Festive Season and may 2022 overflow with good fortune.

Net die mooiste toegewens vir die Nuwe Jaar.

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

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

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

zapper™



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Snap here to pay

SnapScan

**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.