



LANG-OOR NUUS

Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary

Newsletter #78 Aug to Oct 2026

Hello to you all, welcome to our latest newsletter with many exciting updates. Happy reading.

Donkey News

EDS will celebrate its 19th birthday in November. Some of our donkeys have been here since the beginning, which means that a few of them are in their late twenties and early thirties. This is not abnormal, as most donkeys age gracefully, but unfortunately some of ours have had a tough and difficult start to their lives. As they get older, health issues start materialising and effecting their well-being. We watch over them closely and give them the best care available. However, the reality is that sometimes you have to say goodbye and send them off to the paddock in the sky. This was the case with Vytjie and Granny this year, as their health deteriorated and they had to be euthanised. We also lost KitKat who recently passed away from a bad case of colic.



In general, the herd are doing very well, being cared for by our staff, regular visits from the farrier and dentist and the Vets are always on standby. We have made good progress in care and handling, especially with the shy donkeys. The Vet and Farrier both commended us on how much easier the donkeys are to handle and how quiet and calm the care staff are. Andy is a great example. He is now much calmer and a little more trusting. I make sure to talk to him and touch him every day. Some visitors have had the privilege of touching him.



With the completion of our Feed Store, we moved all our operational feed, supplies, tools, equipment and hay into the store. This opened up the shelters that were being used to store hay. Now donkeys have more space to sleep or get out of the weather. We also purchased a fire-fighting water bowser ready for any emergencies that may arise.



Farm maintenance continues daily as we strive to keep the Sanctuary looking good: mowing lawns, irrigating paddocks, fixing fences, mending shelters, cleaning up after donkeys. The list goes on, but we love what we do, and we love the donkeys in our care. We are grateful to be here and couldn't do this without our loyal supporters.



Andy's Coffee Shop

Our coffee shop now has a unique name. So come on over to **Andy's**. We've recently refreshed our menu with something for everyone. Whether you're joining us for a hearty country breakfast, a quick toasted sandwich, or a satisfying lunch, you'll also find plenty of delicious vegetarian options to tempt your taste buds. Our selection of cakes and homemade treats provides the perfect ending to your meal. We offer a wide selection of beverages, from freshly brewed coffees to refreshing juices and our ever-popular milkshakes continue to be a firm favourite with visitors of all ages. So, after greeting the donkeys and enjoying a stroll along Adam's Walk, make sure you pop into **Andy's**.



Promoting the welfare and status of donkeys through a culture of caring since 2007

We warmly invite you to our 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This will take place on Wednesday 12 August 2026 at 6pm. The meeting will take place via Zoom with an email option for participation.

To register for the AGM via Zoom please use the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1ET7yyiiSnaEyNVSgl6hpw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Or send us an [email](#) with your full name and we will send you the AGM documents as well as the meeting code and password.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last AGM meeting of 13 August 2025 (available on our website)
3. The work of the Sanctuary
4. Business matters:
 - a. Annual Financial Statements as at 28 February 2026 (available on our website)
 - b. Appointment of auditors
 - c. Election of the Board of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary
5. Any other business and closure

Please RSVP to admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za by Monday 10 August 2026 by giving:

Your full name if you wish to attend our virtual AGM via Zoom.

Your contact details if you wish to participate in the AGM by email.

Please indicate if you are willing to stand for a vacant Board position.

Please let us know if you would like the Chairperson to act as a proxy on your behalf.

The meeting is open to all, so please invite your friends and anyone wanting to know more about our work.

Gift Shop news

Our Gift Shop has been given a wonderful boost lately, thanks to some kind donations from loyal supporters. We have everything from hobby horses to mugs, coasters, a variety of cards and donkey prints, cuddly donkey companions, keyrings, fridge magnets and other charming keepsakes.

Every purchase from the Gift Shop helps support the ongoing care of the donkeys who call Eseltjiesrus home, making your shopping spree one that truly gives back. Be sure to pop into the Gift Shop. You never know what little treasure you might discover.



St Francis Day

This year on Sunday 4 October we will celebrate St Francis Day at the Sanctuary. We are currently in discussion with other animal welfare organisations in the Langeberg Region about the programme. Watch our Social Media for more details in September.

New staff member:

We are delighted to welcome Dané Kearney to the Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary team as our new Visitor Guide.

Dané joined us on 2 July 2026 and has already become a great addition to our Sanctuary family. Before joining Eseltjiesrus, Dané worked with horses, giving her valuable experience in animal care and handling. Her warm, friendly personality and love for animals make her a perfect fit for our team.



Helping equines in under-resourced contexts



This online course is presented by the **Cart Horse Protection Association (CHPA)**, developed in partnership with **World Horse Welfare UK**. The course teaches the core attitudes and practical skills needed for safe, respectful, and impactful community equine work. The course focuses directly on the realities and challenges of maintaining animal welfare in low-resource and economically strained environments.

Recently, four of our staff members successfully completed the course and received their certificates.

Pictured here L to R – Anwar Goeieman, Diniel Valentyn, Stan Davidoff and Chriswill Jordaan

Festive Shopping and a Book Fair

Our next Book Fair will be held at Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary, McGregor using the Visitors Centre, Melanie's Cottage and our new Feed Store (which will have lots of space for books as the feed level will be fairly low by then).

Book the dates: **Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 November (10am to 4pm) 2026.**

Come and enjoy McGregor and all that the village offers.

Enjoy your festive shopping without the frenzy! Come and enjoy your gift shopping at the Sanctuary and know that your shopping makes a difference to the donkeys.

Books, wine, all sorts of unique gifts and possibly even a donkey adoption for a loved one.

ALL BOOKS R30 (except coffee table books and some special collections).

This is also a great opportunity to stock up for your own summer reading.

WINE SALE: buy a case of Eseltjiesrus wine and only pay for 5 bottles (only 26 - 29 November offer). Wines on offer will include McGregor Winery's Sauvignon Blanc, Colombar and Cab Merlot.

COFFEE SHOP SPECIALS: Our Summer Menu will be out by then with delicious meals and snacks.

ADOPT A DONKEY as a gift for a loved one: No guessing the size or colour, no wrapping, we do it all. Use this QR code, see our website for details www.donkeysanctuary.co.za or email: adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za



Avoid the crowds and enjoy the serenity and tranquillity of our Sanctuary, whilst doing your shopping.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING DONKEY WELFARE

Vacant Posts:

We are currently advertising two new posts at the Sanctuary:

Sustainability and Advocacy Manager – this person will be responsible for Donkey Advocacy, Fundraising, the Visitor Centre (including Andy's Coffee Shop) and all external communications relating to the Sanctuary (newsletters, media releases, social media and reports). The appointed person will be part of the Management Team at the Sanctuary, reporting to the Executive Manager.

Donkey Outreach and Care Officer – this person will be responsible for developing and implementing community-based donkey welfare programmes that improve the wellbeing of donkeys and the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. The position combines research, community engagement, education, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation and stakeholder relationship management to support the mission of Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary. This post also encompasses donkey care at the Sanctuary where the person plays a vital role in all the tasks relating to the knowledgeable and hands-on day-to-day care and well-being of the donkeys in our care. The appointed person will report to the Donkey Care, Welfare and Outreach Manager.

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact us for the full job descriptions and more details of these posts. Email admin@donkeysanctuary.co.za

The closing date for applications for these two post is 31 August 2026.

Meet more members of our team:

Eveline Hull – after volunteering as a donkey carer in 2017, she joined the staff of the Sanctuary in August 2019 as a kitchen and general cleaning helper. During Covid in 2020 when the Visitor Centre was closed, she helped with donkey care. She now runs the Coffee Shop and handles all the shopping and cooking. Eveline is the person behind the scenes ensuring every dish is prepared with care and attention. She is a reliable staff member who always goes the extra mile.



Durren Hull – joined the staff of the Sanctuary in May 2021 as a Donkey Care and Farm Assistant. He has since then become one of our main donkey carers.

Durren is exceptionally caring and compassionate with a natural empathy when working with the donkeys and relates well to them. He has a calming effect and the donkeys respond well to him.



Luna says we need you to be our Eyes and Ears

If you come across an animal that is being neglected, abused or is in distress – whether it's while you're travelling, in your neighbourhood, or even on social media – please don't look away. Report it. If it's a donkey in need, please contact Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary directly. Email care@donkeysanctuary.co.za or WhatsApp 072 850 3357.

For any other animal, contact your local SPCA, Animal Welfare organisation, or even the local police. Animal cruelty is against the law, and all reports must be investigated. Your phone call could be the difference between suffering and safety. At Eseltjiesrus, we care deeply about all animals – big and small. Thank you for caring.



Ons skakel graag met u in Afrikaans

Visit our website to securely donate or adopt a donkey.

Find out more about our donkeys and use it to

contact us: www.donkeysanctuary.co.za

email: info@donkeysanctuary.co.za

phone: +27(0)23 625 1801

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/eseltjiesrusdonkeysanctuary/

View David Kramer-Donkiehemel on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Z-xA4s9RMc&list=RD9Z-xA4s9RMc&start_radio=1

Woolies MyDifference

Donations that don't cost you a cent. Select Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary as your cause on the Woolworths App.

1. Download the App on your phone (use QR code).
2. Tap My Causes.
3. Select Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary to keep making a difference.

Every purchase you make raises funds for our work. Thank you!



We accept PayFast, Zapper & SnapScan
Along with EFT, card and cash payments.



You will hear from us again:

Our next newsletter will reach you during November and new donkey reports during September 2026. We welcome visitors from Thursdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm. Please let us know in advance if your group is more than 6 people. The Sanctuary is wheelchair friendly and dogs on leads are most welcome. Entrance is by donation.

By EFT or Bank Deposit: Eseltjiesrus Donkey Sanctuary, Standard Bank, Savings account 288244419. Please use your name as reference and send proof of payment to adopt@donkeysanctuary.co.za.