



©J-A Kokas
 "...he put the man
 on his own donkey,
 took him to an inn
 and took care of him."
 NIV. LUKE 10:34

Prayers for People & Pets

Produced by the Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary Inc
 Registered Charity – CFN 15766 ABN 41 673 727 564 DGR – Donations Tax Deductible

✠ Patron Saint of GSDS Inc — Saint Francis of Assisi ✠
 ~ Sanctus Patronus Australiae — Saint Francis Xavier ~
 Guardian Angels ✠ Esther Hayes ✠ Father Leo Mahon ✠ Sister Stephanie ✠ Rosemary Wares ✠ Kit Ash
 Guiding Lights ✠ Eileen & Cliff Gumbley ✠ Isabella Szarka ✠ Joseph & Jacqueline Kokas ✠ Alice & Chelsea-Babe

Editors: Jo-Anne Kokas OAM & Sister Helen — Phone 02 4996 5596 — Fax 02 4996 5545

GSDS Inc C/- Post Office Clarence Town NSW 2321



©J-A Kokas
 Donkey
 d'Angelo

Guardian of
 all Sanctuary
 Donkeys on
 Earth and in
 Heaven

NUMBER 018

©

FOR THE YEAR 2010

Prayers are needed more so than ever before for the next big and final stage of GSDS Inc. This issue of PPP is to ask you all for help and to help. It matters not in how small a way, be it via coin jars, by selling extra DonKeyno (raffle) tickets, or through the power of prayer. Please this year do try and sell as many tickets as you can, please phone Jo-Anne and order more DonKeyno tickets – it really does help.

After 20 years building the Sanctuary into what it is today, it has now come time to make secure plans to ensure the GSDS Inc will continue on indefinitely to care for the donkeys who will need our help in the future. As always, we cannot do it without you and your support, your love and prayers. Please read on...

2011 and Beyond – The Facts – 2011 is our 21st year...

The past 20 years have been a whole range of experiences – most were of course difficult with the various moves we needed to make. Moving a whole donkey sanctuary is not nearly as easy or as simple as a house moving exercise, it is house, farm, stock pile, machinery, animals, building and fencing materials etc, and we did it 5 times!

Then there were all the other ups and downs, including winning a long 6 year Supreme Court battle, resulting in GSDS achieving a secure home for the donkeys, thankfully they now own their own farm. How on earth we got through it all I don't know, but if it was not with your help and support, your encouragement and dedication, and sticking by us through the hard times we would not be where we are now.

Special thanks to our long term supporters who suffered along with us at every turn. All in all, through all the sweat and tears we made it to where we are now, it wasn't easy, but together we achieved so much, we salute you.

Now after the first 20 years, (we will call them the foundation years), we must look forward to securing the future for the Sanctuary and all the donkeys that will need our help in the future. To do that there needs to be a few changes. Time marches on and none of us are getting any younger, including Alex and I. It is unavoidable that sometime in the future Alex and I must sell our own farm; we simply cannot keep going running both the Sanctuary farm and our own private farm, it's all getting too much.

We must start to make positive plans for the Sanctuary, so it can continue on long after we and all of us have passed on. None of us are getting out of this alive so it certainly is not premature to think of making sound decisions for the future of GSDS now.

The Sanctuary farm does not have an ICU block suitable to house the sick, old, lame and the blind etc, the facilities we use at the moment are on the Kokas farm. This is a simple shelter shed we converted on the cheap to make six bays using farm gates and black belt matting etc as dividers. These six bays can comfortably hold 6 to 8 donkeys, however usually we have 10 -12 donkeys who require extra or intensive attention through the winter months.

Although it was/is cramped we managed. However, this year we had to cope with sick 22 donkeys here with others having to live in the larger yard at the bottom of the runs, and seven others had to stay at the Sanctuary farm as we simply could not fit them in here. Each winter gets busier and this past winter was horrendous. Having 22+ donkeys to care for in ICU put a lot of pressure on the housing arrangements for them here and we were forced to outlay money for more gates, star posts etc to divide the runs to make it safer for the donkeys and the volunteers and Wwoofers. Trying to fit all those donkeys into 6 bays was a nightmare and so much extra work for everyone.

To those who answered our call for help in the last Serenade we thank you. Some of that money was used to purchase these materials; they are easily dismantled and will be relocated to the Sanctuary farm and used there when the donkeys can be moved back when the weather is warmer.

2011 will mean this big change. We have one more but final hurdle to get over to ensure a long, solid and secure future for GSDS Inc and the donkeys in our care. The fact is that we need to build another purpose built ICU shed, geriatric stables and quarantine area at the Sanctuary farm. It needs to be large enough to convert into 10 stables (minimum). We need to make plans now and begin as soon as we can. The sooner it is underway the better chance we will have to have it completed by the time we are forced to sell our farm. If it cannot be finished prior to us selling, then the old/sick donkeys will have to be placed in paddocks with the others at the Sanctuary farm. *(Continued over)*.

✠ **Prayers requested for comforting friends frail or unwell...**

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| ✠ Patsy Wills | ✠ Joyce Camp |
| ✠ Edna Maureen Jones | ✠ Mavis Blissett |
| ✠ Kerry Williams | ✠ David Goodworth |
| ✠ Stan & Irene Johanson | ✠ Jack Miller |
| ✠ Joyce Clarke | ✠ Mary Rezo |
| ✠ Eileen White | ✠ Hannah Blades |
| ✠ Don Ash (<i>of the Ash Donkeys!</i>) | ✠ Leo & Pearl Ginley |
| ✠ Donkeys at GSDS IC/TLC unit. | ✠ Eileen Dixon |

✠ **Prayers requested for deceased family and friends...**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| ✠ Eileen & Cliff Gumbley | ✠ Norma Faulkner |
| ✠ Moira & John Anthony Westwood | ✠ Ern Freeman |
| ✠ Esther & Arthur Hayes | ✠ Alfie Camp |
| ✠ Joseph & Jacqueline Kokas | ✠ Esme Bragg |
| ✠ Patricia Rose Williams | ✠ Les Newbery |
| ✠ Joseph Edward Hodgson | ✠ Gregory Mogensen |
| ✠ Patricia Brass-Kale | ✠ Audrey Smyth |
| ✠ John & Rose Hoad | ✠ Ken & Fay Dixon |
| ✠ Evelyn Bast | ✠ Dora Sear |
| ✠ Kit (Kathleen) Ash | ✠ Mark Bowden |
- ✠ **And all our beloved pets** in Heaven with loved ones – we are sure they are all watching over us.

Blessing of the Animals. September 26 at the Magnificent Newcastle Christ Church Cathedral

See Serenade for report. We have lots of lovely photos of this special outing; wish we had room to include them all.



Above: Deputy President Terry Daniel holding Minnie, GSDS head groom Ann Daniel behind Minnie. Bishop and Dean at the Altar.

Below: Typical outing for GSDS Donkey People! Back view of back seat. Left:-Back of Di Bennett's head, Ann Daniel, Donkey foal Nick and back of Simona's head! Nick sitting there as if all donkeys do this! Behind them in back dicky seat was Korean Wwoofer Olive with Toto the lamb!



Please help us make this our 2011 project – it has to be. This could be our thanks for fighting for and surviving the past 20 years, it would be nice for this to be our 21st birthday present and the security for the future of GSDS Inc.

It is time now to make this final effort to complete the Sanctuary as a whole and make it into a fully functioning operation all on the one farm – the Sanctuary farm and buildings, all owned by the donkeys. This will in turn save on the cost of fuel and energy etc which with the cost of electricity and all else rising we need to make sure future expenses, like we do now are kept as low as possible.

If you know of a proper way we can approach businesses, organisations etc in the hope of asking them for donations, or maybe ask a big org to sponsor a whole bay of the ICU. If you have any suggestions as to how to raise money, please contact Jo-Anne on 02 4996 5596, or email me.

We thank you all for everything you have done to help the donkeys in the past and hopefully this dream of making the Sanctuary a complete and whole identity will come to fruition in 2011. Please God help us achieve this goal for the donkeys and make GSDS Inc into a permanent home like other animal groups who have this security. God's chosen creature certainly deserves this and I feel, that we, humans, owe it to these special creatures.

First donations in for new ICU... We thank the following people for contributing the first donations towards the new ICU, Dick Smith \$500.00, Leonie and Warwick Robertson \$500.00, Clarence Town Lyons Club \$100, and Wilma Russell \$50.00. Thank you and Bless you all.

Please everyone help raise money by spending BIG from the Christmas Assalogue, or collecting coins in an ICU fund raising jar and also, please try and sell as many DonKeyno tickets as you can, or go out in public and beg if you prefer! Thank you.

Religious Medals — \$2.50 each

- Really nice oxidised (silver) medals
- St Francis of Assisi – Patron Saint of all Animals and GSDS.
 - St Francis Xavier – Patron Saint of Australia
 - St Jude – Saint for impossible tasks.

We've added the St Jude medal because we are always struggling to make ends meet!

St Francis of Assisi Pendant
with chain, silver look \$15.00 or gold look \$20.00

Refer to Christmas Catalogue – or phone 02 4996 5596
E: admin @donkeyrescue.org.au

***Bless all our family, friends and supporters...
May you all have a wonderful and safe Christmas.
All the very best for the new year and beyond.***