



PHAETON PARK  
STABLES

# STABLE TALK

All the latest from the stables

AUGUST 2020

## HORSE AND PEOPLE NEWS

Happy Spring day! It has been a chilly start to Spring but it is here and signifies a fresh start. Hopefully we are over the worst and we can make the best of what we have left of this year.

## MOOLMANSHOEK WEEKEND AWAY

Thank you to Vanessa for her fantastic account of the weekend:

"Every year the Phaeton Park Moolmanshoek weekend is one of the highlights of our calendar, but this year was different. A record number of 46 Phaeton Parkers and their families left Johannesburg just before sunrise and arrived in the beautiful Free State way before the usual 15h30 ride on Friday.

We've just come out of 5 months of lockdown, where nothing more than a walk in your neighbourhood between 6 am and 9 am was the highlight of our day and homeschooling our biggest nightmare. There was nothing better than arriving at the beautiful 3 500 hectare Moolmanshoek Private Game Farm, surrounded by the magical Witteburg mountain range. After being sanitised, having our temperatures checked, COVID forms signed, all rules and regulations about our new social distancing finalised, we were shown to our rooms where our personalised welcome packs, thoughtfully put together by Natalie over the many months preceding Moolmanshoek, greeted us. It was official. We were set for our adventure to begin!

Friday afternoon was spent on the upstairs veranda catching up with like-minded people (maybe a bit too loud outside Nat and Cam's window!), old friends and new friends. The sense of freedom and collective energy was tangible. The biggest group yet gathered at the stables at 15h30 for our introductory ride where we had the opportunity to get to know our horses, understand the landscape, and gain our first bit of understanding of the Boerperd, Arab and cross of these, whose abilities we would come to respect more than anything over the next few days.

Arriving at dinner on Friday evening, we received a heartwarming welcome by

Wiesman and Mafie Nel (owners of this beautiful farm) after which the fun began. It was time for our annual bingo evening, games, great prizes and an enjoyable, fabulous dinner prepared by their new chef, Herman Steyn. It was a phenomenal evening, filled with laughter, chatter and great entertainment. Everyone made their choice of horse riding (either the "chilled" ride or the more adventurous ride), cycling, motocross, 4x4 driving or hiking as their activity for Saturday, and in preparation for a full day ahead, it was time to say goodnight.

Waking up to the sounds of nature, birdlife, crisp, fresh air, coupled with a fabulous breakfast spread on the stoep, we appreciated just how lucky we were to be in the most magical place, doing what we love... riding horses. At 9 am we saddled up, and set off for the most amazing adventure, while others set off on their bicycles to try out the fabulous mountain bike trails and some went for a hike or opted for the adrenalin of the motocross trails. Moolmanshoek is the perfect place to recharge and get away from the world, where everyone in the family can enjoy their passion. We met for a fabulous lunch, catered by the master chef under the beautiful willow trees. As we arrived, it reminded me of something out of an 'out of Africa' movie and how very lucky we are to experience our beautiful country on horseback. Moolmanshoek gives us the ability to see places some people will never be able to get to by car, bicycle or foot. Sitting under the willow trees, taking in the beauty of the nature around us, it was time for the second leg of the day. Some of our riders decided to head back to the lodge after lunch to enjoy a book in the hammock under the trees, join the cyclists, ride their motocross bikes or just to soak up the beauty this place offers.

Saturday night was another fun-filled evening, with more prizes for the best dressed, loudest, quietest, greenest, slowest, fastest, youngest, oldest, bravest, you name it... it had a prize! Another fabulous meal, exceptional Afrikaans hospitality, wine, laughter and bonding with our Phaeton Park family. Thank goodness we got to bed early, because in true Wiesman style, what goes up, must come down.

On Sunday we went up places some of us thought were not possible, but that meant we had to find paths to come down which didn't exist. If there was no path, we made one! The respect for these animals we love so much is incredible.

Our 2020 Phaeton Park Moolmanshoek weekend was more than just about riding. It was about family, freedom, gratitude, appreciating the little things, the magic of nature, the beauty of the animals we all love so much, looking at things differently and understanding the value of living in the moment. Never taking anything for granted.

A HUGE thank you to Natalie and the entire Hogg family for putting this together, making it possible and for making us all feel so welcome and part of your family. Make sure to book your spot for 2021!"

## We would also like to express our gratitude to our prize sponsors:

Milmac, Horseman's Haven, Dr Willemien Moraal (Fourways Vet), Sean (Farrier), Petra (Physio), Catherine (Saddle fitter), Sonja (Bubbles & Bows Mobile Parlour), Janine (Royal Canin), Kirsten (Switch Energy Drink) and JP (Appletizer Spritzer).

## SHOW RESULTS

### KPC JUMPING

In 1m, Danna rode Gitania K in 1m and had two clear rounds, Ava rode Kelly's Heir placing 4th and Mariska rode Ava's new horse, The Rumour Mill, placing 1st and 2nd.

### KPC JUMPING

Danna on Gitania K were 2nd and 3rd in 1m. In 1.10m, Ava rode Kelly's Heir and Nickaela rode Gold Leader. In 1.15m, Mariska rode Cisco.

## CAKES/PIZZA

Taylor x 2, Georgia, Kelly x 2 (PD), Ava (PD), Kayden, Anabelle, Carmen, Stuart, Gavi (PD)

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Lené, Allegra, Vee, Danna, Vanessa, Erin, Mariska and Rio.