

MARCH 2021



MELTON WOLD

A quarterly newsletter from the farm



DEAR GUESTS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

We trust that you all had a wonderful festive season and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. There is no doubt that we are trusting that 2021 will be filled with loads of fun and happiness to make up for the stresses and hardships that many of us experienced during the tough times in 2020.

We have had a very busy time at the guest house. It was very evident that folk were keen to get away from the city and enjoy the splendor of the Karoo. We had friends visiting from literally all provinces in South Africa. Guests were assured of crystal clear karoo air, plenty of open space, the tastiest of farm fresh meals, a huge farm dam to cool off in and of course the best medicine ... happiness and laughter!



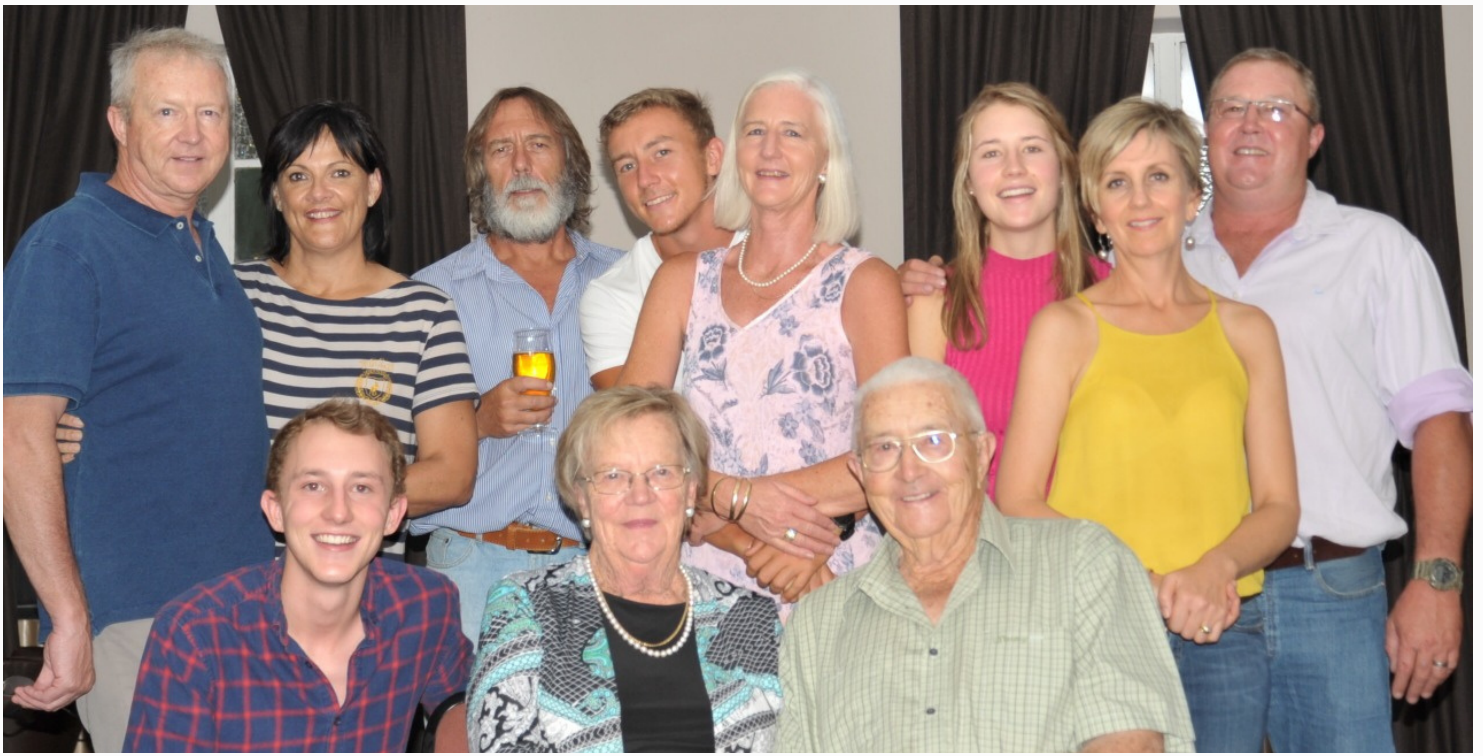
During the latter part of 2020 we had our regular visitors from the BMW Motor Bike Club in George come and visit us. Where ever possible the riders use the back roads of South Africa to reach their destination. Tar is to be avoided at all costs and where ever possible they try out new routes every year. The 2 or 3 night layover at Melton Wold is always fun with various activities on or around the farm, like visits to Loxton and Victoria West.

The guest house was mostly full over Christmas and New Year. The camp site was no exception, the weather perfect for all the outdoor activities on the farm making for loads of fun and games on our a lush lawn and well-manicured bowling green. The large dam pool was a hit with the folk from the guest house and campsite. We had a marked increase in first time overnight guests and campers on their way to their final destination. They were all amazed at what they discovered at our little gem, Melton Wold. Although we are 40km from Loxton or Victoria West, out guests firmly believe it is worth every cent to travel the distance in order to enjoy uniqueness of the Melton Wold oasis.

As a service to our campers we have started offering braai packs. The content of the braai pack normally consists of chops, wors, salad and braaibrood. Speak to personnel at reception about any other requirements you might have. We also sell braai wood to our campers.

Many years ago Willem built a boma out in the Springbok Camp which is located at the southern end of the farm. Visits to the boma were always a hit with our guests where a late afternoon braai was the treat. Kids scrambling up the koppie in search of dassies or searching for buck spoor was always part of the boma outing. A new boma has recently been built in the 'wildkamp' and is located on the slopes of Torr Kop. This offers guests a spectacular view of the Karoo landscape looking back towards the oasis. The new boma has a Bedouin tent for protection against the sun. The latest facility is a water flush toilet! It has the BEST open air toilet view in the Karoo! Guests can either go out to the boma on a self drive (it is part of the game drive route), or with other guests for a sundowner or evening braai.

We continue to have regular fly inn's to Melton Wold. Recently there was a father and his 3 sons who spent 2 nights with us after having flown up from Cape Town. They were on their way back to Johannesburg.



It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing away of the father of Melton Wold for the last 33 years, fondly known to many of us as Oom Jan. Oom Jan passed away on 14 January 2021 after sustaining a serious injury at his home on Melton Wold. A family funeral service was held at the Manor House where Oom Jan is buried together with members of the Torr Family and Peter Shambrook. We all share our condolences with Tannie Loepie and the Vorster family on the passing away of Oom Jan. Tannie Loepie has decided to move to Victoria West where she can be closer to her many friends in the town. Her home at Melton Wold will always be there for her to come and spend some quality time.

Shortly after the passing of Oom Jan, and almost a year since the COVID 19 made its presence felt in South Africa, we experienced our first positive case of the virus at Melton Wold. After feeling some of the symptoms Willem was confirmed to have contracted the virus. It was immediately decided to close the guest house for at least 3 weeks and reduce as much activity on the farm. Strict protocols were implemented and all access to the farm was closed. We are happy to report that Willem has made a full recovery and that there were no other cases on the farm.

A newsletter without some weather feedback would simply not be right! Although we have had some rain over the last few months we desperately need follow up rains. March and April are typically our best rainfall months. We thank many of you who have prayed for rain and ask that you please continue to do so. We have recently had some very unwelcome guests at Melton Wold Locusts! Literally millions of them! Fortunately there is not too much damage. We have also been blessed by donations of animal feed from farmers who are in a much better position than us. To these extremely kind folk we offer our extreme appreciation and thanks.

Maintenance is a never ending activity at Melton Wold! During the last few months the Melton Wold Primary School received a makeover. This was completed just before the children returned to school in February.

We are mostly fully booked for the Easter weekend although some rooms and camp sites are still available. We look forward to seeing you soon again at our oasis in the Karoo.

Take care ... and stay safe!

