

Heritage Month and De Rust

September is Heritage month in South Africa and National Heritage Day is on Saturday 24 of the month. In order to remember some of our Heritage stories we will share these with you:

The Boy and the Horse

During the Anglo/Boer War the British were camped near the railway outside De Rust at a nearby railway siding and farming settlement called Vlakteplaas. As the British troops were short of horses they went to all the farms in the district and requisitioned all the horses that were available there from the farmers.

There was a young boy on one of the farms who had a prize horse which he loved dearly, so he went to see the Commanding Office of the British forces at Vlakteplaas hoping to persuade the British officer to release his horse to him.

The officer was persuaded to speak to the boy and after listening to the boy said to him I will release your horse to you if you can call the horse and it comes to you. So they went down to the paddock where all the horses were held and the young boy whistled and his horse recognizing the whistle immediately came to the boy.

On seeing this the British Officer allowed the boy to ride his horse away so all ended well for both boy and horse.

The Statue on the Koppie



Another Vlakteplaas story involves the story of the Statue on the Koppie. This involved a local farmer's wife in the late 1800's, who when her husband Petrus Albertus Schoeman died loved him so dearly that she commissioned a statue of her late husband from a sculptor in England.

Once the statue was ready it was shipped from England to South Africa and was then brought from Cape Town by train to Vlakteplaas and set up on his grave on the farm. This statue looks out from the koppie on to the farm he so loved while he was still alive.

All these years later the statue still stands as a lonely reminder on his grave at Vlakteplaas and clearly shows the great love his wife had for her beloved husband.

The Meiringpoort Half Marathon

*As part of the coming major events in De Rust the **Meiringspoort 21 Marathon** is due to take place on Saturday 8 October, 2022. Due to the Covid restrictions both the 2020 and 2021 events had to be cancelled.*

This is an extremely popular event which is eagerly anticipated far and wide, for not only the sporting aspect but also the renowned Klein Karoo hospitality. Entries closed some time ago for the event but it is anticipated that a large crowd is expected and that a great time will be had by all. We look forward to see you there.

September, 2022