

# OUR STORY



**KAROO  
RANCHING**

# IN THE YEAR OF 1898...

Elandskloof, a farm in the Graaff- Reinet district in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, came into the McNaughton clan in 1898.

Samuel Bently McNaughton bought the farm and was one of the pioneers of his day.

He had two sons and a daughter, Len, Haig & Inez.

As tradition holds, being the eldest son, Len took over the running of the farm.

Len however died of a heart attack at the age of 27, which meant that the younger son, Haig had to step into his shoes.



Haig McNaughton



When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Haig was only 20 years old and found himself being called up for duty.

In 1942, he, along with many other South African soldiers, were captured and held as prisoners of war at Tobruk in North Africa until the war ended in 1945.

Upon returning home, Haig was met on the Graaff-Reinet station's platform with the news that his father had died and his farm had been declared bankrupt.





Haig & Magda McNaughton

Legend has it, that he calmly told the sheriff of the court that handed him the bankruptcy papers,

*"I have not survived an entire world war for you to tell me my farm is bankrupt. I am going back farming. So, take your papers and shove them."*

Shortly after this he married his beloved sweet heart, Magda van Niekerk, a local farmer's daughter and together they returned to start rebuilding the farm his father had bought 47 years before.

A task not for the faint hearted.





**DIKSTUK**  
South African Short Medium Wool Ram 1966  
Bred by H. & A. Schreiner, Beaufort West, South Africa

After many years of facing severe droughts and hardships, Haig went on to become one of the most successful Merino ram breeders in the country.

He was progressive in his thinking of agriculture and farmed in ways that were sustainable, making it possible for the generations after him to make a living from the same land.

Pictured to the left is the 1966 South African Short Wool Champion that he bred and proudly named 'Dikstuk'.

Haig and Magda went on to have four daughters namely, Audrey, Nola, Diana & Linda.

Having no son to leave his farming operation to, Haig gave each of the daughters the opportunity to decide if they wanted to farm the farm.

Diana married Jimmy Truter in 1981 and was the only daughter to have married a farmer.

Together, they decided to tend to the land and pour their energies into being able to pass it on to the next generation.

Diana thus, inherited the farm.



Diana Truter (nee McNaughton)





Jimmy Truter

A gifted stockmen, passionate conservationist & farmer like no other, Jimmy together with farming his own farms nearly 300km away, has tended to the farming of Elandskloof like it was his own

He has been happily married to Diana for 36 years.

Together they have three children, Julie, Andrew & Lindy.

Lindy & Julie became known as 'Jimmy's Daughters' after the popular Australian Outback series called McCloud's Daughters in the 1990's.



As the only son of Jimmy & Diana, Andrew has become a farmer like his father and currently farms an intensive farming unit in the Somerset East district.

Andrew Truter



# GOING FARMING

*'Dad, I want to go farming.'*

When founder of KAROO RANCHING, **Julie Truter**, left behind her corporate career to follow her heart back to her farming roots - many thought she had lost her mind.

*"I had a dream."*

Julie dreamt she had 99 days left to live. And with those 99 days she wanted to go farming.

So, she returned to Elandskloof.

KAROO RANCHING was born soon after this.

Today Julie spends her life inspiring a new generation of farmer - a cause so desperately needed if Africa is to keep feeding her people.



Julie Truter<sup>9</sup>  
Founder of KAROO RANCHING



Lindy Truter

Having made a name for herself as a gifted photographer, Lindy has travelled the world many times capturing the memories of numerous couples on their special day.

Also a proud farmer's daughter, Lindy has played a vital part in KAROO RANCHING coming to life with her beautiful photographs.

Together, her and Julie make a formidable team in raising the profile of farming in a positive and inspiring way.

They consider themselves part of the new generation of farmer, that is coming back to farm the land for the next generation.



Follow them on their journey as  
they write the next chapter of  
the story.

