



🕒 Riding Tuition

Learning to Ride at Moutere Downs

Whether you are a beginner rider or riding at an advanced level, you can learn new skills at Moutere Downs.

We offer a graduated learning method to help you set and achieve your personal goals - and enjoy the process.

Teaching Team

Dr Rhona MacKenzie is our lead coach and trainer. She has over 40 years experience in riding and training equestrian horses as well as being a qualified veterinarian and a Grade 1 NZEF Coach. Rhona has also bred and competed many horses in the 3 disciplines of dressage, showjumping and eventing. She has also been an equestrian consultant and trainer for many prestigious offshore clientele.

Rhona is supported by assistant instructor Ali Buist.

Ali has trained at Kyrewood Equestrian Centre in New Zealand and has travelled to the UK where she has worked in the equestrian industry.

Facilities

At Moutere Downs we have excellent facilities for teaching.

Our all-weather arena has a great springy surface which is kind to the horses legs.

The arena is large enough to teach groups of 6 and to a challenging jumping course.

The farm terrain allows for cross country riding - where riders can work on balance and co-ordination up and down hills.

School Horses

At Moutere Downs, we can either teach you on your own horse or pony - or you can ride one of our safe, well-trained schoolmasters, which is how most people start their riding with us.

We have horses for people 10 years and older. In between lessons with customers the horses are all regularly schooled by the Moutere Downs team. They are suitable for riders of all levels from beginners to advanced.

Options for You



We offer private, semi-private and group riding lessons, as well as a range of discounted packages. The ten lesson "Learn-to-Ride" package is a popular way to start.

When you purchase this package you get a card and the lessons are marked off as you take them. So you can learn at your own pace. Most people come once a week or twice a week.

You will be one-on-one with your instructor and we do a lot of work on the lunge rein at the beginning - so your horse or pony is controlled from the ground and you can focus on getting your balance and coordination established.

Sometimes you will ride around the hills - walking and trotting if you are able to. Each lesson starts with a few minutes of working with the horse on the ground - grooming, tacking up, picking out hooves.

This helps a new rider to understand and bond with the horse. By the end of their first 10 lessons most riders we teach are rising to the trot on their own and some are cantering - even if they have never ridden before.

Once you have completed your first 10 lessons you may wish to join up with one of our regular groups.

We offer training in the 3 main equestrian disciplines, dressage, showjumping and horse trials and use classical training methods with proven results.

Our core team of instructors is also complemented by the services of visiting international experts from time to time.



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