

Unweilings

A celebration of
St Stithians College landmarks

THE COUNCIL DAM

The Council Dam was built in 1991. It has been renamed Council Dam to pay tribute to the ongoing work of the College Council since the school began. The Council has upheld the careful stewardship of the school while ensuring that it remains a natural haven. All the earthworks for the dam were completed by Mike Wylie, using equipment from his construction company. Mike was a parent and Council member at the time who held the environment portfolio on Council.

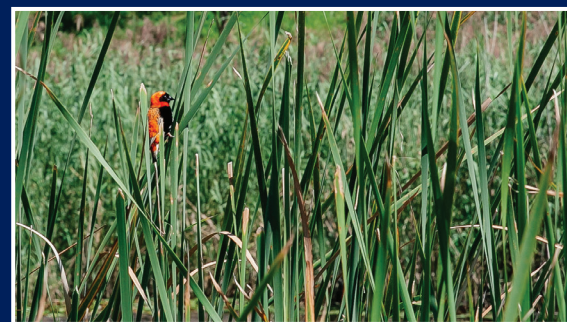
The planting of indigenous trees on the land surrounding the dam enhanced the area. Under the careful eye of Mrs Pauline Dickson, the GAIA society initiated the planting of trees for matric students leaving the school. This tradition has continued and matrics still leave their legacy at the dam by planting a tree. Past Council chairperson, Carel Nolte, also has a tree here from his time at St Stithians Boys' College. The original bird hide was constructed by the Boys' College students.

Dave Gear (past teacher in the Boys' College) shares a memory:
In the early 1990s a huge fire destroyed the gum forest near the dam and the opportunity was taken to remove the gums and restore the wetland. Then a construction site in Sandton offered the rock and earth to build the big dam. The big dam wall was built with a double clay layer to allow for the planting of trees on the dam wall.

At the time of construction, David Wylde stated:

'Our physical environment needs our address and protection. The Dam development at the northern entrance of our property is an exciting part of the total ground plan which has been presented to Council and sees an outer ring of indigenous growth replacing the black wattle and an inner ring of fields and parklands. The educational value of the dams in terms of its increased birdlife, the wetland development and rodents we believe will be an invaluable asset in the future. Many parents and friends have given of their time and expertise in this project.'

The educational value of both dams is evidenced in the many images of individuals, small groups and large classes enjoying the facilities for recreational and class research purposes.



Above left: The first official opening of the Council Dam (1997). From left – Jumbo Williams, David Wylde, Greg Theron, Mike Wylie, (unknown), David Schroenn and Ken Reid.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



ST STITHIANS
COLLEGE