ST STITHIANS COLLEGE

MOTHER BED

Opened by Pauline Dickson, Founders' Day 2014



The Mother Bed was an initiative of our legendary environmentalist and gardener, Pauline Dickson.

The significant spot that is encountered by all visitors driving down from Corlett gate frames the landscape view across to Sandton. Neglected for decades, the soil needed much conditioning before it could be planted. With her inimitable talents, determination and vision, Pauline was able to overcome all difficulties to get the project underway. Donations of indigenous plants arrived from all quarters and felled exotics were shredded for mulch. Planting took place in sections and the mature plants are divided up for planting elsewhere on the campus. The Mother Bed thus provides not only a much-improved view but literally mothers the plantings across the Campus. Pathways meander through the bed and benches provide quiet spots to contemplate the views. The plaque on the bench reads: "It was the Lord's doing and it is marvellous".

In his foreword to the book, David Wylde, past Headmaster and Rector wrote, "Pauline in her humility, will never claim the Saints gardens as hers because of all those with skills who helped her in the many projects, and, also, because her gift is to open space for each of us. As individuals, One and All, we find ourselves by wandering, walking and running through her profound insights into the beauty and the potential of the Saints' campus, God's Gift".

Pauline Dickson's magnificent book, A Gardener's Legacy can be purchased from The Stythian Shop.

Source:

Dickson, Pauline (2019) A Gardener's legacy. Sandton: St Stithians College To view the video on Pauline Dickson's A Gardener's Legacy, click here: https://youtu.be/JnTteu90PMI

Our thanks go to St Stithians College Archivist, Dr Mary Reynolds for researching and collating this information.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.



ST STITHIANS