



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE



THE ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
AQUATICS CENTRE



125 YEARS OF DEVELOPING JOHANNIANS

Rightly trained in body, mind and character

Sport has been an integral part of a St John's College education since its inception in 1898.

Apart from developing a healthy body and physical skills, sport teaches teamwork, leadership, confidence, poise under pressure and good sportsmanship. It is also a vehicle for social change.

St John's provides a holistic, world-class education that includes the opportunity to participate in sport at all levels. We are committed to partnering with communities in meaningful ways that allow us to share our excellent facilities and expertise whilst nurturing potential and discovering talent.



In 1916, our first swimming pool was built, known as the Gladstone Bath (named after Lord Gladstone, Governor-General of the Union of South Africa and generous donor to the swimming pool fund).

THE LEGACY AND EVOLUTION OF WATER POLO AT ST JOHN'S

The sport of water polo has evolved considerably since St John's College played its first match in 1928 against a touring English Public Schools' team. Inter-house competitions began in 1929 and in 1930 the College played its first water polo match against another school. The match, against Jeppe, was drawn.

Water polo flourished at St John's from the 1970s onwards. In 1990, the school was invited to participate in the prestigious SACS tournament for the first time. The arrival of coach Vladimir "Vlado" Trninic from Croatia in 1994 ensured that the upward trend in St John's water polo continued.

Consistently ranking in the top three out of 49 competitive schools in South Africa, St John's has performed at the highest level for 25 years.

- 15 ————— Major 1st Team School Tournaments won
- 218 ————— Players selected to represent a provincial team
- 44 ————— Players represented South Africa at age-group level





Vlado Trninic
Head of Water Polo

Vlado has played and coached professional water polo at a national level, holding the position of Head Coach for the South African Men's Team for 10 years. He is the Head of Water Polo at St John's College and continues to coach the OJ Eagles Club. Mr Trninic's contribution has spread far beyond the College and standards in South African water polo have benefited from his professionalism and dedication.



Craig Jackson
(Clarke, 1986)

A star swimmer during his time at St John's, Craig represented South Africa in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. In 2005 he was named South African Junior Coach of the Year. Craig continues to bring significant value to competitive swimming. Now based in Melbourne and training athletes at an elite level, he is regarded as one of the top swimming coaches in Australia.

BEYOND A SCHOOL SPORT

St John's is also the home of the OJ Eagles Club, arguably the most competitive water polo team in the history of the sport in South Africa. To date, the OJ Eagles have won 17 Gauteng Premier Leagues and Cups, 11 short course SA Championships and 16 South African Currie Cups.

15 Old Johannians have represented South Africa at international events, including the Olympic Games, and have made a significant contribution to coaching.

A RENEWED FOCUS FOR SWIMMING

The Aquatics Centre will allow St John's to bring new energy and commitment to the sport of swimming at an individual, team and club level.

Beyond competitive swimming, water safety is a fundamental life skill. Swimming skills, endurance and strength can only be developed with increased practice and training.

THE NEXT PHASE

The Valley Pool was updated in 2011 to offer an international-size rim-flow pool as phase one of an overall Aquatics infrastructure plan. The school is now preparing to undertake the next phase: a state-of-the-art facility that can be used all year round and in all weather conditions. New additions will include a steel roof structure to provide pool and spectator coverage that allows natural light and the flow of fresh air. Included is a significant upgrade of the changing rooms, better positioning St John's to host major tournaments.

The under-roof facility will support wider, far more effective use of the pool both on and off-season. While allowing St John's to grow participation in aquatic sports in the Pre-Preparatory, Preparatory and College, the Aquatics Centre will build on the contribution that we have made to water polo and swimming on a school, provincial and national level.

AN AQUATICS CENTRE FOR ALL SEASONS

One of the unique challenges of having a school perched on a Highveld ridge is the constant threat of bad weather. Johannesburg has one of the highest lightning strike rates in the world and the elevated location of St John's makes it particularly vulnerable to lightning in the summer months.

Weather dramatically impacts the time that can be spent in training, giving the school a disadvantage against competitors in other provinces or with under-roof facilities. While the Valley Pool is a great asset to the school, the facility is frequently evacuated or unavailable due to bad weather, and cannot be utilised to its full potential.



Duncan Woods
(Hill, 1999)

Duncan's water polo career began at St John's College, first representing South Africa in his school days. He played for the national team for more than 10 years, captaining both the Junior and Senior South African Men's sides. He continues to make a significant contribution to the sport and country, serving as the Senior Women's Assistant Coach and Mental Support Coach to the Men's and Women's Teams at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.



Nicholas Rodda
Head of Swimming

Mathematics teacher, Nick Rodda, joined St John's in 2014 and coaches swimming and water polo. He has played competitive water polo for a number of years. He was selected as part of the National Men's Water Polo Team for the Olympics, competing in Tokyo in 2021.

A SEAMLESS MEETING OF FUNCTION & DESIGN

The architectural design of the new Aquatics Centre honours the heritage, aesthetic, and existing historical buildings of St John's College.



Working with *Astratto Engineering*, *Cimato Moroldo Architects* has conceived an innovative 'floating' roof covering that rests on perimeter columns.

The design incorporates:

- Spectator seating for 310 people
- A glass scoring booth with digital panels
- Office spaces
- A lightning conductor system so that indoor training and activities can still take place during poor weather
- An effective ventilation system



The entire facility, including the heating of the pool, will be *solar-powered*. Any excess power generated will be redistributed within the St John's grid, saving costs and decreasing the carbon footprint of the school.

The new Aquatics Centre will meet the highest global standards in function and design.

As we look to celebrate 125 years of educational excellence in 2023, the Aquatics Centre will allow St John's College to effectively teach and enjoy water sports all year round; host major tournaments, galas and other competitive aquatic events; encourage camaraderie and instil the values of a competitive team sport; attract, develop and maintain talent at an international level; and continue to contribute to the development of sport in our country.

BREAKING GROUND

It is our intention to break ground on the project in early 2022, with the goal of completing the structure in time for the 2022 water polo season. However, we will only be able to meet this deadline if we reach our fundraising target by the end of March. A few generous pledges have already been made, but we will need the support of all our committed water sports community to make this vision a reality.

Apart from what your own children may gain from this incredible project, your contribution is a legacy that will benefit generations to come, as the generosity of past donors have benefited us.

All donations will be gratefully received, and all donors will be acknowledged on the donor board at the entrance to the Aquatics Centre. *Bona Fide* donations will qualify for a section 18A tax certificate. Please contact us to find out more about the benefits of giving.

A legacy is something of value given from one generation to the next

CONTACT

Suzie Copperthwaite
Fundraiser & Project Coordinator
copperthwaite@stjohnscollege.co.za

Glen Krynauw
Water Polo Committee
gkrynauw@deloitte.co.za

