

# STRANDFONTEIN CULTURAL MAPPING

## WATER CULTURE

### FISHING

Fishing for food and trade or livelihoods has a long history in the Cape, including along the False Bay coastline and Strandfontein Beach/Pavilion area. Groot Constantia was operating a fishery at Strandfontein by 1788, one of two fisheries operating between Strandfontein and Swartklip, with a pool of shared labour. A seven-man crew, six of which slaves, were stationed at the fisheries. Strandfontein would have been a suitable spot for the crew to encamp or construct temporary shelters. Apart from the recreational fishers who can be seen in and around the Strandfontein Pavilion and coastline everyday and all year round, Mitchell's Plain and Strandfontein have several fishing bodies and associations that are committed to keeping fishing alive as part of their cultural heritage along the coastline, like the Mitchell's Plain Fishing Forum and the Sonwabe Fishing and Tourism Front.

### SWIMMING

Swimming is part and parcel of the living cultural heritage in and around Strandfontein. In the early days, many people drowned in the strong currents along the Strandfontein coastline. Adam Floris, who was a mountaineer and good swimmer, published a book to teach people how to swim. Halleen Wells (née Floris) talked extensively about how she learned to swim in the natural tidal pools that existed before the current tidal pool was built.

### LIFESAVING

Lifesaving has a long tradition in Strandfontein. Given the strong currents along the Strandfontein coastline, lifesaving and sea rescue form a central part in the area's living heritage. The tradition goes back to 1970, before the establishment of Mitchell's Plain or Strandfontein, when the National Sea and Rescue Institute (NSRI), with Abraham Poole as the first Station Commander, set up a satellite station, Station 16, on Strandfontein Beach. There are several lifesaving clubs in the area, such as the Strandfontein Surf Lifesaving Club located at the Strandfontein Pavilion and Alpha Surf Lifesaving Club further north at Blue Water Beach.

### SURFING

Surfing is another key feature of the Strandfontein area's water culture and living heritage. It is being kept alive by organisations like the 9Miles Project, based at the Strandfontein Pavilion, that teaches surfing, environmental education, art, and life skills to disadvantaged youth from the area. Five youth from 9Miles took part in creating the murals at Fisherman's Haven, in collaboration with Wendy Abrahams from Educosafrika, as well as the development of graffiti on the Strandfontein Library.