During January 1981 the Buffels River came down in a flood simultaneously with the Wilgenhout and Baviaans Rivers, resulting in a rise of 10 m above normal level at Laingsburg on 25 January 1981 with the subsequent destruction of people, livestock, vehicles, and houses. People holding on to anything that floated, debris and drowned people and animal were swept to the Floriskraal Dam, about 20 km downstream.

The flood destroyed more than 180 houses and 23 commercial buildings. Total of 104 people drowned and 72 bodies were never found.


BUFFELS RIVER in full spate – 2014.

FLORISKRAAL DAM (33.291273 S; 20.990474 E)
Completed: 1957
River: Buffels River.
Capacity: 50.334 million m³
Type of dam: Buttress and concrete gravity dam.
Length of wall (top): 192 m
Length of dam (longest distance from wall to inflow): 5 km
Nearest town: Laingsburg (30 km upstream)
Surface area: 745 ha
Water use: Irrigation.

References, literature and photos:
References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floriskraal_Dam;
http://www.karoo-southafrica.co.za/
Photos: DW5; http://WAMTECnology.; https://tmewmotorradclubcape.co.za/;
http://standertonnatureriver.co.za/49654/