Old Herschelian News

2020

OHA NEWS

STAYING CONNECTED

Founded 1922

HERSCHEL GIRLS SCHOOL

The 2020 Committee

President:
Heather Goedeke
Vice-president:
Pru Crawley (nee Borton)
Chairman:
Kristina Miller
Treasurer:
Lucy Bailey (nee Burns)
Secretary:
Joyce Goldschmidt
Committee Members:
Daphne Beames
Diana Burns (nee Dicey)
Ariyaana Cader
Zeanne Duminy
Tania Johnstone (nee Peck)
Justine Macdonald (nee Peters)
Zanele Ngalonkulu
Tamlyn Prevost (nee McKeag)
Talysa Rudah
Corinne Symons (nee Dicey)
Emmanuelle Tshala
Mandy van Dugteren (nee Noakes)
Barbara Vintcent

Editor of the OHA Newsletter:
Joyce Goldschmidt

Photographs
Anna Engelhardt - Front Cover & Others
Joyce Goldschmidt
Old Herschelians

Proofreading
Diana Burns
Mandy van Dugteren
Kristina Miller

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Committee....2
Dates to diarise....3
2021 Reunions....3
Letter from the Head....4
Report from the Chair....6
Founder's Day photos....8
Caroline Herschel Award....10
Caroline Lucretia Herschel....11
Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club....12
Minutes of the AGM of the OHA 2020....13
Archives and Heritage....15
Centenary Book and Celebrations....16
Fund Raising....18
Take the Tour....19
Covid Comments by the Class of 1960....21
Calling all Old Herschelian Authors....22
Meet the Committee....23
Reunion Reports....29
News from Old Herschelians....49
Obituaries....53
Death Notices....57

Contributions to the OHA Newsletter are always welcome.
Please submit articles to The Secretary, Joyce Goldschmidt OHA@herschel.org.za

www.herschel.org.za/alumni

Old Herschelian Association

Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club

Dates to Diarise

Date	Time	2021 DATES TO DIARISE	RSVP
tbc	18:00	Lady Herschel Cocktail Club	Daphne Beames (Acceptances only)
Thu 11 Feb 2021	17:30	OHA Cocktail party (R100 per person)	RSVP by 1st February 2021 (Acceptances only to OHA@herschel.org.za
Fri 14 Feb 2021	10:15	Walk to St Saviour's Church from school	All Old Herschelians
	11:00	Founder's Day Service & Rose Ceremony at St Saviour's Church	RSVP by 1st February 2021 (Acceptances only to OHA@herschel.org.za)
	12:30	School Song & Arch Ceremony around the fountain	All are welcome
	12:45	AGM on the lawn	All are welcome
	13:00	Luncheon in the Mary Jagger Hall	RSVP by 1st February 2021 (Acceptances only to OHA@herschel.org.za)
	14:30	Guided tour of the school by Matric girls	All are welcome
tbc	18:00	Winter Dinner (R250 per person) - OHA, Staff and Friends of the School welcome	RSVP - Acceptances only to OHA@herschel.org.za

2021 Reunions

Class of	Reunion	Circle Secretary	Email Address
1961	60 years	ANNE SNYDERS	snydersfamily@telkomsa.net
1971	50 years	SALLY SILBERBAUER	sallysil@iafrica.com
1981	40 years	KATHY TRIPP	kathytripp@bigpond.com
1991	30 years	JUSTINE MACDONALD	justinemac33@gmail.com
2001	20 years	ZEANNE DUMINY	zeanne@zeanne.com
2006	15 years	EMMA ACKERMAN	emma.ack@gmail.com
2011	10 years	MIRA BRIEL & ALISON ROTHMAN	mira.briel@gmail.com / alison@therothmans.co.za

For any information you require, please email The Secretary, Joyce Goldschmidt on
oha@herschel.org.za

A letter to the OHA from the Head

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." (Jalaluddin Mevlana Rumi)

Dear Old Herschelians

It is wonderful to be able to communicate with the wider Herschel community, having made it to the end of this tumultuous year! It is with a deep sense of relief that I sit and put pen to paper and reflect on events that have taken place this year. And what a year it has been!

When I arrived in January, I had no idea of the chaos that would accompany me. Throughout this year, I have been cognizant of the additional stress placed on the Herschel community in having a new Head; someone totally outside of the system, who did not know the school or the community. I am extremely grateful for having been made to feel welcome here, and I look forward to experiencing Herschel more fully in 2021, having had a taste of the richness of campus life in Term One. To say that 2020 has surpassed expectation is an understatement indeed! It has surpassed (and bypassed) almost everything and everyone; and yet, it has brought with it a great deal of perspective.

In the wake of the pandemic, we have witnessed massive disruption in the education sector. Despite this, the core curriculum was delivered across all phases and given the resources and the fantastic support received by Stuart Levey and the ICT department, we were fortunate to be able to complete the respective curricula, with our pupils not missing out on teaching and learning. I am so grateful to the Herschel staff for their commitment, 'hands on' and 'heads down' approach, during what has been an exceptionally challenging year. The uncertainty, changing goal posts and extensive protocols all added layers of additional stress and they have soldiered on and seen this year through, always putting the pupils first. I applaud them for this.

We have committed to retaining a blended learning environment at Herschel as we move forward and will be considering how best to implement this to ensure that we evolve to become a more adaptable, progressive academic space. We are mindful of a number of online academies and institutes emerging as educational competitors, but believe that the relational aspect of education, including socialisation, extramural activities (sport and cultural) and friendship opportunities, makes contact teaching preferable to most students and parents. We have seen how essential the core 21st century skills are, especially with regard to adaptability, metacognition, collaboration, creativity and problem-solving. The acquisition of these skills is important in a world that has been disrupted, post the fourth industrial revolution and we need to look ahead to ensure that we are offering a relevant and evolving curriculum to high fee-paying parents.

In my Valedictory address to the Class of 2020, I said that I would detail the trials and tribulations of living in the time of Covid-19. After all, we have acquired a specific language during this time and the following words will haunt us for years to come: "protocols", "lockdown", "self-isolation", "National Disaster Command Committee", "new normal", "unprecedented", "social distancing", and the list goes on.

When the pandemic 'landed' in South Africa and we were told on Monday 23 March that we would be locked down from midnight on Thursday 26 March, for a period of three weeks, none of us could have imagined what followed. As I write this report, it is Thursday, 5 November and Day 225 of the national lockdown. Many South Africans are angry at the further extension of the National Disaster Management Act and are challenging Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma's decision. The pandemic has disrupted school life as we know it and has definitely taken South African education into the technological space, forcing engagement and allowing schools to rethink and to recalibrate their core business; curriculum delivery. (Of course, this applies to schools with the economic capacity for investment and growth in this area).

The socio-economic divide revealed itself as a gaping wound in South Africa, and the impact of the pandemic will continue to play out for a long time. We will only be able to measure the severity of its reach in a few years' time. It showed inequity, laid bare the dire need of so many, none more so than those who are displaced and homeless. Poverty and corruption thrived in the rush to procure tenders for the distribution of PPE, food parcels and aid. On the other hand, it also showed us that South Africans generally care for each other as private organisations and companies, individuals and the business sector engaged in several operations to assist and to provide shelter, food and medical care.

Of far greater consequence to South Africa than the Covid-19 pandemic, is the racism pandemic which Herschel is actively addressing through policy and actions, building on the existing transformation, equity and belonging policy to operationalise these critical aspects to support change. The role played by Logan Govender in seeing through a commitment to change at the school is noteworthy in so much of what has been achieved in recent years, and in 2020 in particular. Logan's resignation from Council signals the loss of a committed and astute Council member. He leaves a legacy and we will miss his energy and vision.

The Anti-Racism Task Team (formed to manage the crisis during the anti-racism campaign) has met regularly to manage the changes and to ensure accountability for actions agreed to. There is much to be done still, but the concept of operationalising transformation, equity and belonging is a long-term sustainable response, especially since the policies for all areas of school operation have been/will be updated to reflect this. Next year's initiatives include: incorporating aspects of the STM (Student Transformation Mission) across areas of operation, ongoing engagement with Lovelyn Nwadeyi and other service-providers (across all stakeholder groups), working closely with the TEB Committee chaired by Tumelo Baloyi, coffee conversations in the Prep and Senior School, staff and pupil surveys to ascertain responses to aspects of the TEB strategy, communication of the anti-racism statement to the Herschel community (parents, OHA), a parent portal for sharing interesting resources to support the TEB journey, ongoing relationship-building with ex-students who have engaged with the school, monitoring the anti-racism email reporting mechanism (and investigating an app version to replace this), staff development on micro-aggressions, implicit biases and exclusion (in response to specific comments made online via social media platforms in May/June), acting on the findings/recommendations of the independent investigation into systemic racism conducted in October/November, focusing on staff recruitment and pupil recruitment to meet transformation imperatives and working in small groups to place belonging at the centre of the Herschel experience. There is no formula or magic wand in a matter as complex and nuanced as transformation and the journey starts

within first. This is a critical point of departure for a meaningful and authentic journey towards change.

Gender-based violence continues to be a scourge in our society, despite the levels of activism we witnessed towards the end of 2019. Covid-19 lockdown regulations unfortunately saw the level of violence rise and we have been conscious of the thousands of vulnerable South Africans who are victims and survivors. The 'service' outside Claremont Post-Office during the lockdown was indeed a moving one, with many people leaving flowers and lighting candles to commemorate Uyinene Mrwetyana's senseless killing. We will do our best, as an independent girls' school to highlight awareness and to support initiatives to combat gender-based violence.

I have admired the adaptability, the fortitude and the commitment shown by pupils across all grades at Herschel. There has been much published about the impact of the pandemic on young people and on teens and we should not dismiss this or take it lightly. While academic success and progress is measurable, we need to contextualise this in 2020 and to be understanding of the varying effects that lockdown, physical distancing, lack of sport, reduced socialisation and online learning may have had on pupils, some more so than others. It may not be apparent yet, but a considerable amount will have been gained in terms of perspective, adaptive quotient, technological skill, empathic quality and social awareness. This generation will have been impacted in ways that will emerge through their worldview, interactions and consciousness and it will be interesting to see how this manifests.

We owe much to the courageous, mature and more serious leadership shown by this year's Grade 12s. (I have told them that their style of leadership was needed in a year such as this). Shannon Pitman, Semane Reddy-Mbewu and Michaela Todd worked well together to support change and to ensure that the changes that were happening were consultative and communicated to the school. There are many wonderful young women joining the ranks of the OHA this year and we shall follow their progress, contributions and growth with interest and with gratitude.

I wish to acknowledge the support of the parents, many of whom are Old Herschelians. Understandably there have been some difficult situations to navigate in a year such as this and we are fortunate to operate in an environment where parents show their support and appreciation. We need to value parents as partners in the educational space, especially in one that is changing rapidly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kristina Miller who, in her capacity as Chair of the OHA, has supported the transformation journey and has engaged with Old Herschelians of recent years in an effort to diversify the association and to grow it.

"Herschel Girls School is an inclusive, independent Anglican school, which provides an innovative, transformative and well-rounded education that prepares and empowers courageous, empathetic and ethical young people to lead authentic lives." (Herschel Vision Statement)

This is the vision statement that Stuart West and the staff worked on under the guidance of Dave Woods, in January 2019. It is a wonderful vision and one which we need to strive towards fulfilling. As the centenary year approaches, it is fitting that this vision has been distilled thus. In the short passage of time that I have been at this beautiful school, I have seen and felt many of these attributes, and I know that with time, and a real commitment to transformation, we will reach the point at which we can speak of authenticity and belonging.

It is clear that the OHA is committed to the education of girls and young women. This is evident in the support that is forthcoming, and the genuine interest shown in the achievements and contributions of Herschel girls and women. As an independent school for girls, we need to live our tagline: Learning to make a difference. In doing this, we will perpetuate change and contribute fully and meaningfully.

We know Michelle Obama's vision to be true: 'When women are educated, their countries become stronger and more prosperous'.

Kamala Harris's election as Vice-President of the USA (7 November 2020) and her words to Americans in her first address: "I hope every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities" continues to speak of empowering girls/young women. This is a core aspect of the educational experience at Herschel and it is wonderful to see that globally, and across a number of industries and sectors, there are women taking centre-stage, claiming their rightful positions in previously unequal spaces.

Despite the disruption, uncertainty and fragility of the world at this point in time, there is also hope, opportunity, possibility and our shared humanity. We need to do better, live better and be better.

I wish all Old Herschelians and their families a happy and healthy holiday break with their loved ones.

Ad Dei Gloriam

Heather Goedeke

Head

Report from the Chairman of the OHA

The year kicked off with a spectacular bang before COVID-19 became a reality in our lives. The Founder's Day lunch and Cocktail Party were both very well attended by Old Herschelians and our reunion years: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000 and 2010. Founder's Day started with the usual school assembly where the Grade 9 Leadership Elective Group played a series of video clips of interviews with various people in the Herschel family who are usually 'behind the scenes'; from Administrative to Support staff. The content was very touching. At assembly, Nicola Clegg's parents received Nicola's award in her absence as she was unable to travel to Cape Town to be with us in person. Nicola had pre-recorded a heartfelt video to be played at assembly which the pupils could really relate to. A feature of Nicola's outstanding achievements is available on the Old Herschelian Facebook page.

Joanne Simpson, Kris Miller, Warren Simpson

Assembly was followed by a service in the Theatre and the famous 'archway' run around the fountain on the school grounds for all new pupils and staff. Thereafter, the Old Herschelians made their way to the admin block lawn for the OHA AGM where the year's news and updates were shared. Mrs Heather Goedeke – the new Head of Herschel was congratulated on the school's wonderful matric results. Everyone then made their way to the Mary Jagger Hall for the boisterous lunch. This year, our lunch guests were treated to the story of Nicola Clegg, recipient of the 2020 Caroline Herschel Award who received a standing ovation for her immense contribution to science and the field of cancer treatment.

During the lunch, various reunion years representatives spoke of their time at the school, their fond memories and pet peeves.

Fiona Noble (1960) commented on the changes to the school and this being her first Founder's Day back on campus. She had everyone in hysterics over a story about a condensed milk theft and the wet bloomers that had to be worn after a tap being used to open the condensed milk broke, dousing them all in cold water. Her class has also enjoyed keeping in contact with the teachers from their time.

Elaine Russell (1970) shared stories of teachers napping in class, girls getting 'lost' between classes and Ms Cynthia Sweet, whom everyone remembers fondly. There were also hoots of laughter over the cabbage patch being remembered as the best secret smoking spot on campus and girls reporting flashers who made frequent appearances in the Arderne Gardens.

Claire Newton (1980) Started by highlighting the fact that their class had started as 17 girls in Sub A and finished with only 37 girls in Matric, of which there were 8 Susan's and 3 Suzanne's! She lamented being given weeding as detention punishment and everyone laughed about the epidiascope being used in classes in their time. Of the 37 Matrics in 1980 25 were at the 2020 reunion, which is impressive.

Karen Dudley (1985) had everyone in stitches in her usual way recounting shoulder pad and leg warmer fashion and how the class of 1985 really liked each other because of the gift that Herschel gave them all – friendship. She spoke of their class'racial diversity and how they developed grace in being allowed to fail and make things right again thereafter.

Tebogo Skwambane (1990) reflected how returning to campus felt like coming home for her and how that home had taught them all a sense of capability and confidence. There were stories of Latin club, streaking across lawns and skinny dipping, fainting in St Saviour's and welcoming Mrs Duff as Head. The Class of 1990 emerged from school into a new South Africa and she remembered watching Nelson Mandela being released from prison on the boarding house television.

Sue Wessels (2000) remembered fondly the snackwiches made in the Matric common room and late-night Cabaret rehearsals. Some of the 2000 year are starting on new Herschel journeys with their daughters in the Prep school now. Sue also reflected on the fact that being an Herschelian bears the responsibly of being the difference we want to see in the world, that with being fortunate, you also need to give back or pay forward.

Adrienne van Zyl (2010) began by mentioning the "H" factor that all 104 of her Matrics had by being Herschelians. Coined by Bruce Probyn during his time as Head, it referred to Herschelians being kinder, trying harder and pushing further than other young women and the extent to which morals and ethics are engrained in the school and its pupils. Their 2010 year was the last Grade 8 year to sit under the Ilex tree

before it was cut down and she referred to the Ilex tree as the eyes and ears of the school. Their year finds it very easy to come together and she mentioned what a testament that was to the school.

Lunch was followed by a tour of the school hosted by prefects and a showcasing of the new OHA Archive and office to the OHA members. Some members loved paging through some of the old photo albums in the archives and reminiscing with their friends. This has led to some thinking around how to share the archive materials with a wider audience going forward. The OHA committee is working on a plan to feature themed displays in the Prep and Senior schools aligned with school terms, school activities and events.

This year has also seen the OHA make use of technology during lockdown to add some serious momentum to ongoing projects. Virtual meetings have offered more frequent meetings and online voting by all OHA members on matters of concern. The OHA now boasts three new members all having matriculated between 2011 and 2019; a new and much-improved Constitution (now available on the website: http://www.herschel.org.za/alumni/welcome/) and a newly constituted Centenary Committee.

Please read the OHA Committee members feature in this newsletter for more information about your committee. The school is also preparing for a website revamp in 2020 / 2021 and as part of that the OHA has prepared a new look web area. This will also ensure that all relevant and necessary information that the OHA members need from time to time is available on an ongoing basis. In addition to this work, Zeanne Bornman (Duminy) Class of 2001 is volunteering a few hours of her time each month to populating the Herschel Wikipedia page. This work will involve creating the content and links to everything Herschel and OHA-related so that when a Google or Wikipedia search is done on the internet, all interesting and relevant information can be found easily.

In December 2019, we took up residence in our new Archive and office in the old music block and in June 2020 launched the archive digitisation project which has been three years in the making. This project has kicked off with Kathy Wheeler, an OH and museologist, who in phase one will inventory all records and artefacts in the archive. Phase two in 2021, will see the contents of the Archive being digitised by Africa Media Online who have already digitised all school magazines from 1927 to date. In the third and final phase, the digital archive will then be hosted on an independent webpage linked to the school website. The result will be an online repository of all archived Herschel records that are fully accessible to all current and Old Herschelians and be easily searchable in terms of date, name and theme such as sport, cultural activity and academic subject.

This is a huge technological step forward for the Old Herschelians and many thanks go to the school for financially supporting this project. We look forward to being one of the few schools in South Africa to offer online archive access to the Herschel family by the end of 2022.

This year has brought much-needed change and with it an accounting of where we can improve on all fronts. We have reviewed in full the committee mechanisms and made improvement changes where required and possible. This has included a look at membership. The current lifetime membership fee of R400 has been in place for over 30 years and is due for an increase. In 2020 and 2021 the life membership will be increased by 10% and thereafter by 5% annually. Matrics are billed in their final invoice for membership, but Herschelians who leave Herschel prior to matriculating, or who would like join the association at a later stage, are most welcome to do so. Membership not only ensures you receive all news and updates from both the school and the Old Herschelians' Association, but also ensures you are included in our database, that you receive invitations to all events – including attendance at all Founder's Day lunches free of charge. Non-members are welcome at all events but would be required to pay a visitor's fee to attend lunch on Founder's Day.

Further to this decision, some OHA events have also been reviewed to ensure that they are no longer loss-making. The 'Golden Oldies' tea will only be held every second year with the next one coinciding with the 2022 centenary celebrations. The OHA cocktail party will continue to be held annually on the evening before Founder's Day, but tickets will be priced to ensure costs are covered. The same principle will be applied to the annual Winter Dinner. All other school and OHA events such as art exhibitions, prize giving, interhouse singing competitions and others will remain free to attendees.

At present the OHA does not provide a bursary to the school. The only support provided currently is an annual donation of R20 000 in the form of support to the Bursary Relief Fund which the school manages. With the formation of a Centenary Committee this year, we envision many additional events and arrangements to be made around the celebration in February 2022. This will include the sale of commemorative items to fundraise for transformation efforts within the school, which will be the first of its kind. Please read the article prepared by long-standing OHA committee members in this newsletter on previous fundraising efforts in support of the school's transformation. If any old Herschelian would like to support our fundraising efforts in any way, please contact Kris Miller (OHA Chair) on Kristina.miller@live.co.za. Every donation and any support will further our efforts to provide opportunities to girls who need them most.

The OHA Committee has worked hard this year on the various projects and workstreams mentioned above and special thanks need to go to Joyce Goldschmidt who has brought her passion and perfectionism to the role of Secretary in the past year and a half. She has pushed me to be a better Chair and supported me in many more ways than her job description dictates.

Let us hope that 2021 brings with it a healthier and more stable world and great improvements to Herschel aided by the support of the Old Herschelians' Association.

Ad Dei Gloriam.
Kristina Miller

OHA Chair

Carianne Wilson, Alexandra Emmerich and Sally Blackman

Founder's Day Service in the Theatre

Beth Pollock reads from the Bible during the service

Brendalyn Stempel and Fiona Nobel

Heather Goedeke leads the way through the arch

Kyra Schlebusch (nee Pratt) and Karen Dudley

Old Herschelians and the Senior School Choir

Founder's Day Service in the Theatre

Founders Day 2020

The tables were beautifully appointed. Courtesy of Neva Ward

Old Herschelians placing roses in the cross in remembrance of those who are no longer with us.

Lynne Smith (Reid) 1970, Gabrielle Lanfear 2020 Jagger, Geena Drabbe 2020 Merriman, Edwina Burger (Abbott) 1970, Janet Graaff 1970, Abby de Waal 2020 Rolt

Caroline Herschel Award

The Caroline Herschel Award was launched in 2017 to celebrate the extraordinary impact that Old Herschelians have made in South Africa and the world beyond. This annual award seeks to recognise and celebrate the valued contributions of Herschel alumni in making a significant difference in a community, industry, arena or field of study.

The third Caroline Herschel Award recipient is the phenomenal Nicola Clegg. Nicola's contribution to science and cancer treatment are immense and a video she filmed for the school as well as a summary of her outstanding achievements is available on the *Old Herschelian Facebook page*.

THE CAROLINE HERSCHEL AWARD PRESENTED AT FOUNDER'S DAY ASSEMLBY

Details and Criteria:

- The Caroline Herschel Award may only be awarded to an Old Herschelian once in her lifetime.
- The candidate must be a living Old Herschelian, nominated by a fellow Old Herschelian for the award.
- An Old Herschelian may be nominated more than once and in different years, provided she has not already been awarded the Caroline Herschel Award.
- Nominations will be requested between May and September of each year, with selection of the recipient being made in November of that same year.
- Nominees will be requested to furnish the Old Herschelians' Association with additional information in support of their nomination.
- Members of the Old Herschelians' Association will be invited to vote for the nominees during the month of October.
- The top voted nominations will be submitted to an external panel of judges at the end of October. The external panel will consist of three women sourced from the education, philanthropy and business sectors. The judges will have no ties to Herschel in any form.
- The judge's decision will be final.
- The OHA members and external judges will select the recipient of the Caroline Herschel Award each year based on the following criteria:
  - The candidate must have contributed extraordinarily to her community, industry, field of study or other arena
  - Her contributions must be recognised and valued by peers and community leaders
  - The achievements must be determined by her personal attributes, whether those be in leadership, through motivation or change agency, or through inspiration
  - The achievements would be considered above and beyond the call of duty
- The recipient will be informed of their selection as soon as the external panel has made its selection in November to allow the recipient time to make travel arrangements (if necessary) to receive their award at Founder's Day the following year.

The recipient of the award will:

- Be invited to receive the award in person at Founder's Day (mid-February) in the year after she is named recipient of the award. The school will contribute to the travel costs for the recipient to receive the award.
- Be invited to present an acceptance address to the Preparatory and Senior Schools and at the Founder's Day luncheon hosted for the Old Herschelians.

Nomination Forms are available from the OHA Secretary - oha@herschel.org.za and are due before 30 September each year.

Brendalyn Stempel Old Herschelian Bursay

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR GRADE 8 2022

- The successful applicant must be the daughter of an Old Herschelian.
- The family will not be in a financial position to afford the full Herschel fees.
- She should be supportive of Herschel's ideals and proud of its heritage.
- She must have academic merit and make sound progress each year.
- She must contribute to the ethos of the school and observe the school's code of conduct.
- The donors will receive regular progress reports and have contact with the recipient herself.
- The bursary will cover a percentage of the normal fees from Grade 8 to 12.

For further details and an application form, please contact the Admissions Secretary on 021 670 7500

Our foundation focuses on three areas of giving:

CHILDREN

EDUCATION

THE ARTS

"Education is the passport to the future; for tomorrow belongs to those that prepare for it today"

"The harder you work, the luckier you get."

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

Caroline Lucretia Herschel

Some background to the naming of the Caroline Herschel Award

Caroline Lucretia Herschel (1750-1848) was the first woman to receive full recognition in the field of astronomy. Born in Hanover, Germany, Caroline Herschel was the eighth child of a rural German family. When she was 10 years old, she fell ill with typhus which stunted her growth and left her scarred. She never grew taller than four feet three inches.

She moved to England to join her brother, William Herschel (astronomer and composer), in Bath when she was 22. She began to train as a singer and sang as a soprano in many performances. In 1781 William discovered the planet Uranus. Following this major discovery, he was knighted and appointed to the position of King's Astronomer for George III. In her early thirties, Caroline joined William as a scientific assistant, helping him with his observations and to grind and polish the mirrors for his telescopes. Whole nights through, she and William observed the heavens, noting the positions of the stars from the giant telescope which they had built.

Inspired by her brother's success, Caroline began her own astronomical research, specializing in the search for comets. Between 1786 and 1797 she discovered eight new comets. She evaluated the nocturnal notations and recalculated them, wrote treatises for Philosophical Transactions, discovered fourteen nebulae, calculated hundreds more, and began a catalogue for star clusters and nebular patches. In addition, she compiled a supplemental catalogue to Flamsteeds Atlas which included 561 stars, as well as a comprehensive index to it. The moon crater C. Herschel was named after her, as was the asteroid 281 Lucretia - her second given name.

In recognition of her work as William's assistant, King George III started paying Caroline an annual salary. This made her the first woman to be paid for her contribution to science and together with her brother, she discovered over 2400 astronomical objects over twenty years. In 1828, at the age of 75, the Royal Astronomical Society awarded Caroline Herschel a gold medal for her monumental works in science. The next woman to win the Gold Medal Award was Vera Rubin in 1996. Ten years later, she was made an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society. She received a similar honour from the Royal Irish Academy. On her 96th birthday, Caroline Herschel was awarded the gold medal of science by the King of Prussia.

Caroline remained modest throughout her remarkable career. She loved literature and art and had eight unpublished novels. "

What a truly remarkable woman.

She once remarked: "As much as we need a prosperous economy, we also need a prosperity of kindness and decency.

William and Caroline Herschel polishing a telescope mirror, 1896 Lithograph

Caroline Herschel at 78, one year after winning the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1828

Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club

By Daphne Beames

Sipping cocktails vicariously has proved challenging during 2020.

We did manage a very special evening on the garden terrace of the Cellars/Hohenhort (childhood home of one of our alumnae) in January, and the official February OHA Reunion in February went ahead as scheduled. It is always a pure delight and this year it was especially good to meet the new Headmistress, Heather Goedeke, at the event. I would like to take this opportunity to wish her a happy and fulfilling time at Herschel.

With venues closed to us - and social distancing the norm - it was not until September that we managed to arrange a luncheon in the Terrace Lounge at Kelvin Grove. This was attended by our core group of stalwarts and what a joy it was to meet again. Our camaraderie is uplifting.

As December approaches, our thoughts inevitably turn to the Mount Nelson: our chosen venue for end of year festivities. This year it is closed to us. Nothing daunted, our final cocktail party of the year will go ahead in a private home and promises to see the year out in style. May I wish you all a very happy festive season.

Jenny Jacobs, Angie Montandon (Jacobs) - 2003, Mandy van Dugteren (Noakes) – 1962, Alicia Wilkinson (Faull) – 1962, Nancy Todd (Jackson) – 1978, Caroline Isted – 1985, Daphne Beames, Joyce Goldschmidt.

During their visit to the Cape of Good Hope from 1834 to 1838 to survey the southern skies, Sir John Herschel and his wife Lady Margaret were exposed to the beauty and diversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

The profound impact this encounter had on them both resulted in the printing of a magnificent collection of their botanical drawings.

Sir John used his camera lucida to achieve accurate outlines of the plants. These were then painted in watercolours by Margaret. Most of which are reproduced in this volume.

If anyone is interested in paging through this beautiful book, please visit the Archives room. We have a copy in our collection.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND TO THE CLUB….

The 'Lady Herschel Cocktail Club' Social and Networking Circle was launched in 2001 and encourages a wide circle of Herschel alumni, guests, families and friends to meet several times a year at various well-known venues, such as The Cellars, Mount Nelson and The Vineyard, on the last Tuesday of a month from 18h00 to 19h30.

BIT OF BACKGROUND TO LADY HERSCHEL ….

The name 'Lady Herschel' is a tribute to Lady Margaret Brodie Herschel who once walked on the lawns of the estate that we now call Herschel, and the manicured gardens of the Vineyard, in the early 19th-century. Married to her famous astronomer husband, Sir John Herschel, she was an elegant and talented hostess, and the mother of 12 children – three of whom were born at the Cape of Good Hope between 1834 and 1838. Intelligent and forward-thinking, Lady Margaret was passionately interested in the pursuit of knowledge and cherished a special love for the night skies and botanical discovery. Lady Margaret and her husband painted many Botanical watercolor paintings

She collaborated with Sir John on books of sketches and botanical paintings depicting rare specimens found at the Cape. In idyllic surroundings at her Western Cape homestead, Feldhausen (also known as 'The Grove') she led a romantic existence with her industrious husband – often participating in stargazing, bird watching, mountain walks, botanical collecting, photography and painting. Possessed of an educated and enquiring mind, Lady Herschel epitomises elegance and industry, and Herschel girls of today are proud to remember her in the name of their 'Lady Herschel' Alumni Club .

Minutes of the 92nd AGM

MINUTES OF THE 92nd OLD HERSCHELIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE HEAD'S LAWN AT HERSCHEL ON 14TH February 2020

1. WELCOME

Present: Heather Goedeke (President), Kristina Miller (Chair), Pru Crawley (Vice Chair), Lucy Bailey (Treasurer), Joyce Goldschmidt (Secretary), Committee Members, Old Herschelians and Staff
Special welcome to the Classes of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000 and 2010. We also have some ladies from 1954, 1962 1965.

Welcome to all other members present. Welcome to Heather Goedeke as the new Head of Herschel.

Apologies: Some of our committee members have tendered their apologies

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These have been circulated to committee members as per the email sent to the database by the secretary earlier this year. It was proposed that they be taken as read. Acceptance of the previous minutes were proposed by Pru Crawley and seconded by Lucy Bailey.

3. STUDENT AWARDS AND NEW OHA MEMBERS

Congratulations to the 2019 Matrics on their exceptional results.

3.1 Recipients of special awards:

- The Old Herschelian Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership: Amaarah Ebrahim
- Daphne Beames Aequa Mente Cup: Kitty Fisher
- Alicia Wilkinson Silwood Prize for Practical Cookery: Caitlin Moyle and Isabella Probert

3.2 The recipients of Old Herschelian Scholarships:

- Brendalyn Stempel All Round Scholarship: Erin Meyer
- Brendalyn Stempel Old Herschelian Scholarship: Maggie Mallinson
- Fenella Douglas Scholarship: Alexa Mesham

Congratulations to the above recipients.

3. New OHA Members in 2020

Number of new members joining the OHA: 87

- 80 paying students
- 6 opted out of membership
- 7 Scholarship students sponsored by Pru Crawley and the OHA

4. 2019 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

- 93 candidates
- 100% pass rate
- 99% Bachelor Degree pass. All girls (100%) have access to tertiary studies.
- The 93 candidates achieved 385 subject distinctions (including Advanced Programme Mathematics and Advanced Programme English). This equates to an average of 4.1 subject distinctions per candidate.
    - 6 girls attained an aggregate over 90%.
    - 49 girls attained an A aggregate (over 80%).
    - In total, 75 girls attained an A or B aggregate (over 70%).
- 10 subjects achieved a subject average of over 80%. These are English, Mathematical Literacy, Life Orientation, Dramatic Arts, French, German, History, Information Technology, Italian and Visual Arts. Advanced Programme Mathematics had an average of 76.3% and Advanced Programme English, 77.7%.
- 29 pupils (31%) achieved 6 or more subject distinctions and 25 pupils (27%) achieved 4 or more subject distinctions.

NOTABLY: 2019 Matriculant Josie Beare was awarded the Top Student in the Western Cape in Dramatic Arts, having achieved 100%!

5. OHA MATTERS

5.1 OHA Bursary Fund Donations

The OHA made their annual Bursary Relief Fund donation of R20 000 in 2019. As from 2017, The R10 000 amount from the OHA Fund was matched from the trust account setup for this purpose.

5.2 Caroline Herschel Award
The Caroline Herschel Award was awarded to Nicola Clegg. Nicola, unfortunately, could not be here today but recorded a video message that was played in assembly to the students this morning. More will be shared on Nicola's accomplishments in the OHA Newsletter later this year and I'll briefly outline her achievements at the lunch.

5.3 OHA Newsletter 2019
Immense thanks to Joyce who put together her first OHA newsletter in 2019. Joyce made use of a new program to assist in this work and her skills and effort are clear on reading the newsletter with its new look and feel.

The newsletter is sent out electronically and can be downloaded and printed by those who prefer to hold a copy in their hands. The school has also moved to this format and the Herschel Magazine is available on the school's website. Hardcopies of the OH Newsletter can be printed in black and white at a cost if so required.

5.4 OHA Archives and Heritage
Following a few years of mayhem where the OHA Archives and museum were homeless whilst school construction was underway, we finally have a home. The OHA Archives have moved into the old music block and we are busy making ourselves comfortable. It is great to have control over the protection of the archives once again following a few years of shared school space and some loss to the records in the archives.

The request has been put to the school for a Heritage space to be created to showcase our traditions, records and historical items, but this will only be possible if the school embarks on the proposed second phase construction project involving the old music block and boarding house.

We hope to have Kathy Wheeler, an Old Herschelian, commence work in the archives to inventory in 2020 and 2021, with a longer-term view to digitise the archives around the Centenary.

5.5 OHA Communication
The decision was taken in 2018 to increase the communication to the OHA of school news as we had received requests for current school news. The termly Observer is now sent out to the OHA database along with any critical school news plus a digital copy of the annual School Magazine.
Additionally, members of the OHA are now also advised via Facebook of all school events they are invited to attend which include, but are not limited to:

- The annual Bursary Dance and Auction Dinner
- The annual Art exhibition
- School Plays and productions

Join the Old Herschelian Association Facebook Page to receive notifications of these events and ensure your email addresses are up-to-date to receive the newsletters and mailers.

5.6 OHA Database and keeping in contact

Your contact details can be updated via the website under the ALUMNI section, via your Circle Secretary or directly with the OHA secretary - email: OHA@herschel.org.za News is also shared on Facebook on the Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club Group.

5.7 OH Funding and Donations
The OHA relies on membership fees and donations for its funding and all support is appreciated.

As a result of inflation and an increased attendance at events, the cost of some OHA events has gone up, such as the cock-

tail party and the Winter Dinner. We are committed to keeping these costs as low as possible, focussing purely on covering event costs.

Additionally, we are proposing to the school to build in an annual increase in the OHA membership fees which have remained the same, at R400, for over 30 years – for a lifetime membership. We will propose a 5% annual increase.

Should you wish to donate, you can specify: OH (for Old Herschelian) and UG (for Upgrades); TL (teacher learnerships) or BF (for Bursary Fund) as a reference. Eg: OHUG Joan Bloggs. Banking details are: Standard Bank, Claremont, account number: 071879021.

6. OTHER

6.1 Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club

Thank you to Daphne Beames who started this club and keeps it thriving. The club meets several times a year at various locations and all Old Herschelians are invited.

You can join the Facebook group or request to be added to the mailing list: gilespie@iafrica.com

6.2 Cocktail party

The annual OH cocktail party was held last night in the atrium and attended by over 50 Old Herschelians. Everyone was warmly welcomed by Heather Goedeke, our new Head of Herschel. As it was such a lovely summer's evening, guests soon spilled outside onto the terrace. Many thanks to Lisa Walsh and her catering team for the delicious snacks and, of course, wine.

6.3 Other matters to discuss

The OHA proposed amendments to the Constitution in 2019. Main changes include electronic newsletter information, Staff as OHA members and criteria thereof as well as information about the Caroline Herschel Award administration. Copies of the proposed changes can be requested from the Secretary.

7. TREASURER REPORT

Lucy Bailey to give us a brief overview of the OHA accounts for 2019.

8. THANK YOUS

- Lucy Bailey for her support to Joyce in her new role as Secretary and for her work this year managing the OHA accounts.
- To Joyce Goldschmidt who has done an amazing job as the new OHA Secretary
- Heather Goedeke and the School for hosting us.
- Lisa Welsh and Origin catering for the wonderful eats and drinks at the cocktail party and for the lunch today.
- Old Herschelians who contribute to the functions and activities of the school and maintaining an interest at all times.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45

Notice of the
Annual General Meeting
of the Old Herschelian Association
to be held on Friday 12 February 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Herschelian Association will take place as follows:

DATE	:	Friday 12 February 2021
VENUE	:	Herschel Girls School
TIME	:	12:45

Requests from members of the OHA for any motion(s) to be placed before the AGM must be emailed to the secretary before 12:00 on Friday 5 February 2021 on oha@herschel.org.za

AGENDA FOR THE 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD HERSCHELIAN ASSOCIATION

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Student awards and new OH Members
4. National Senior Certificate results – 2020
5. OHA matters
6. Other matters
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Thank yousww
9. Adjournment

The AGM of the OHA held on the lawn on Founder's Day, February 2020

Archive and Heritage

BY KATHY WHEELER (Caradoc-Davies) Class of 1973

Nearly 50 years ago, in the build up to Herschel's Golden Jubilee in 1972, Marian Robertson (Spilhaus), an Old Herschelian, was asked by the then headmistress Dr Barbara Silberbauer to write the script for the pageant The Stars Looked Down, the focal point of the celebrations. While undertaking the research she discovered that there was very little material available other than the diaries of the first headmistress, Miss Ralph, minutes of Council meetings, copies of the Herschelian, and two scrapbooks. There were also several photographs but few of these had been dated and the people in them were not identified. Despite an extensive search of the school and reassurances by two retired headmistresses, Miss McLean and Mrs Kittow, that more archival material did exist, it was nowhere to be found. It was not until six months after the pageant that the missing material was found on the top of the stationery cupboard!

In order to prevent similar problems when planning for future anniversaries it was decided at the 1972 annual general meeting of the Old Herschelians' Association that a school archives should be established so that all the material could be kept in one place and be curated. Since then the collection has been cared for by teachers Elizabeth Stockwell, June Kurtz and Annemarieke Golding. In 2019, thanks to the foresight of the Old Herschelians' Association, the archives have a new home in a multipurpose room which houses both the office of the association and the archives.

Now that Herschel's centenary is fast approaching it is appropriate to remind ourselves why it is important to preserve the documents and photographs housed in the archives. These primary sources had been produced as a result of the activities that took place over the lifetime of the school. Examples, such as Elizabeth Appleyard's letters to her parents and Norma Bettison's diary, are fascinating because they were created by girls who lived in and were a part of the history of the school. They are personal and real accounts which provide insight into the values and attitudes of the past, thereby bringing the history of Herschel to life and giving it a human face.

The collections in the archives concern the history of Herschel, and the many achievements of its past pupils and staff. The long–term goal is to become a living archives in line with international archive and museum practice which is to make collections accessible, in this case to those who are interested in or wish to research the history of Herschel. This will involve compiling a digital catalogue and, in the long-term, making the collection available online. As a first step to this goal an inventory is being compiled prior to cataloguing the collection. A big challenge that has been identified is that many of the photographs are not dated and the people and events they depict are not known. It is hoped that Old Herschelians will take this on as a project during next year.

DIGITISING THE ARCHIVES
By KRISTINA MILLER (OHA Chair) Class of 2002

We have engaged African Media Online to digitise all the items in the archives once Kathy's work is complete. The result will be an online repository of all archived Herschel records that are fully accessible to all current and old Herschelians and easily searchable in terms of date, name and theme such as sports and cultural activities and academic subject.

This is a huge technological step forward for the Old Herschelians and the project has been 3 years in the making. With thanks to the school for financial support on this project, we look forward to being one of the few schools in South Africa to offer this online archive access to all in the Herschel family by the end of 2022.

Call back the past!

Centenary Book and Celebrations 1922 - 2022

'AD DEI GLORIAM - A HUNDRED YEARS OF HERSCHEL'
BY NEIL VEITCH

Sometime in 2018, Stuart West showed me into his office and said that the Council had agreed that a commemorative book would be one of the ways Herschel would like to celebrate its first 100 years. I was pleased to hear that because, though I had written several institutional histories before, researching a famous girls' school would be a first for me.

I was quite surprised to find that the school records were stored in the dressing room of the Herschel Theatre. Ploughing my way through the archives in its cold backstage area during a Cape winter, I had to wear two coats and gloves in my search for the warm, beating heart of the school! And I think I found it. Or at any rate, some of it, because out of those piled boxes tumbled letters, photographs, drawings, invitations and marvellous accounts of life at Herschel from almost 100 years before. Such strange events and even stranger people, some of them, but all adding to the richness and variety of this wonderful school's first century. What a treasure trove!

But best of all for me in researching the history of Herschel has been meeting and interviewing nearly 100 people so far who for many different reasons, have felt a special passion for this school.

From the tiny ones in the Pre-Prep, up through the Prep and Senior Schools, through the mothers and on until the Grande Dames of Herschel - all have had their distinctive take on the school. Women such as Adele Bennetts, Pru Crawley, Di Burns, Lyn Reid-Jacobs, Kris Miller, Joyce Goldschmidt, and how many others, have all made this journey of exploration and discovery a truly special experience for me.

I have been so lucky to have Lindi Clarke, former Deputy Principal of Herschel, as my editor and she has proved soundingboard, connoisseur of all things Herschel, and friend on our literary journey together. I am busy selecting the designer and printer for the Centenary publication - a critical part of the process of producing a book on our own, ie without just relying on a commercial publisher.

While I have still a way to go before the launch of this volume in December 2021, how I will miss the cheery greetings from the girls on the lawns, the welcome from Heather Vaughan and Andrew Bearne, the friendliness of the teaching staff and the feeling that, somehow I had been accepted, for a while at any rate, as 'Herschel's historian-in-residence.'

I do hope that this Centenary publication, which will be available early in 2022, will bring back something of the atmosphere of Herschel to Old Girls, however far in time and distance from their school they may now be.

OHA CENTENARY COMMITTEE
BY MRS JUSTINE MACDONALD

The OHA has constituted a Centenary Committee in the lead up to Herschel's 100th Birthday celebrations in February 2022. The members of the Centenary Committee include OHA Committee members as well as other Old Herschelians, past and present members of Herschel staff, and representatives of the Parents' Association.

An initial meeting was held at the end of August to discuss the functions of the Committee and to consider the various ideas that have been tabled to date. The two main functions of the Committee include the organization of the celebrations and events to be held to celebrate the Centenary, and the OHA's fundraising initiative to support the school's transformation mission.

The proposal is to run the Centenary celebrations from the Thursday to the Sunday across both school campuses using the Centenary as an opportunity to showcase what Herschel has to offer and to provide time and space for all members of the Herschel Family to reflect on the school's incredible history. In addition to the usual Founder's Day functions, that may need to modified due to the anticipated number of guests, we are considering music concerts, art exhibitions and heritage displays from the archives which can be attended at various times throughout the celebrations. The intention is to fundraise online, as well as at these events, through the sale of various Centenary-inspired commemorative items that will appeal to the whole Herschel Family. The proposed commemorative items include scarves, aprons, bags, water bottles, mugs, specialised stationary, umbrellas, a Herschel bear or bunny and wine. If any Old Herschelian is able to assist with the sourcing of any of these items (or any other item) please do not hesitate to contact us as the intention is to support the Herschel community as much as possible.

We invite all Old Herschelians who would like to be involved in any way regarding the Centenary to please contact Justine Macdonald (OHA Centenary Committee Chair) on: *justinemac33@gmail.com.*

A little piece of history & little piece of the Ilex tree!

Herschel as it looked at the beginning of 1922.
Herschel today - nearly 100 years later.

Old and new photos
- Photo on the right by Anna Engelhardt -

Fund Raising

This painting by the late Patricia Jane Harpur (Lindsay)
Class of 1948 - 06/03/1932 - 20/02/2020
entitled 'The Farm Chapel' was one of the pieces of work on the exhibition.
Photo credit - Anna Engelhardt

A SHORT HISTORY OF FUNDRAISING IN THE OHA
BY DIANA BURNS and KRISTINA MILLER

The previous OHA fundraising activities were launched under the tenure of Pamela Duff (Head) and Corinne Symons (OHA Chair) in 1994. For the first event, an art exhibition was planned for October and artists, either Old Herschelians or members of the extended Herschel Family, were approached & responded enthusiastically. Over 140 exhibits were received, including oils, water-colours, lithographs, pastels, charcoals, sculptures, ceramics and papier mache. The opening was held on October 6th and the committee & enthusiastic volunteers worked frantically to have everything ready on time. The Atrium provided the perfect setting being bright and spacious. The exhibition was opened by Louis Jansen van Vuuren, National President of the SA Association of Arts, before a large gathering of invited guests & Old Herschelians. The exhibition remained open for 3 days & it was encouraging to see a proliferation of red stickers as a steady stream of visitors came to view & buy!

A percentage of the sales was retained, and we were delighted to launch the fundraising project with a sum of R8 000.

The following year, a Craft Market was held on 14th October. Among the crafts on offer were pottery, Christmas decorations, stationery & a host of other creative items. We were able to add another R2 500 to the running total.

To celebrate Herschel's 75th birthday in 1997 another exhibition of work by Old Herschelians & the Herschel Family was held in the Mary Jagger Hall from 13 - 15 February.

These artists had work on sale at the exhibition: Eric Wale, Val Green, Don Madge, Kay Kreft, Patricia Harpur, Barbara Silberbauer, Nicky MacPherson, Sally Graaff, Bridget Anderson, Kathy Ackerman-Robins, Anna Heydorm, James Madge, Ann Nosworthy, Gene Borton, Di Seymour, Pat Simpson, Sara Abbott, Michele Chambers, Caeri Hare, Margot Gawith, Peggy Delport, Paul Klee, June te Water, Rosie Sturgis and Trevor Koekemoer. The exhibition was opened by Marilyn Martin, Director of the National Gallery and a percentage of the money raised from the sale of works was added to the overall funds raised.

In 1998 the fund-raising project was a performance of "Elephant Man" at the Baxter Theatre. Thanks to Shushi Hugo-Hamman and her dedicated team we had a near-capacity audience, and a sum of R17 400 was raised. By 2000 we had a total of R80 000 in the Fund.

With the implementation of the Brendalyn Stempel Bursaries which, to some extent duplicated the aims of the OHA fund, it was decided by the committee, in consultation with the school bursar, to repurpose the funds.

Currently, funds are paid over to the Senior School and used in support of bursary-related needs. The amount was doubled in 2017 and currently a sum of R20 000 is donated annually by the OHA.

With the recent social justice movements in mind and Herschel being brought into the spotlight on the topics of transformation, equity and belonging, the Old Herschelians are passionate about playing their part in the much-needed change.

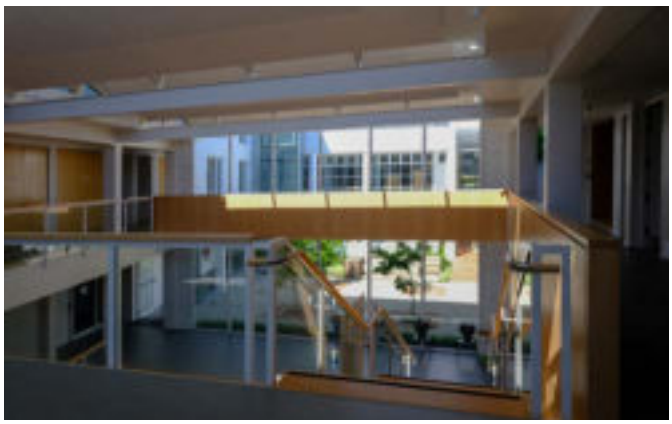
The formation of the Centenary Committee is the first step of many within a long-term vision that extends beyond the 2022 event. The premise is to fundraise through a number of events and the sale of centenary inspired commemorative items. The funds would be invested in a manner that would allow the formation of a foundation with the sole intent of providing support for the school's transformation mission as supported by the Old Herschelians.

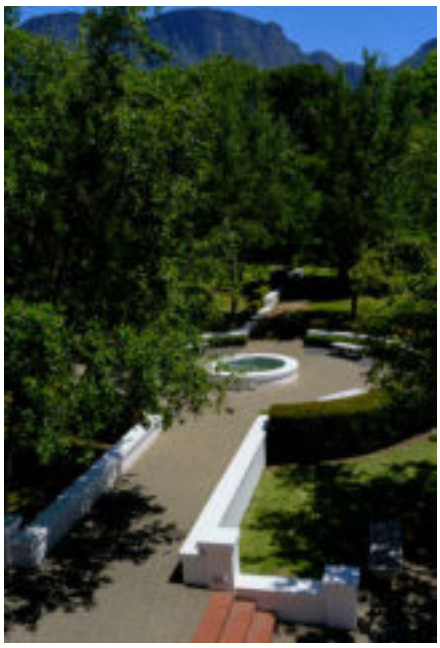
If any old Herschelian would like to support our fundraising efforts in any way, please contact Kris Miller (OHA Chair) on Kristina.miller@live.co.za .

Every donation will further our efforts to provide much needed support to the school.

Take the tour

After lunch on Founder's Day, the Matrics invite visitors to go on a tour of the school. If you attend Founder's Day on Friday 12 February 2021, please take the tour! Here are a few photos to whet your appetite – some will bring back happy memories others are brand new! Our very grateful thanks to photographer, Anna Engelhardt, for these wonderful photos of Herschel's architecture..





CLASS OF 1960 and COVID

THE CLASS OF 1960 COMMENT ON THE COVID PANDEMIC

By Fiona Noble, Pamela Ferguson, Phillipa Harvey, Hilary Cattell, Gill Cobley, Sal Carter

FIONA NOBLE from Perth:

I returned to Perth after our 60th reunion in Cape Town on February 20th and by late March, lockdown, social distancing, hand washing and hand sanitiser took over. By September, with Western Australia community having had no transmission of the virus for several weeks, I looked back and remember…

Tough looking women fighting over toilet rolls before the shelves emptied; churches celebrating Easter with zoomed services and YouTube hymns; parents taking small children on walks to look for special surprises in trees and gardens, and rainbows chalked on driveways and pavements by older children.

Others in our class of '60 have added some of their thoughts about past and present:

PAMELA FERGUSON (Fergie) from Austin, Texas:

I've been wearing a mask for some time whenever I go out and our wonderful neighbours help those living in isolation and look out for each other.

PHILLIPA HARVEY (Ward) from UK:

In July, I went to Sloane Square to Peter Jones. It was the first time I had been to a store since February. I felt a bit wobbly on the tube and crossing busy London streets. In August, I was on a fast train from Clapham Junction to Salisbury. I felt quite nervous. There were very few people and you could not sit next to other passengers unless you were travelling together. Everyone wore masks and the journey took 75 minutes. It all went very quickly, and my fear of possibly catching the virus lessened. My friend collected me and took me back to her lovely home, with a beautiful English garden and later to the village pub. (Tricky to wear a mask and have a drink! – but we managed!)

HILARY CATTELL (Dempers) from Cape Town:

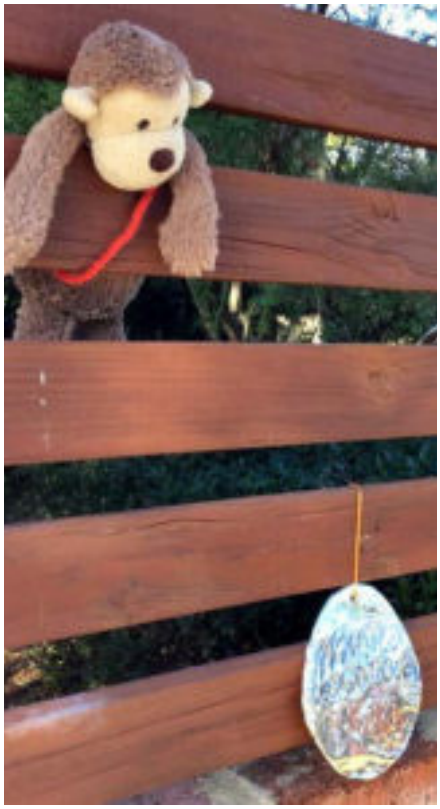
Lockdown seems to have had many ups and downs. I have been blessed to have my lovely home and garden. The first few weeks I madly cleaned cupboards, floors, furniture, bedding etc. Sadly, this soon passed and I avoided all cleaning products! When I couldn't see grandchildren, we did drive-bys. Ella, who is 2, when we were celebrating two birthdays, just outside my gate, stared and stared at me. Finally, she said "Granny Hilary I am glad you aren't in heaven!"

GILL COBLEY (Liebermann) from Canada:

In March it was still very cold here and to see our daughter and her partner we had to sit outside on the deck with heavy coats and blankets wrapped around us sitting 6 feet apart. We couldn't have a meal and they couldn't come into our house. I now go grocery shopping with mask and gloves. The supermarkets open at 6.30am till 8am for seniors, with sanitized trolleys but with a long line up. Back in April it was freezing cold waiting to get in.

SAL CARTER (Baxter) from Hermanus:

During the first phase of lockdown we hadn't had visitors for weeks. I was busy preparing lunch when I sensed a presence in the room. I spun round to see a black arm reach into the fruit bowl and grab two bananas. "What the hell?" I shouted. He raised his lips in a sneer and made his way out the backdoor. Dumbfounded, I watched him lumber across the lawn and hop over the wall and disappear into the forest. What a pity that our only visitor happened to be a large baboon.



During Covid-19, people in Perth would hide bears and other soft toys in the trees for small children to look for while walking in their neighbourhoods.

CALLING ALL OH AUTHORS

By Pamela Ellen Ferguson "Fergie" (class of 1960) and Carmelita Prins - Senior School Librarian

Yes! Herschel Librarian Carmelita Prins is busily organizing a special section in the library for books written by members of OHA! And we are circulating word for more OHA published books. Or – are there any members who would enjoy donating books by other OHA authors? And hopefully some academics might be inspired to donate a thesis or two? Magazine articles or references?

I'm delighted to be able to say Carmelita Prins, Joyce Goldschmidt and I brainstormed the idea. I duly packed up a tight box of 8 books my brother Neil squeezed into his suitcase on a long odyssey – from our home in Austin, Texas to Los Angeles, London, JHB, Port Elizabeth and then via DHL courier directly to the library. This kick-off box contained:

WOMAN OF TODAY by Sue MacGregor (1957). Born of Scottish parents and raised in Cape Town, Sue writes a sparkling autobiography after a stunning BBC radio career presenting Radio 4's Woman's Hour, and as a presenter on Today. Those of us who lived in London at that time relished her range of interviews, and Sue's engaging and friendly voice when we phoned her with story ideas.

BEYOND MARKET VALUE – a memoir of book collecting and the world of venture capital - by Kiwi born Annette Campbell-White (1963) describes her phenomenal collection of first editions and authors letters, of the late 19th and 20th century, accumulated during a lifetime of scouring secondhand booksellers, and the auction houses of London and New York. A chemical engineering graduate of UCT, Annette's success as an innovative biomedical venture capitalist offers an unusual contrast to her life as a passionate collector of literary gems.

CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN – One of many startling works written and edited by the late Diana Hamilton Russell (1956) in her obsessive campaign to alert the world about the ongoing horrors of femicide. She organized international conventions and brought her campaigns to the street to picket cafes known to be involved in human trafficking. See the references to Diana and her obituary in the newsletter.

Finally – yes, I donated 4 of my 11 works of fiction and non-fiction to add to the box, titled DOMINION, THE SACRIFICE, TAKE FIVE, and my first venture into writing for children, SUNSHINE PICKLELIME. My latest book CROSSING LINES – an Austin Texas and Mexico border-based murder story, was published too late alas to include in the OHA box odyssey but is available on Kindle!

OH AUTHOR CORNER
BY CARMELITA PRINS - Senior School Librarian

Well-known author Toni Morrison wrote, "If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it." And this is exactly what some of our OH members did!

This year was definitely one for the books in more ways than one. After a very special encounter with OH Pamela Ferguson (Fergie) Class of 1961 and a lot of online brainstorming, we decided to dedicate a corner of our Senior School library to books or articles authored or co-authored by Old Herschelians.

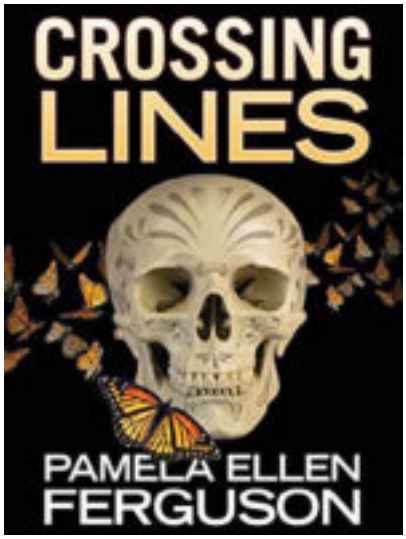
Our library is and always will be the heart of our school and I am sure it has been the safe space for many of our OH members during their time at Herschel. Perhaps their passion for writing was ignited in the library?

We are delighted to report that our first shipment of books has finally arrived after a long journey from Austin Texas. Thanks to Fergie's brother Neil, for being the kind-hearted courier!

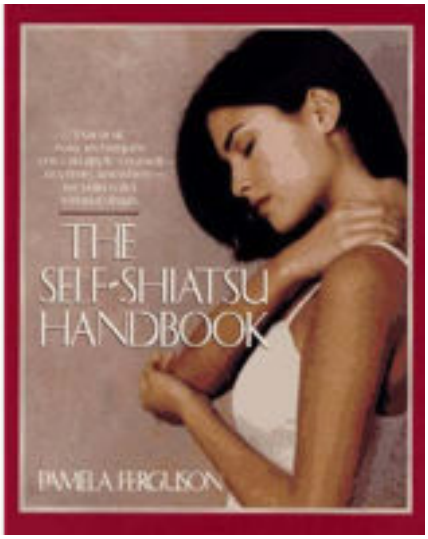
And what an amazing line up of authors it is! Please spread the word about our OH author corner; we would love other OH authors to contribute to this project by donating books!

We still need a unique name for our special corner – feel free to send us your suggestions!

Finally, a huge thank you to Pamela Ferguson (Fergie) for her enthusiasm and generous donation.



Carmelita Prins - Senior School Librarian



Meet the Committee of the OHA

LUCY BAILEY (NÉE BURNS) - 1987

I started Herschel in what was called Sub A, in 1976. I remember my first day so well and meeting some girls who today, are still my closest friends. My teacher was Mrs Beck and our classrooms were situated where the Grade 1 and 2 classrooms are today. My mum, Di Burns (nee Dicey) had been a boarder at Herschel, and my sister Sue (matric 1980) was almost finished junior school when I started. Our classes were small and my junior school days were extremely happy. Some of my memories from junior school were queuing for a glass of milk at break time each day, visits to "SOS"- Study on Safari/School in the Wilds outside Villiersdorp, Blisters for Bread around the Rondebosch Common, delightful stories from our librarian, Miss Tremble, interhouse galas and sports days and above all, lots of fun while we learnt.

My high school experience was equally happy and I built on firm friendships that I had established in my junior years. Senior school was a busy time – choir, sport, tours and academics. Miss Geldard, affectionately known as Petal, was the headmistress at that time and taught us Maths, always accompanied by her Fred Bassett, Freda! Mrs Duff joined Herschel as headmistress in 1986 – she arrived as Mrs Macdonald and was always immaculately dressed in elegant suits, and there was great excitement when she married Dr Duff. I matriculated in 1987 and held the position of Senior Prefect and Squash Captain that year.

My love and loyalty for Herschel prompted me to join the Old Herschelian Committee – I am unsure of what year this was, but it is close on 30 years. I was influenced and encouraged by my mother, Di Burns, who held the position of Secretary of the OHA at that time. I remember saying to her on numerous occasions – usually when we were sitting around our family dining room table putting newsletters in envelopes – that I would never ever take over from her as secretary! (little did I know then!)

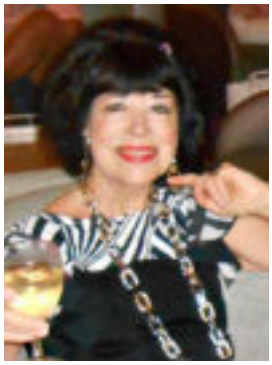
I re-entered Herschel in 1998 as Head of Geography Teacher – it was interesting to be on the other side of the fence this time, working on a staff where many teachers were there who had taught me. I loved teaching at Herschel and felt very privileged to work there.

My daughter Alice started Herschel in Cuddly Kittens in 2012 and so I started the journey again – this time as a parent. I have been most fortunate to have different perspectives on Herschel – pupil, teacher, parent, OH member and OH secretary. I am loving this journey and watching how Alice is growing and gaining confidence as a young woman where she is being equipped with skills to help her handle and cope with the world. I have re-met many Old Herschelians through the process where our daughters are now at school together. Alice is a third generation Herschel girl and has truly pink blood – she LOVES Herschel and enjoys being a part of the Herschel Family.

I took over the position of OH secretary from Tania Johnstone in 2015 and loved being involved with Old Herschelians – not only those who had been at school with me, but those whom I had taught. It was wonderful to be "back at school"- even though it was only once a week – and to be a part of the vibrant Herschel community. I resigned from this position in the middle of 2019, in order to be freed up to get involved in other aspects of Herschel life as a parent. I currently hold the role of Treasurer on the OH committee.

My years and association with Herschel are so memorable and I am excited to be able to continue this journey as my daughter goes through her school career. I love being on the OHA and being part of a dynamic committee who truly has the best interests of Herschel for all members of the Herschel community – both past and present. I am proud to be an Old Herschelian - my blood is pink!

DAPHNE BEAMES (EX-STAFF)



Herschel is, and will always be, an inspiration - and long after school years are done, alumnae groups continue to offer all-inclusive camaraderie, friendship and support. And so, it was with great pleasure that I joined the OHA Committee, when invited to do so by the committed and hard-working ladies who make up the corps: their collective talents are awesome.

Over 22 years of teaching at Herschel had taught me that the talents and special qualities of successive generations are worth their weight in gold; but that many years separate special people who were destined never to meet. And so, I determined to start an Alumnae Club spanning the years - to draw together like-minded people who had not necessarily met on campus, to span the years, and to introduce their Mothers and other guests to the group – if they so desired.

For nearly twenty years I have seen my role as one to bridge the years, effect introductions, and introduce fun-filled occasions for sharing business opportunities and forging new friendships. I have also kept in touch with ex-members of staff, and pupils, in far flung corners of the world, all of whom are enthusiastic followers of Herschel's on-going success. Facebook, too, has afforded the platform to connect with ex-pupils whose friendship I cherish and revere.

2020 has been challenging, but January still afforded us an opportunity to gather at Cellars/Hohenhort, and February allowed many of us to meet at the official OHA cocktail party in the atrium. Since then the Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club has played a waiting game and Zoom has taken over at our committee meetings - but we are geared and ready to begin our rounds of sparkling evenings soon.

DI BURNS, (NÉE DICEY) - 1954

In 1945, when I was 8 years old, I came as a boarder to Herschel and started in Lower 1, the equivalent of Grade 3 today. From the moment I stepped into the school I felt at home. Living on a farm, the youngest of 4 children, I was delighted to have instant friends to play with! The 10 years at Herschel were certainly happy ones. I made friends who are still friends today, and four of us meet regularly during the year. In those days there were not more than 24 girls in a class & one came to know every member of the school. We slept on open balconies with pull-down blinds to utilise when it rained. We were limited to 3 or 4 Sundays out per term; I didn't go home at all during the term, but we kept in touch with our parents with weekly letters. During my time there we were involved with fund-raising to purchase the Wilks' house next door, The Hill! On leaving school we paid five pounds to become a life member of the OHA! One could pay an annual subscription of 10/-.

While I was at school prize-giving was associated with Founder's Day, i.e. in February, when one was awarded prizes for the

previous year. I have programmes showing that the dates were rather random, but always in February, for example, 28 Feb 1947, 6 February 1948 and 17 February 1949. I don't remember when the change was made to the 4th term instead of February. What we called Old Girls' Day was not associated with Founder's Day but was always held in February or March when we received a printed invitation to the AGM. It was always on a Saturday afternoon and there were matches between the Old Girls & the school girls, e.g. tennis and cricket. The committee had a sports secretary who organised the teams. Meetings of the Circle Secretaries were held in the Chairman's home, I remember one being in Brenda Lynne Hoffman's home, where minutes were taken.

I would need to refer to the more recent Minute Book to see when I was elected Secretary, but I know I took over from Adele Bennetts (Fouche, nee Jooste), or maybe it was Mary Logie (nee de Villiers). It must have been towards the end of the Seventies about 1978. I inherited tick-boxes filed alphabetically into "Circles" (for example Circle A would be girls who left in 1930 to 1935, Circle B would be 1936 to 1940), etc. Then alphabetically by surname within each Circle. Each card had the date of leaving school, address, married name, etc. These had to be updated regularly as addresses changed & married names were included. During the '90s, Prue Crawley had a contact who could put the names on a computer, and that changed my life!

While Brenda Lynne was Chairman in the eighties she decided to send out an annual newsletter, she wrote it & we got Mr Clarke, the typing teacher at school to get his class to type it & roneo it so it could be mailed to members, it came to 2 foolscap pages & each envelope had to be addressed by hand!

We did that for a couple of years, and then it was decided to be more "professional" and in 1986 we had the first printed newsletter, that Brenda Lynne & I compiled with the assistance of Mandy van Dugteren who researched news of Old Herschelians for inclusion. When I moved to Johannesburg in 1995 I continued as secretary and compiled the whole newsletter single handed after appealing for news from the Circle Secretaries, I found a printer in Johannesburg & with the help of one of Derrick's colleagues, who upgraded the membership list, I was able to print address labels which made a huge difference after hand-addressing for so many years. Producing the newsletter was a real labour of love, getting reports from circle secretaries about their reunions, endless visits to the printer and proofreading over & over again! As membership increased the work became more challenging and over 2000 newsletters were printed. Each envelope required a postage paid stamp, a return address (on the reverse) followed by insertion of the newsletter & then tying up into batches of 50 for bulk postage and the overseas ones had to receive individual postage stamps. It was a very labour-intensive task!

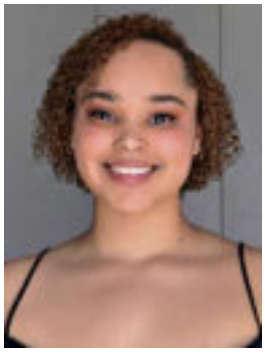
In the '80s and '90s we had an annual lunch at various venues: Mount Nelson, Alphen Hotel, Kelvin Grove, Constantia Nek, Josephine Mill, etc and always a guest speaker; Adele Searll, Nigel Murphy, Cathy Knox, Dr Ann Hacking, Dr Gerry Mitton, Joan Huskisson, Brenda-Lynne Hoffman, Lynn Reid, Raymond & Suzanne Ackermann, Wim Tijmens, Desiree Picton-Seymour and Gorry Bowes-Taylor among others. In 1996, the lunch was held at the school where we had a record attendance of 120 people, to raise funds for the Bursary Fund.

There were branches of the OHA in Australia, USA and London. Unfortunately, the London branch was disbanded in 1987 due to lack of support. When I was living in Oxford in the '60s I attended a cocktail party in London, hosted by Miss McLean at the Girl Guide Club.

Mrs Duff launched the Bursary Fund when Corinne Symons was chairman. We worked hard raising funds in the form of an Art and Crafts Exhibition, a performance of The Elephant Man at the Baxter Theatre, etc.

The job of secretary required computer skills as well as time that I didn't have & the council decided in around 2010 to employ a paid secretary in a part-time position. That is when Tania Johnstone took on the job. (I jokingly inquired if I could claim 32 years' back pay!) However, I continued as Treasurer until 2019 when Lucy Bailey took over. And now I continue to serve without a portfolio on the OHA Committee as an ordinary member. It has been a pleasure to be of service to the school, which has contributed so much to the community, apart from educating me and my two daughters, Susan and Lucy. I also have a grand daughter, Alice Bailey, who is in her ninth year at the school, and so the tradition and connection continue. Together with my 10 years as a pupil, Susan and Lucy each spent 12 years there and my association with the committee, which is close on 40 years; a very long association indeed! The changes over the years have been remarkable; not surprising, when I consider that when I started at the school it was only 23 years old!

ARIYAANA CADER - 2019



I matriculated from Herschel in 2019. At the beginning of my grade 8 year, I was excited and optimistic for the new experiences that high school would bring, but also nervous as I did not know what to expect. It took me a while to figure out where I belonged and to become more confident in myself. While my five years at Herschel brought me laughter, happiness, lifelong friendships, and countless opportunities, it also came with experiences of systemic racism. This leads me to the reason that I decided to join the OHA committee. I strongly believe that times are changing, and that if we don't progress with them that we will be left behind. I have always been an outspoken woman who stands up for what I believe in and consider myself to be an advocate for change and equity. I know that no matter how hard I try, I will never be able to change my experience at Herschel, but I hope that with the OHA committee and the school, we can bring about change so that current and future students of colour do not have to experience the systemic racism that I and others were exposed to. I also believe that as a recent matriculant, I will be able to offer a more current perspective to the committee and can hopefully assist the school and OHA with their change strategy and more.

PRUE CRAWLEY, (NÉE BORTON) – 1968

I loved my time at Herschel. I matriculated in 1968 when the school was very different to what it is now. We had only 32 girls in the two classes and we have remained friends - especially after our 50-year reunion when one of us, Gill Norgarb created a WhatsApp group. Now we chat every day and share our joys and sorrows; it's very special. My favourite part of school activities was singing in the choir which I joined in Std 6 as it was called then. Miss Sweet was an inspiring choir mistress and was much loved. She received all our confidences and dreams. In those days, the chapel was the library and a favourite place to spend time if we had a free period. I think my first year at Herschel was my best.

In Matric, I was reported wearing my red Spanish dancing shoes on the train and was in deep trouble with the headmistress, who made me stand on the stage in assembly for a week; very embarrassing for a matric girl!!!

After I left Herschel I didn't really return until my daughter Vikki started in Grade 8 and, when she was in Grade 8, Pamela Duff - her headmistress - asked me to join the Old Herschelian Association Committee and I have been happily involved with the OHA ever since!

I subsequently became Chair of this the committee for about 19 years and had 15 interesting years on Council. I now look forward to being involved with the Centenary celebrations. Herschel has always been a special part of my life.

JOYCE GOLDSCHMIDT, (EX-STAFF)

In January 1996, my daughter, Debra, became a pupil at Herschel. The following day, a letter to parents was sent out by the Librarian, Lynette Pullen, asking for volunteers to work in the Prep library. My daughter quickly volunteered my services and, two days later, I joined a group of mothers and began helping in the library! Luckily, I arrived too late to be a book-coverer. Lynette had a dream to digitise the antiquated card index system and quickly decided that I was the one who was going to help her achieve this goal. A member of staff at Bishops had written a library program called Pandora. So, off I went to visit Mr Tweedie to learn how to use his program in order to digitise the 15 000 items in the library. Working two mornings a week meant that the conversion would take many years to complete and so, in January 1998, I was invited by Jenny Thompson to formally join the staff at the Prep School. I continued my work in the library and started teaching computer skills to the Grade 4s.

Working in the library was never dull. Lynette introduced a themed Readathon week which took place each year in an effort to encourage a love of reading. This involved dressing up, having visits from authors and other artists and many exciting activities. I will never forget the Alice in Wonderland Readathon, the Taj Mahal backdrop (with reflection pond between the bookshelves) nor the 101 Dalmations intro when Bruce Probyn joined Herschel as our Head.

After the tragic death of Jenny Thompson, Annette Woolley took over the reins. She and Annette Champion – Deputy Head of the Prep - soon realised I had many other interests which resulted in me wearing a number of hats: the Gardening Committee hat, the Décor hat, the Photographer hat, the Event Co-ordinator hat, the Designer of Programmes hat, etc.
In 2008, when Mandy Soole decided to take early retirement, I was invited to take over from her as the ICT Co-ordinator and teacher at the Prep.

2018 was the year in which Herschel and the OHA decided to include long-serving members of staff in the OHA membership. Lifetime membership is given to all staff members who have served for ten years or more. And so it was that, at the Council Dinner in July 2018 – on my 20th anniversary of working at Herschel - I proudly became an Old Herschelian. In December that year, I retired from Herschel with a view to spending more time gardening, taking care of grandchildren, and having more time for my interests in the dog world.

Just prior to my retirement, I was approached by Lin Heidmann to consider Stuart West's proposal that I join the committee of the OHA. The current Old Herschelian Secretary, Lucy Bailey wanted to spend more time with her young children and was keen to step down. Lucy showed me the ropes and happily handed over The File and, in June 2019, I became the Secretary of the OHA.

I have so enjoyed communicating with Old Herschelians – some of whom I taught - overseeing the 2020 Founder's Day celebrations, the Winter Dinner and working closely with Kristina Miller (Chair of the OHA) to update procedures, organise online meetings via Zoom and Google Teams during the Covid-19 crisis, update the Constitution, move into the Archives and make it feel homely and so much more.

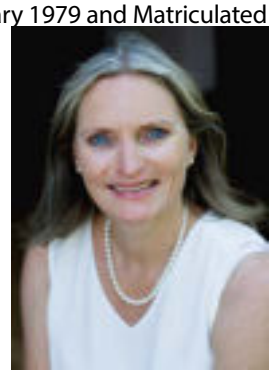
I thank the long-standing members of the Committee for welcoming me so warmly and look forward to working with them for many years.

TANIA JOHNSTONE, (NÉE PECK) - 1991

My grandmother, Marjorie Taylor (née Harbottle, 1945), was a loyal Old Herschelian who spoke fondly of her schooldays and especially of her school friends. I was fortunate to know many of her OH friends as they always remained a part of her life. When I was in Std 2 (age 9), my gran brought me to Herschel to show me her school and with the visit came a promise that should I ever wish to attend Herschel all I need do is ask and she would make it possible. Two years later, in April of my Std 4 year, I decided I was ready. I was interviewed by Mrs Brown, the Head of the Preparatory School, and I started my journey at Herschel the very next day. I was a weekly boarder and Herschel became my second home until I matriculated in 1991. My years at Herschel were a gift for which I am eternally grateful. I hold the friends and memories I made at Herschel close to my heart. I immersed myself in the life of the school and made the most of the many opportunities afforded to me. It was a privilege to follow in my grandmother's footsteps and serve as a Prefect in my matric year. I also served as Sacristan and Deputy Head of Boarding.

I was encouraged by our Class of 1991 Circle Secretary, Justine Macdonald (née Peters) to join the OHA a few years after Matriculating. In 2010, Diana Burns (née Dicey) stepped down as OH Secretary after more than 30 years in this role and I was eager to take on the position. I had big shoes to fill indeed, but I looked forward to the opportunity. Under the guidance of the Headmaster, Mr Bruce Probyn, and the Head of Marketing, Madeleen Welman, I was the first OH Secretary to officially have a desk at the school. My first task was to publish the annual newsletter online, which necessitated the collection of email addresses from members and updating our records. I thoroughly enjoyed organising events for the OHA and while I was secretary, we added the Winter Dinner to the annual OHA Calendar and introduced the Golden Oldies Spring Tea which takes place every two to three years. Reunions were always my favourite events to organise as it was so special to witness the lasting bonds of friendships formed at school; bonds which stood the test of time and distance. I stepped down as OH Secretary at the end of 2014 as I had decided to pursue my dream to study further. I went on to obtain my PGCE and am now a Foundation Phase Teacher.

JUSTINE MACDONALD (NÉE PETERS) 1991



I started at Herschel Pre-Prep in January 1979 and Matriculated in 1991. I am the Circle Secretary for my year and love organising our reunions and attending the various OH functions throughout the year. It is always great fun catching up with the girls from our class and we are already planning our 30-year celebrations for February 2021.

I joined the OHA Committee soon after Matric and was the OHA Representative on Council for five years from the beginning of 2011 until the end of 2015. I sat on Council's Education Sub-committee during that time and I am now on the Centenary Committee as we start to plan Herschel's 100th birthday celebrations.

My daughter, Megan, in Grade 2 at the Prep, and I think Herschel is an amazing school with so much to offer. I am a very proud Old Herschelian.

KRISTINA MILLER - 2002

I joined the OHA in 2011 after being invited to attend a Circle Secretaries event that same year. I spent the next 5 years on the committee learning and working on various small projects the OHA was busy with and in 2016, when Pru Crawley retired, I was voted in as Chair.

In my time as chair the OHA has experienced much change and had the ability to launch very meaningful projects and workstreams that are both close to my heart and in line with current technologies.

In the last 4 years we have welcomed a few new young members, launched the Archives revamp and digitisation project, launched the Caroline Herschel Award, meaningfully updated our Constitution and have a number of side projects underway including the Wikipedia project and establishing the OHA Centenary Committee.

For me, the role of Chair is made more effective by my seat on Council and my participation in various Council subcommittees and activities at the school. It ensures the Old Herschelians are consulted and participating in school decisions and actions and in turn ensures our actions within the OHA are aligned with current principles and thinking.

My three passions in life are innovation, equality and female youth empowerment as evidenced in my profession, my work at Herschel and in my charity Great Girls (www.greatgirls.co.za). I know that these passions were cultivated by my education at Herschel and for this I am forever grateful.

Those who know my Herschel story (1998 - 2002) will know that I do not reflect on my time at Herschel fondly. When I am asked why then I serve as Chair it is for one fundamental reason, I hope to drive improvement where I can, making sure that every Herschel girl can sing the school song lyrics with conviction and honesty "When we come back after many years, we will think fondly of the things that we remember."

ZANELE NGALONKULU - 2013

I am currently a trainee Chartered Accountant at Standard Bank.

Growing up I was fortunate to be presented an opportunity to experience a life which was different from my home surroundings. When I was at Herschel and attended gatherings with friends, I became exposed to much financial lingo such as trusts, investing, estate planning, economic expectations etc. which was something that I never heard of in my home surroundings. This ignited a passion for finance within me with the hopes of contributing towards making the ordinary South African financially literate as most people where I grew up were not.

This led to me obtaining my BBusSci in Finance with Accounting and I am now pursuing my LLM in International Tax.

TAMLYN PREVOST (NÉE MCKEAG) - 1992

Although we had no family connection with Herschel, my first year at Herschel school was in grade R at age 4. Halfway through that year I moved to grade 1 (sub A) as there was a possibility that we may be emigrating, and I needed my age and grade aligned for that possibility. Fortunately, we remained in Cape Town.

I then left Herschel in order to be at the same school as my sister, and only returned in grade 10 in 1990 (standard 8). This move was a personal choice. I moved from another school in Cape Town where I was not achieving the goals I was reaching for.

I was very unhappy for the first 9 months of this year. I felt like I did not belong there, but by the end of the year I realised what incredible opportunities, valuable education, wise and dedicated teachers I had found in this little girls school in Claremont (it was little then – 53 in our grade). I threw myself into school life and was involved in cultural, sporting, service and academic fields, to the extent that I often had breakfast with the boarders and was sometimes fetched at 10pm after play practice.

In my matric year I had the privilege of being Deputy Head Girl. Pamela Duff was our Headmistress and Margaret Robinson the deputy Headmistress, and they were wonderful leader mentors. I was accepted into my chosen career path of medicine at the end of my matric year and I do feel that the move to Herschel, the support of the staff and the well-rounded education I received was instrumental in this achievement.

I am passionate about education and particularly this school. I have continued to be involved in Herschel since leaving school as the Circle Secretary for the class of 1992, and as a member of the OHA committee since 2013. I am now also a Herschel parent. I have 2 daughters in the Senior school and value that Herschel are providing them with an excellent academic education while also educating them in the skills and values needed in the world beyond school.

As Circle Secretary I have been involved in gathering my class members for functions such as Founders day, the Winter Dinner and Class Reunions. I organised the 10 year and 20-year reunion, and Candice Dobson (nee Noakes) was the excellent host and co-ordinator of our most recent 25-year reunion. As a member of the OH committee I have assisted with Archive sorting, Founder's Day events and the OHA Winter Dinner.

The Centenary in 2022 will be a very special event, particularly as it is my class of 1992's 30-year reunion and I will have a daughter in grade 12 and the other daughter who has just matriculated.

TALYSA RUDAH - 2011

I joined Herschel in Grade 6 and matriculated in 2011. After matriculating, I completed my Bachelor's in Film and Media Studies at the University of Cape Town.

I currently work for an organisation called Beautiful News, a positive news platform that aims to share and celebrate inspiring stories about humanity. My role within the organisation has been to unearth narratives that reflect the work that is being done by individuals and organisations to alleviate social issues such as unemployment, food security, racial discrimination and gender inequality. I strive to tell stories that amplify the lived realities and experiences of people from all walks of life. As a storyteller, I believe I have a responsibility to society; the way communities are framed in my stories contributes to perceptions and awareness. I have found purpose and meaning in ensuring that people are seen, heard, understood and valued.

I was drawn to joining the OHA Committee because I am passionate about contributing to a world where all people can thrive. I find great solace in knowing that this space will grow to become a vehicle that facilitates much needed transformation. This transformation is integral to building stronger and more dignified communities. I am encouraged by the presence

of old Herschelians in the committee as this reflects a positive step towards inclusive transformation. As an old Herschelian, I am committed to upholding accountability and I believe that the feelings and daily experiences of the girls at the school are valid. Change begins when we start to see ourselves as agents of change in the environments that we live, learn and work. The state of the spaces that we inhabit act as a reflection of our level of progression and sensitivity.

CORINNE SYMONS (NÉE DICEY) - 1962

I was a boarder at Herschel from Std 1 to matric and in 1954 when I started, about 10 of us boarded with a Mrs Stobie who was the mother of an old Herschelian and had a large house on Main Rd, Kenilworth. That lasted a couple of years before we were moved to two flats called Herschel Gardens situated below Herschel above the Main Rd (it is still there today), although we had all our meals in the dining room at school.

At about this time, we moved to the Hill for lessons. I remember very clearly being impressed by our young new sports mistress, Pat McCarthy, who arrived every day in a light blue sports car! Then up to boarding in the main school where we slept on two balconies, shielded from the elements by canvas blinds. Looking back, I can understand that our English headmistress was not much impressed by the occasional severity of the Cape winter. We had a lovely matron, Mrs Johnson (a London cockney) who brooked no nonsense.

The highlights of those senior school years were the Lady Buxton and St Saviour's Church fetes where you might meet up with Bishops boys if you were lucky. Oh, the excitement! Remember that in those days we were only allowed out for three Sundays or one weekend and one Sunday per term so, unless we had brothers, we were starved of any male contact. Other highlights were the midnight feasts and running around outside the school at midnight trying not to get caught by the night watchman. The three outstanding physical features of Herschel for me were our small underground chapel, the lovely large dining-room with sliding doors that opened to the gardens and the library, where I wrote Matric and which is the chapel today. I suppose there were only about thirty boarders and we reckoned we WERE the school. I had very happy years growing up and I am still friends with quite a few girls.

I got married quite young and as we were farming, our daughter, Caroline, started boarding at Herschel when she was six years old. She was also looked after by Matron Johnson for her first year at least. In 1987, when she was Head Girl, I was prevailed upon to become head of the Old Herschelians. It was a very different body in those days; very informal and unstructured. The new head mistress, Pamela Duff, was keen that we establish a bursary fund to help daughters of old Herschelians attend the school. So, the committees' and my time was completely taken up with fund raising. Every year we would organize either an art, craft fair or some such thing. The worst for me was when I had to introduce or thank someone publicly but, in the end, I got quite used to it!

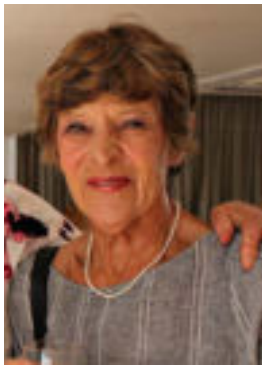
EMMANUELLE TSHALA – 2015

I started out at Herschel in 2011, as a bright-eyed bushy tailed teen with plenty of dreams. The thing about schools is that they can either make or break the dreams you enter them with. I am glad that during my time at Herschel, the dreams I had only multiplied. During my time at Herschel I immersed myself in everything the school had to offer - choir, chorale, community service, house-plays, you name it.

It was a season of self-discovery where I discovered my strengths but also learnt the value of playing to them despite being tempted not to at times. It was also at Herschel that I really harnessed my leadership gift. I was privileged enough to be Head of Carter as a Herschel girl which taught me endless lessons on servant leadership and camaraderie. Some of the lessons I learnt then, have stayed with me till today.

The journey, although beautiful, was not perfect. Some of the imperfect moments were unavoidable, but some were not. Now, as an old girl, having been taught about service and togetherness, this new chapter of my life will not be focused on learning to make a difference as our tagline suggests but it will be focused on taking practical steps to make that difference and avoid those avoidable moments. A moment that I will never be able to do justice with my words is whenever we sang the school song. "Everyone's a spark, and in the night together we make a light a fire burning bright". Five years later and those words echo loudly in my ears. That line of the school song teaches us to see the light in everyone, but more importantly, it teaches us to make light with others. That is my Herschel story, and I believe it is the story of many an old-girl who has gone ahead and after me – to see the light in others and to endeavour to make light together.

MANDY VAN DUGTEREN (NÉE NOAKES) – 1962



I entered Herschel at the beginning of 1958 as a boarder– it seems it was another age and I truly felt I had fallen into a Dickens novel. It was so removed from the Herschel of today. We slept on open balconies with just a flapping canvas-roll down sheet to keep the rain and wind out. We were only allowed one weekend a term and two Sundays, and only when we were in Matric were we permitted to walk into Claremont to go shopping or have a milk shake. It was quite a shock, but I am sure that it taught all of us huge coping lessons.

The things that I loved were the friendships, the sport and Mrs Barbara MacCormack who taught us 'Art Appreciation' and engendered in me a huge love of Art Galleries – I stood in wonder the first time I saw Botticelli's Birth of Venus and Primavera in the Uffizi Gallery remembering Mrs MacCormack.

I loved sport at Herschel, wonderful Mrs. Louw in her divided short skirt who never gave up being encouraging, even at the beginning and end of each term when she weighed and measured each of us(not so much fun if you were on the large side), but as she always said "muscle weighs way more than fat!". We also played cricket with not much enthusiasm and had an annual match against Western Province Prep.

I was asked to help with putting together the OHA Newsletter and then took it over for a few years (can't remember the year) and as a result became a member of the OHA. It has been a long and happy relationship, meeting so many very interesting Old Herschelians from different eras and I have loved it.

I was involved in the original Fund Raising for the Bursary Fund and the activities around that, the annual OHA Cocktail Party (we originally made all the snacks) and regular meetings and the OHA Lunch on Founder's Day. What has been most precious for me from my Herschel days is the friendship and the bonds that were forged in five years of boarding.

BARBARA VINTCENT - 1992

I arrived at Herschel in 1988 as a very naïve 12-year-old from Mossel Bay. Settling in was tough as I was homesick for a while but once tennis season started (I remember clearly those trials representing the first full day I managed without crying!) there was no looking back. I matriculated in 1992 having just loved my time at Herschel. Being a boarder and living on the grounds made it easy to take advantage of all the school had to offer and now, nearly 30 years on, some of my closest friends remain those I met there.

Mrs Duff was our headmistress throughout and very impressively we saw both the Theatre and Resource Centre built during those 5 years. We started out as Std 6s sitting cross legged on the Mary Jagger floor for assemblies and moved to the plush chairs of the theatre that year.

Loads of memories come flooding back while thinking of that time including interhouse plays, galas, hanging out under the Ilex tree, theatre productions, interhouse singing, getting Butlers to deliver pizza through the burglar bars, chaos after lights out in the Std 6 dorm (above the MJ Hall), sports tours and matches, keeping a watchful eye over Arderne Gardens during prep, Chapel services in the little Chapel under the dining room, outings to Maynardville, Std 8 and Matric dances, waiting in line for the tickey-box to call home (or ask a dance partner), the list goes on..

I feel very proud to be an Old Herschelian and when I returned to Cape Town after 13 years in London (just after our 20th reunion), I felt a real desire to reconnect and so volunteered to join the OHA committee in 2013. Along with the very dedicated team, I have been involved in a number of fund and awareness raising events and have enjoyed the opportunity to help shape the direction of the committee. And now, my two nieces have just stared their Herschel chapters... a dream come true!

ZEANNE BORNMAN (DUMINY) - 2001

I joined Herschel after completing preparatory school at Grove Primary.

I remember distinctly, getting into my mom's car and telling her that my first weeks of orientation at Herschel had felt like holiday club at the Beacon Isle. A whirlwind of new people and activities in a "hotel like setting".

It took a whole term for me to settle in. A number of my friends from Grove Primary went to Westerford; figuring out the ropes of an all-girls private school was a challenge.

It was late in my standard 7 year that things changed; I found a special group of friends, participated in school activities and Herschel started to reveal to incredible opportunities in the classroom and, for me especially, in the art studio. The friendships that I made at Herschel, along with the lessons I learned, are still the cornerstones of my life today.

I began my journey with the OHA about 5 years ago. I decided to be involved because it dawned on me that it is the OHA that keeps these friendships, links and contacts alive. The connections we made at Herschel and the friendships we forged have both been powerful links that have cocooned relationships for me. I decided I wanted to be a part of the committee that nurtured these links - their future and, as importantly, their history.

Over the past year, I have been helping to assemble the Herschel OHA Wikipedia page. This will, hopefully, be a platform where our history can be discussed, and our future can be celebrated.

Talysa Rudah visited Herschel Prep and addressed the girls during assembly.

Reunion Reports

The Class of 1960 celebrated their 60th reunion

REPORT BY CAROL HENSHILWOOD

Once upon a time, long ago, a group of happy little girls in their new uniforms and shiny shoes were dropped off by their proud parents to begin their education at an institution called Herschel School for Girls. They dutifully learned their A, B, Cs, sang, danced, played sport, and laughed and cried together. They had their favourite teachers and those who frightened them, some were angelic, and some were naughty.

Time passed quickly, filled with birthday parties in pretty dresses, holidays by the sea and for some, overseas trips. Great excitement when they eventually graduated to high school, now big girls—at last teenagers wearing bras! New classmates came and went, some remained and were assimilated into the group to share what were arguably the best years ever—the rock n roll era had arrived. This elevated their young lives to a new high with Elvis, Cliff, the Beatles, bringing with it freedom and fun.

The local 'bioscope' offered celluloid heartthrobs who filled their daydreams, boys became the main attraction and girls giggled and blushed. They learned to bop in their circular skirts with yards of petticoats underneath and to ballroom shuffle up close and personal with partner (hopefully) of their choice! Young hearts were broken, oceans of tears shed, secrets shared, jealousies caused grief and during this time friendships were forged which would last forever.

1960 arrived—the final year of our alma mater. Not everyone loved school, but we loved our friends. Each one of us looking forward to the next stage of our lives with our very own individual aspirations and dreams for the future. Brought up initially on fairy tales and later by Hollywood's saccharine films such as Pillow Talk, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Loving You, even poor old Moses had a happy ending and the horrors of war were glamourized. Can anyone blame us for believing we would one day fall in love with our Prince Charming, get married, have perfect children who would fill our beautiful homes with laughter and fun so we would live happily ever after as promised?

Looking at our resultant sunburnt crop— we learned very quickly that in the real-world life was not so simple and our unique experiences made us who we are today. Strong, proud, very special women who have survived the hard knocks thrown at us, rolled with the punches and risen like Phoenixes from the ashes to start afresh, always wiser, more understanding and compassionate and ready to bravely face whatever the future holds in store for us.

Saturday breakfast at Woodside Village

From the left: Lesley Fisher (Wares), Hilary Hansen (Simpson), Sally Carter (Baxter), Jennifer Wynne (Brimble), Phillipa Harvey (Ward), Patricia Botha (Hill), Carol Henshilwood (Simpson), Lynn Rowand (Parker), Hilary Cattell (Dempers), Gillian Cobley (Liebermann), Lesley Houba (Brauer), Louisa Groenewald (McDonald), Fiona Noble.

REPORT BY FIONA NOBLE

October 2019: Our 60th anniversary was approaching and action was needed. Emails were sent and within a short time Carol Henshilwood (Simpson) had drawn up a program for two official meet-ups at school, and a brunch and two lunches just for us. Travel plans were made and offers of accommodation were circulated.

Fifteen of us were able to come, and four of us made special trips for the reunion. Phillipa Harvey (Ward) from London, Gillian Cobley (Liebermann) from Canada, Hilary Hansen (Simpson) from San Francisco, and Fiona Noble from Perth, Australia. Phillipa and Fiona stayed with Margie Everett (Thompson). Gill with Sally Carter (Baxter) and Hilary and her husband with Lesley Fisher (Wares). Some had to decline with regret, including Pam Ferguson, now living in Austin, Texas.

Our first encounter was at the cocktail party on Thursday before Founder's Day. Sally, Gill, Fiona, Phillipa, Margie and Jennifer Wynne (Brimble) all came - recognition was easy, and there was much to talk about as we enjoyed champagne and finger foods in the Atrium.

It was raining the next day and the Founder's Day Service was moved from St Saviour's Church to the Theatre. We missed the connection to the past that St Saviour's would have given, but the Theatre was an excellent substitute. The theme of the sermon, Celebrating New Beginnings, fitted in well with the new school year and the renewal of old friendships.

Lunch was in the Mary Jagger Hall, our old Gym. Lesley Fisher, Hilary Hansen, Louisa Groenewald, (McDonald), Diana Avery (Matthews) and Lesley Houba (Brauer) now joined our group. Students helped serve lunch, and afterwards each of the six groups had a speaker to share some memories. Fiona spoke for our class and told about our feast at break when we rammed a tin of condensed milk on a tap, producing a flood of water when the tap broke. Our penance was to wear our gym "knickers" for the rest of the day while our skirts dried. She also reminded us that when we prayed the school prayer all those decades ago for those 'past, present and to come', and again in todays' service, we were praying for our own children and grandchildren, and linking the decades.

After lunch some of us who had not seen the many changes, had a tour of the school, and were greatly impressed with everything we saw. The school part of our reunion ended that afternoon, but we still had two lunches and a brunch to enjoy.

Brunch was at Carol's lovely home in Rondebosch. Husbands joined us, and we ate at the club room. Champagne and a variety of tasty dishes were served. Husbands had their own table, which gave us the chance to talk about the past and the present and get to know more about each other.

Next day some of us enjoyed an excellent lunch at Hilary Cattell's (Dempers) home in Claremont. Shona Jackson, Lavinia Ellis and Ann Steens were also there from the '61 class. It was a fun time, made more so by Hilary's infectious humour.

Our last time together was lunch at Lynn Rowand's (Parker) home in Constantia. Lynn is involved in all that goes on - growing grapes, importing wine and more, and she still rides her horses. It was a lovely lunch, made special because it was her birthday. Again, it was a time for much conviviality but all too soon it was time to leave.

It had been a memorable time, with renewed friendships that will continue, and we resolved to meet again in 5 years for our 65th reunion - ten years is just too long!

'Till then we'll go on remembering each other.

Old Herschelians' Cocktail Party on Thursday evening
Margie Everett (Thompson), Sal Carter (Baxter); Phillipa Harvey (Ward); Jennifer Wynne (Brimble) - standing, Fiona Noble, Gill Cobley (Liebermann)

Founder's Day Luncheon in the Mary Jagger Hall
Left to right: Diana Avery (Matthews); Louisa Groenewald (McDonald); Patricia Botha (Hill); Hilary Hansen (Simpson); Lesley Fisher (Wares); Joyce Goldschmidt, Secretary of the OHA; Margie Everett (Thompson); Phillipa Harvey (Ward); Sal Carter (Baxter); Gill Cobley (Liebermann)

Fiona Noble, Gill Cobley (Liebermann), Jennifer Wynne (Brimble), Patricia Botha (Hill), Lynn Rowand (Parker), Carol Henshilwood (Simpson), Phillipa Harvey (Ward), Margie Everett (Thompson), Hilary Hansen (Simpson), Lesley Fisher (Wares), Hilary Cattell (Dempers)

Class of 1960 - We salute you!

Front Row: Fiona Noble, Lynn Rowand (Parker), Jennifer Wynne (Brimble), Hilary Cattell (Dempers)
Middle Row: Sally Carter (Baxter), Carol Henshilwood (Simpson), Hilary Hansen (Simpson), Lesley Fisher (Wares)
Back Row: Gillian Cobley (Liebermann), Patricia Botha (Hill), Phillipa Harvey (Ward), Margie Everett (Thompson)

SADLY MISSED
BUT ALWAYS REMEMBERED
MARYANN GRAAFF
SALLY STUTTAFORD
PRUDIE CARTER
JAYNINE KIPPS
JUNE TAYLOR
LINDSAY LOMAS WALKER

We all enjoyed speaking to
Fergie in Texas and to Veronica
in the UK.
Hope Gail might join us next time.
Sorry you could not be with us.
Diana was ill—hope you
are up and about now.
xxx

Sally Carter (Baxter) and Hilary Hanson (Simpson)

A SPECIAL DATE TO REMEMBER

IN FEBRUARY 2025
CAROL WILL HOST
EITHER ANOTHER BRUNCH
OR LUNCH AT
WOODSIDE VILLAGE
FOR OUR
65th ANNIVERSARY

The Class of 1970 celebrated their 50th reunion

REPORT BY EDWINA BURGER

Our class of '70 celebrated their 50th reunion in February 2020. Many of us attended the cocktail party on the Thursday and the church service in the hall on the Friday. The weather unfortunately meant we could not go to St Saviour's and relive our memories there which was sad as many of us had been choir girls and remembered our wonderful Miss Sweet who had to deal with our naughtiness. At the delicious lunch Elaine Charnock spoke for the class of '70 and told of our fun (and misdemeanours) at Herschel.

On Saturday more girls were able to join us at Buitenverwagting for a sumptuous lunch. Fortunately we had a designated separate room where we could mix, be raucous and just enjoy being together. Our overseas guests were Janet Graaff from the States and from the UK Sue Harvey-Kelly, Judy Scott, and Hilary Gasson, the latter whom some of us had not seen for 50 years.

The photograph albums were shown around and our Matric Dance photos with the theme of Moulin Rouge brought down the house. In those days you as Matrics had to create artwork and murals to transform the grotty dining room and work very hard on the day to make your own Matric dance memorable. There were no Parents or Std 11s to help as your own class did the hard work on a very limited budget!

The day flew by and we had to relocate to the coffee shop for more exchanges and pleasantries. With comments such as 'the most unexpected day of laughter and fun', 'a truly memorable day', 'exceptional company', 'absolutely wonderful', 'superb day', 'a joyous, special gathering of friends sharing awesome memories', the class of '70 had a reunion to remember!

In the weeks before and after the reunion we managed to track down two 'missing' '70s girls which was really exciting. We always plan a get-together for those who visit Cape Town and now additional names have been added to our circle and this reunion will be a catalyst for future meetings.

We thank everyone for travelling from around the globe. Old friendships were renewed, new ones made and we were reminded how strong those bonds are that we made when we were at school.

Old Herschelians' Cocktail Party on Thursday evening
Back row: Elaine Russell (Charnock), Maya Ingwersen (Albrecht), Edwina Burger (Abbott), Sue Nicol (Harvey-Kelly),
Front row: Janis Kockott (Farley), Lynne Reid (Smith), Pam Pretorius (Jesse)

Edwina Abbott, Lynne Reid, Elaine Charnock, Sue Campbell, Sue Harvey-Kelly, Hilary Gasson, Pammy Jesse, Trish Gillanders

Elaine Russell (Charnock) and Janet Graaff

Hilary Henderson, Edwina Burger (Abbott),
Hilary Bierman (Gasson)

Janis Kockott (Farley), Deborah Gordon (Turner-Smith)

Miranda Sooole (van Breda), Lindy Weyers (Olds)

BACK ROW: Janet Graaff, Sue Nicol (Harvey-Kelly), Lindy (Louise) Weyers (Olds), Trish Carroll (Gillanders)
MIDDLE ROW: Janis Kockott (Farley), Edwina Burger (Abbott), Deborah Gordon (Turner-Smith), Judith Wilson (Scott), Hilary Henderson, Mandy Soole (van Breda)
FRONT ROW: Hilary Bierman (Gasson), Pam Pretorius (Jesse), Sue Hagemann (Campbell), Maya Ingwersen (Albrecht), Elaine Russell (Charnock), Lynne Reid (Smith)

Janis Farley, Lindy Olds, Mandy van Breda, Deb Turner-Smith, Maya Albrecht, Hilary Henderson, Judith Scott, Janet Graaff

The Class of 1980 celebrated their 40th reunion

REPORT BY SUSAN BURNS

Where did 40 years go since we matriculated? It all seems like just the other day we had our Matric's last day celebrations late in 1980, when arrived at the school on an open-topped bus, with the music of the day blaring; "Fame" singing at the tops of our voices ," Fame, I'm gonna live forever, Fame". It is hard to believe it is now 2020, 40 years later and we gathered again to celebrate, reminisce, share memories, laughter and reconnect with school friends and reignite those special friendships one only can make at school.

With the help of social networking sites and each other, we managed to track down almost the whole class, including those who left before matric and even some of those from junior school. Unfortunately, not everyone could make it, as half the matric class are living outside of South Africa. Some ladies did make a special effort to travel to join in the celebrations: Clair Newton (Grootendorst) - living in the UK; Susan Boehm (Steenkamp) - living in Germany and SA, Jane Dicey - living in the USA, Judith Gilbard (Knight) - living in the UK and Mandi Ashmore (Scott) - living in Switzerland. Sadly, Jane Emerson (Johnson) - living in the UK and Donna Smiedt - living in the USA had to cancel their trips. We missed them both, hopefully they will join us for the next reunion.

A handful of us attended the Founder's Day service , which had to be moved from St Saviour's to the school theatre due to rain. As always, the choir singing was beautiful and brought back so many memories, emotions and tears , especially for those who were in the School Choir! We had a good turnout for the Old Girls' lunch, and for 4 ladies it was their first visit back to the school in 40 years! How the school has changed since we were there, both the school and the boarding house are transformed. We could not believe the amazing facilities that the school offers learners today, it was all so simple and uncomplicated in our day, but we all turned out OK anyway! We wandered around the school after the lunch, reminiscing. We remember the first computer room being built in our Std 9 year, in 1979, the school chapel was under the staff room and what used to be the library is now the chapel.

It was most special that 3 school head of houses and head girl attended the lunch; Head Girl and Head of Merriman, Clair Newton (Grootendorst), Head of Rolt, Jane Dicey, and Head of Jagger, Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman). It was most fitting that Clair, our head girl, did a 3-minute memoire of our school experience.

We held our "main reunion" event at an informal luncheon on Saturday 15th February. Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman) kindly opened her home to us and provided a delicious lunch, which was loads fun and much laughter as we all caught up and reconnected. Sadly, over the years we have lost a few special classmates, in memory of them, we lit 5 candles: Sandra Wingfield, who passed away in 1976 on the Matrics' last day at the school, and after whom the Award for Fellowship for a Grade 12 was donated; Kathleen Barron, Lindi Durant (De Kock); Phillipa Dauncey and Anastasia Vlissides. A big thank you to Suzanne for hosting us.

We made a collection and donated the money to the OHA in support of the Bursary Assist Fund. This is to assist scholarship learners who can't afford things like new uniforms, sports equipment, a sports/school tour or that special matric dance dress.

As always, we just loved getting together. In fact, for a class that took 25 years to have its first reunion, we have done very well. We have managed to get together every 5 years – 2005, 2010, 2015 and now 2020. It was wonderful to reconnect and see everyone again, we just miss seeing and renewing our friendships with those who are not able to travel to our reunions, but we do hope that we will meet up again in 2025, for the 45th reunion! By the way, everyone is recognizable, and we think we actually all look very good for our ages! Please diarise February 2025 for the next reunion. Old Girl's Lunch attendees: Phillipa Woolley (Jolly); Susan Burns; Jane Dicey; Carolyn New (Newton); Clair Newton (Grootendoorst); Judith Gilbard (Knight); Susan Boehm (Steenkamp); Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman); Mistene Basnett (Maisel).

The people that were able to make it were: Phillipa Woolley (Jolly); Susan Burns; Mandi Ashmore (Scott); Hilary Knight; Jane Dicey; Carolyn New (Newton); Clair Newton (Grootendorst); Penny Hardcastle (Cooper); Leigh Schuhbauer (Cluver); Fleur Hanekom; Susan Erasmus (Baker); Penny Catto (Sharpley); Susan Boehm (Steenkamp); Vicky Schwabe (Huxter); Suzanne le Roux (Kilcullen); Shane Heerden (Fairhead); Susan Lloyd Roberts; Anina Morley (van der Merwe); Helen Ravenscroft (Dicey); Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman); Meg Saks (van Niekerk).

A big thank again to Suzanne Ackerman-Berman for hosting the lunch; we really appreciate all your hard work and kindness. Thanks too, to Sue Lloyd-Roberts and Phillipa Woolley for their assistance in organising the reunion. The next one will be in 2025.

Head Prefects: Jane Dicey (Rolt), Clair Newton (Grootendorst) - Merriman and Head Girl, Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman) - Jagger.

Back Row: Beverly Brockman, Leigh Schuhbauer (Cluver); Susan Erasmus (Baker), Mandi Ashmore (Scott)
Third Row: Anina Morley (van der Merwe); Phillipa Woolley (Jolly); Shane Heerden (Fairhead); Clair Newton (Grootendorst); Hilary Knight; Helen Ravenscroft (Dicey); Vicky Schwabe (Huxter); Penny Hardcastle (Cooper)
Second Row: Carolyn New (Newton); Suzanne Ackerman-Berman (Ackerman); Susan Lloyd Roberts
Front Row: Susan Boehm (Steenkamp); Fleur Hanekom; Jane Dicey; Penny Catto (Sharpley); Meg Saks (van Niekerk); Susan Burns

School Friends and Sisters in law
Carolyn New (Newton), Clair Newton (Grootendorst), Suzanne Ackerman Berman (Ackerman)

First reunion for Sue Boehm and Jane Dicey

Memories of Art
Suzanne Ackerman-Berman and Susan Boehm (Steenkamp);

We lit 5 candles in remembrance of Sandra Wingfield, who passed away in 1976 on the Matrics' last day at the school, and after whom the Award for Fellowship for a Grade 12 was donated; Kathleen Barron, Lindi Durant (De Kock); Phillipa Dauncey and Anastasia Vlissides

Sue Lloyd Roberts, Suzanne Ackerman, Berman Mandi Ashmore, Vicky Schwabe

Judith Gilbard(Knight); Jane Dicey; Susan Boehm(Steenkamp); Beverly Brockman; Suzanne Ackerman- Berman (Ackerman) ; Phillipa Woolley (Jolly); Susan Burns; Carolyn New (Newton); Clair Newton(Grootendorst); Mistene Basnett (Maisel)

The Class of 1985 celebrated their 35th reunion

REPORT BY BETH POLLOCK

The class of 1985 had so much fun at our 30th Reunion that we knew we couldn't wait 10 years to meet again, so our 35th Reunion was celebrated with excitement and great joy at seeing each other. I am sure that every year thinks the same, but we were blessed with an extraordinary group of women who to this day remain the greatest friends.

To me, enduring friendships is the legacy of being a Herschelian, borne out by the fact that whenever you meet one (whether in SA or when living elsewhere) no matter the age gap between you, there is a connection and a fondness for the experiences and traditions we have shared over the years, and the memories of the people we met along the way.

We enjoyed an absolutely delicious lunch after the Founder's Day service which was served on the most beautifully decorated tables. There were girls celebrating their 10th to their 60th reunions, and each table had stationary specifically designed for the year group nestled amongst very beautiful flowers. Great care was taken to make us all feel welcome. Food certainly never tasted that good in our day - we were lucky to get a Lemon Cream with a cuppa after school each day!

The following day we met at The Lawns at The Roundhouse above Camps Bay, a perfect place for a relaxed lunch where it was easy to mingle and chat to everyone. Our group of 20 was made of many girls who travelled a great distance from all over SA, and two who travelled from London to join the fun and our cups runneth over with laughter by the end of the weekend. I certainly hope that we too will still be meeting when we're almost 80!

Class of 1985 enjoy Founder's Day luncheon in the Mary Jagger Hall

Jackie Kolbe, Kyra Pratt, Caroline Maritz (Tedder)

Lisa Kantor and Daryl Gowar (nee Louw)

Beth Pollock (Stuart-Findlay) and Shirley Bales (Murray)

Caroline Christie, Jenny Saunders and Lynda Anne Raubenheimer

Caroline Meihuizen (Christie), Shirley (Bales) Murray, Cathy Stamper, Deidre Claasen (Murray), and Beth Pollock (Stuart-Findlay)

Karen Dudley and Caroline Isted

Nicky Ince and Marion (Dolly) Rupert (Bladegroen)

Marion Edmunds, Beth Stuart-Findlay and Laura Baillie

The Class of 1990 celebrated their 30th reunion

REPORT BY BRIDGET RICHARDSON

The class of 1990 celebrated our 30 year reunion this year. We had a wonderful weekend of events which started with the school cocktail party on the Thursday evening. A number of us from that the class attend that event which was hosted by Herschel. It was also lovely to see old girls from other years there and several teachers including our headmistress Pamela Duff. On Friday many of us attended the Founder's Day service which was very beautiful and brought back many memories of our time at Herschel. That was followed by lunch at school with several other years who were celebrating their reunions. It was wonderful to see that the spirit and the bond has lasted between the OHs even 60 years on!

On Saturday, we celebrated with just our Matric year at The Stack restaurant in Gardens. About 24 of us attended, which was a great turnout given we only had 37 people in our matric year.

A few girls had travelled from overseas for the reunion and we so appreciated that effort. We had a very festive lunch with lots of laughs and the bond of shared memories.

A couple of the girls had brought along their old photographs, and those caused much laughter and happy reminiscing. It was a wonderful day, and we hope to get together more often than we do at the moment.

Back Row: Isabel Essery, Mandy Lanning, Sarah McCarthy, Alex Mallet, Carianne Wilkenson
Middle Row: Sally Blackman, Lucinda Lombardi, Kate Williamson, Tanya Cohen, Linda Theunissen, Nisreen Hendricks, Dominque de Keyser, Leila Mahomed, Celeste Holmes, Ashleigh Dunn
Front Row: Suzanne Louw, Bridget Richardson, Jane Franco, Teresa Bridgman, Jodi Kantor, Tobago Skambane, Debbie West and Gretha Zwiegelaar

Ashleigh Dunn, Jane Franco, Bridget O'Neill, Jodi Kantor and Suzanne Louw

Celeste Holmes, Dominique de Keyser, Theresa Bridgman and Grethe Zwiegelaar

STANDING: Celeste Holmes, Jodi Kantor, Suzanne Dingley (Louw), Jane Eedes, Kate Williamson, Sally Blackman, Nisreen Hendricks, Jane Franco, Carianne Wilson (Wilkenson).
SEATED: Bridget Richardson (O'Neill), Alex Emmerich (Mallett) and Kristina Miller, Chair of OHA

Kate Williamson and Theresa Bridgman

Linda Theunissen and Suzanne Louw

Dianne Pentz, Alex Mallet and Carianne Wilkinson

Suzanne Louw, Tanya Cohen, Sarah McCarthy and Sally Blackman

The Class of 2000 celebrated their 20th reunion

REPORT BY MIKAELA LISTER

Anticipating the milestone of our 20 years school reunion came with a mixed range of emotions. Having been out of school for longer than the age we were when we left school was a stark realisation that time goes by very quickly. Over time some things change: like where we live, the way we look and, perhaps, behave! Other things don't really change: like the solid friendships we built over our school years, the sense of belonging to a group and the fond memories that so many of us shared. For many of us, we hadn't really been back to the school much over the 20 years, or seen some class members, and it was really refreshing to walk back into the grounds and catch up with ladies over the weekend who have all, successfully, gone different ways.

Our weekend reunion began on a very rainy Friday with around 20 of us attending the Founders Day service and lunch. It was initially disappointing not to go to the beautiful St Saviours Church, but it was equally fun to sit in the pink seats in the theatre after so many years, bringing back many memories of assemblies, house plays and fashion shows that we were involved in during our school days. To hear the school song being sung with such gusto around the new fountain, with a sense of community and friendship, was quite emotive. Looking around the various reunion 'decade' tables celebrating at the Old Herschelian lunch, put our 20 year period into perspective. We looked ahead to each decade and where our lives may be placed then – all the way to the 60th reunion, who were by far the most rowdy table!

At the lunch, it was lovely to hear from Sue Wessels, our head girl in 2000, who echoed what many of us may think; '20 years ago I was clearly already aware of just what an amazing opportunity we had been given through this wonderful Herschel education but, 20 years later, I am now even more acutely aware of just what an amazing and fortunate start Herschel was for each and every one of us.

Being here at our reunion made me realise that the education we had at Herschel comes with its own responsibility.' Leaving the Herschel grounds that afternoon, I for one challenged myself to come back a bit more frequently than in another 20 years.

On the Saturday night, around 30 ladies gathered together at Michelle Noth's (Aspinall) newly built home in Green Point. It was so kind of her to open up her beautiful home, and the evening was a perfect summer's night overlooking town and the harbour with twinkling lights. Again, it was fun to catch up with everyone and share stories, all to the backdrop of a 2000 playlist compiled by everyone's suggestions! Thank you so much to Camilla Howard for arranging the catering, of which there was a lot of delicious food! The effort of those who attended on the night – like Georgie Thomas from Worcester and a few very new moms who left their new-borns at home – was much appreciated. Looking back on some of the pictures of the night, it was just so lovely to see so many faces and friendships and enjoy happy times catching up with everyone.

The Sunday event was a family event, and the wind-free evening from the night before turned into a gale force windy day! However, the venue was flexible to move us inside and those with kids and excess energy braved the outdoor area to kick a ball or jump on the jumping castle. There was a buzz and chaos around the room with around 50 adults and 30 kids. It was really so lovely to see everyone and their partners or families. We had harvest style tables, and face-painting and sand-art for the kids. I'm sure the next reunion in 10 years' time will be quite different with the bulk of these kids being teenagers!

A special thank you must be made to those who travelled quite some distance: Nathalie du Preez, Samantha Risely (See), Jacqui Koetscheid (Grouwstra), Hoviyeh Afnan-Holmes, and Nikki Holbak (Henkel) from the UK and Europe. Sue Wessels (Hacker) flew with her family from Joburg for the weekend. It's really an incredible dedication to travel so far. It is a tribute to the value placed on our school and the relationships built over the years and so you really all helped to make the reunion even more special.

All in all, the anticipation of the 20 year reunion culminated in a reminder of our roots – of the incredible education we received with much gratitude to the amazing, dedicated teachers we had, the world-class facilities the school is fortunate to have and continues to invest in, and the many special friendships we built during our time at school.

Front row: Nathalie du Preez, Nicola Holbak, Mikaela Lister, Lauren Goldschmidt, Sarah-Leigh Watson, Jacqui Koetscheid, Nicole Sudding
Back row: Megan Honeyman, Susannah Wessels, Sarah Twycross, Kathryn Grobler, Caryn Simpson

Front row: Lauren Goldschmidt, Sarah Wiggins, Leigh Cattell, Mikaela Lister, Samantha Risely
Back row: Nicole Sudding, Nicola Holbak, Nathalie du Preez, Sarah Twycross, Caryn Simpson, Megan Honeyman, Kathryn Grobler, Susannah Wessels, Sarah-Leigh Watson

Left to right: Sarah Twycross, Kerry-Anne Heeger, Leigh Cattell, Mikaela Lister, Nathalie du Preez, Samantha Risely, Michelle Noth, Caryn Simpson

We tried to keep the little ones entertained!

Catching up with friends and partners

The family day get-together

The Class of 2009 celebrated their 11th reunion

REPORT BY LEIGH LOTTER (DE BEYER)

On the 16th of December 2019, 27 ladies from the 2009 class met up on a gloriously sunny Cape Town morning. We indulged in a wonderful brunch at Jonkershuis reminiscing about school days, catching up and finding out what everyone has been busy with these last few years. It truly was so special to have so many ladies from across the globe make it for the Reunion. We hope to see even more at the next Reunion.

A note of thanks to all who joined, as well as the following ladies for their contributions towards the gift everyone received – Leila Bruce, Daniella Corder and Alexandra Whitfield, and to Chanel Hurlin for organising Dayne Malan to take photos for us.

From left to right
Back row; Chanel Hurlin, Alex Doyle, Chiara Louis, Jessica Delson, Jemma Dendy-Young.
Middle row: Annika Brouwer, Courtney Barry, Alexandra Whitfield, Kate King (nee Goddard), Kathryn Lardner (nee Tennent), Kim Williams, Kauthar Sambo, Leila Brue, Daniella Hutton-Squire (nee Viotti), Kathryn Wishart
Front row: Kerry van Zyl (nee Macdonald), Melissa Corbett, Yusrah Ehrenreich, Leigh Lotter (nee de Beyer), Bronwyn Horne, Daniella Corder, Antonia Cronje, Shihaam Heuvel, Lauren Gordon, Lauren George, Sarah Rundle (nee Utton), Sarah Potter

Leila Bruce, Sarah Rundle (nee Utton) and Alex Doyle

Antonia Cronje, Yusrah Ehrenreich and Annika Brouwer

Leigh Lotter (nee de Beyer), Chanel Hurlin, Chiara Louis

Kathryn Wishart, Lauren Gordon, Jessica Delson

Kathryn Lardner (nee Tennent), Alexandra Whitfield, Jemma Dendy-Young, Courtney Barry

Sarah Potter, Shihaam Heuvel, Kim Williams

Leigh Lotter (nee de Beyer), Lauren George, Daniella Corder

Alex Doyle, Melissa Corbett, Annika Brouwer

The Class of 2010 celebrated their 10th reunion

REPORT BY EMILY VAN HEERDEN

On Saturday, 15 February 2020, about 30 of the 2010 Matrics came together to celebrate our ten year reunion. Cape Town gave us one of her perfect summer days for the occasion. We organised a harvest table filled with delicious dishes made by some of the girls and their mums; had a personalised home-made "craft gin" bar and set out couches and rugs on the grass to be able to reminisce under the trees. We dressed in different shades of pink and blue and many of the girls wore their Matric Dance pearls in honour of reuniting after ten years.

Ten years sounds like a lifetime to some and a blink of an eye to others, but the incredible thing was how so much and yet so little had changed. Most of us were a little nervous to be getting back together with some friends we hadn't seen for years, but our fears were unwarranted. We have all grown up, some have studied various degrees, some have travelled the world and some have fallen in and out of love. For some, life has changed entirely, for others, not much at all. Some paths have been straight and exactly as planned, others have been filled with twists and turns... and yet, no matter what we have each been through and how many external things may appear to have changed, sitting on that grass and sharing our stories, one thing remained: that spark that binds us all together.

Our years together at Herschel created friendships that will last forever, even though we don't see each other frequently. Importantly, our ten year reunion showed us that each of us has a genuine and loving support for the other. These are the girls who will have your back, who will cheer you on and be there for you regardless of the years that have passed or the time spent apart.

A very joyous occasion all getting back together again!

The exquisite harvest table with mouth-watering dishes homemade by Libby Gubb and her daughters, Carla and Nicola; an amazing cheeseboard and sweet treats from Adi van Zyl; beautiful flowers from Sue van Heerden, who hosted the reunion. Olivia Du Plessis (nee De Klerk) in the background at the personalised G&T station created by her and Margeaux Malherbe.

Emily van Heerden, Head Girl 2010, enjoying the delicious treats.

Sarah Allderman excitingly sharing news of her recent engagement with the girls!

Captured in the midst of reminiscing: (from front left) Aisha Dramat, Claire Lofthouse, Naa-iela Triegaardt, Siviwe Mngxali, Sibusisiwe Maseko, Nicole Eddy and Rudo Ndhluni.

Frances Barker (left) catching up with Dominique Dryding under the trees.

More special catch-ups: Margeaux Malherbe (front left), Carla Gubb, Adrienne van Zyl, Nicola Gubb, Emily van Heerden and Sarah Verster.

News

BELL, TRACY (NEE EFSTATHIOU) - 1987

Tracy Bell - TracyBSwimwear - has been chosen as the Swimsuit Designer for Miss SA 2020

BOSOMWORTH, CHARLOTTE - 2014

Charlotte is about to begin her MSc at Imperial College London for Applied Biological sciences and Biotechnology.

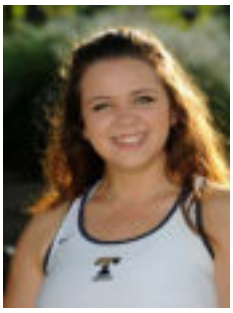
CAMPBELL-WHITE, ANNETTE (1963)

Annette Campbell-White (1963) and her husband Dr Ruediger Naumann-Etienne retired in 2019 and are now based in Kent in the UK. In 2019, the University of Texas Press published a memoir written by Annette, *Beyond Market Value: A memoir of book collecting and the world of venture capital*, which accompanied an exhibition held at the Harry Ransom Centre at UT Austin, featuring highlights of her Modernist literature collection.

DRENNAN, SHELAGH (SANDFORD) - 1953

Shelagh has wonderful memories of her time at Herschel. One fond memory is of her waking up in the middle of the night in the san and going to the sister, the doctor, the headmistress, being rushed to hospital. Miss McLean accompanied her in the car and in the ambulance and held her hand as she went under on the operating table. Shelagh's parents were stationed in Northern Rhodesia, or Zambia as it is now, and there were many girls from there.

ERASMUS, CHANEL - 2011



Chanel Erasmus is a true squash fanatic, who left South Africa and travelled to America to pursue her passion for the game. A multi-sport athlete, Chanel has been a jack of all trades in the sports avenues. A strong competitor in everything she takes on, she played three different sports in college and managed to excel at her academics as well. Networking with other players helped bring awareness of the opportunities that were available across the pond. Playing squash in college was a first step in creating a career for Chanel. It was because of these relationships that she believes her life is where it is today.

It takes a high energy individual to play squash at a top level. Chanel's enthusiasm goes ever-further, as she's MC'ed events and continues to stay involved by running Junior events and helping at high level professional events. Learning more about Chanel's acting background and love for theater, we can see how these roles compliment each other at both tournaments and the "stage court".

Click on this link https://squashradio.com/18-chanel-erasmus/ to learn more about Chanel on the Squash Radio interview.

GARISCH, DAWN - 1975

Dawn is the founding member of the NPO the Life Righting Collective who teach people to write about their experiences as a resource for living less anxiously and more creatively - see www.liferighting.com. She has a new novel Breaking Milk out, and her second poetry collection, called Disturbance (taking notes) will be published in November.

HALLIER, CHLOË (NEE COLLINS) - 2009

Chloe Collins married Chris Hallier on the 14th of December 2019 at a family friend's home in Bishopscourt.

HARDING, DIANE (NEE BERRY) 1956 - 1963

Diane Harding has just published her memoir 'Always in the Dark' www.blkdogpublishing.com/post/alwaysinthedark

The story is about Diane's search for answers from a family shrouded in secrets, with the leafy suburb of Newlands and Claremont at the heart of the scandal. Diane remembers with fondness sharing her years at Herschel with Janet Gant and Georgina Stuttaford to name but a few, and notices with nostalgia that the uniform appears not to have changed over the years. The title of her book references her memories at the school, her visit in 1994, her days under the headship of Miss McLean and Mrs Kittow, doing gym in voluminous blue knickers and the armful of flowers her father supplied for Founder's Day. It was with great sadness that Diane said goodbye – at the age of 14 - in 1963 when her family left for England.

HODGSON, SARAH-JANE - 2014 AND EMILY - 2016

Sarah-Jane and Emily have just opened their first ever Homeware store together called "The Cook Sisters". During lockdown with nowhere to go the idea was born and since their opening they are thriving as a team! Striving to be environmentally conscious and eco-friendly they have gone almost completely plastic free and are working with local farms that uplift the surrounding communities to bring a fresh produce market to Newlands every Friday. They are a small business that is helping to support other small businesses as well as female run businesses.

News

JENKINS, KATIE (NEE LAMOND) - 2004

On the 2nd March Katie and Greg Jenkins welcomed their beautiful girl, Olivia, into the world. They couldn't have selected a better distraction to get them through lockdown if they'd tried.

KOHN GOLDSCHMIDT, LAUREN (NEE KOHN) - 2000

On 5 April 2020 (the 3-year anniversary of her father's passing) Lauren gave birth to a son, Connor Jack Kohn Goldschmidt – an affable little guy, much doted upon by his older sisters, Olivia Rose (5) and Georgia-Mae (3). Late 2019 - early 2020 saw Lauren as Key-Note speaker at a couple of big events: The Golden Key International Honour Society New Member Recognition Ceremony at Sarah Baartman Memorial Hall and the Round Table Conference on Electoral Democracy in Africa at Stellenbosch University. Lauren was awarded a UCT Law Faculty Research Prize, 2019, for her work in the field of equality law and restitutionary measures. In addition, her research in the fields of rationality review, the separation of powers and the development of the law of contract, has been endorsed by the courts in recent years. She has also published two book chapters; namely 'Time to go back to first principles: the constitutionality of the 2017 Procurement Regulations' in Sope-Elegbe & Quinot (eds) Public Procurement Regulation in Africa: Development in Uncertain Times 2ed (2019) Juta – and important contribution given the Draft Procurement Bill – and 'Administrative Justice in South Africa: An overview of our curious hybrid', chapter 7 in Corder & Mavedzenge Pursuing Good Governance: Administrative Justice in Common Law Africa (2019) Siberink. Lauren is also involved in a book project with colleagues at Leiden University in the Netherlands (where she is undertaking her PhD) on 'Public Law Performance: Substantiating Legitimacy and Effectiveness of Law and Governance in the 21st Century'. More recently, Lauren provided commentary in the regulatory space to Business Insider and found out on 5 November 2020 that she has been recognised as a 2020 'Inspiring 50' Winner (@InspiringFiftySA), having been nominated for the accolade by former students. This initiative recognises the Top 50 women leaders and innovators in the 'STEM' spaces (Science / Technology / Engineering / Mathematics). Lauren's innovative 'remote' lecturing efforts, and refined pedagogy, during the pandemic have been acknowledged, in addition to her contribution in the legal-tech space (www.SALegalAdvice.co.za) which seeks to make legal services more accessible and affordable.

LUYENDIJK, EMMA - 2009

Emma has been accepted at The Juilliard School in New York City for a graduate program in Collaborative Piano. This specialized program focuses on chamber music, vocal accompanying and opera coaching. She is studying with New York Metropolitan Opera's assistant conductor, Dr Lydia Brown. Emma has also been awarded a recurring piano fellowship at The Aspen International Music Festival. Emma's recent performance engagements include The Boston Art Song Society, Boston's Kleshinski Concert Series, The Voices of South Africa International Opera Competition, and most recently, a virtual collaboration with cellist and Juilliard alum, Yo-Yo Ma.

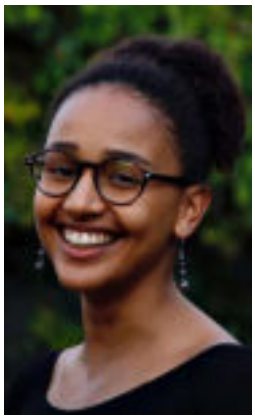
MARTIN, ROBYN (NEE FOSTER) - 2009

Robyn & her husband, James Martin, welcomed their daughter ,Sienna Rose Foster Martin, on the 15th January 2020. They live on the Isle of Man where Robyn works as the Senior Group Accountant at Artisan Real Estate, a property development company.

MEREDITH HARDY, JO (NEE CRUSE) - 2003

It's been a wonderfully full and busy year on a number of fronts - in 2019 my husband, Dominic, and I celebrated our wedding with family and friends on a beautiful wine farm just outside Lisbon. Since then, we've left London for the cathedral city of Winchester. I work in the education sector as an entrepreneur and consultant to a variety of leading schools and education organisations. My professional expertise lies at the intersection of education and entrepreneurship. I'm currently building a new venture which supports students to more effectively navigate the university admissions process and career choice.

MULAUDZI, SHANDUKANI - 2015



Shandu recently embarked on her PhD at Harvard Medical School in the Bioinformatics and Integrative Genomics program, an interdisciplinary field that combines computational and biological sciences to better understand things like the genetic aspects of infectious diseases. Shandu recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science from Columbia University in New York City. Having always loved maths and science, she first became interested in computational biology while volunteering at the Computational Biology Unit at UCT. She then spent two summers in Boston as an undergraduate research intern at Harvard Medical School's Summer Institute in Biomedical Informatics, investigating genetic data of tuberculosis. The current pandemic spotlights the need for not only more medical professionals, but also researchers like her!

NEL, ROBYN (NEE THOMPSON) – 2005

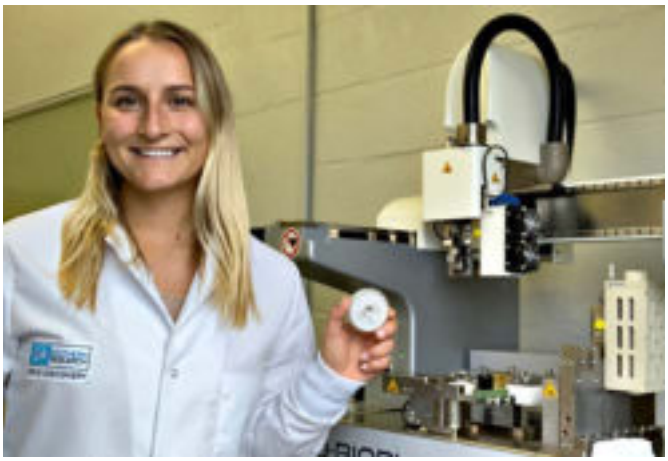
Robyn and Paul were married at her family home in Constantia on 29 February 2020.

PEDERSEN, SHANNA - 1991

Shanna Pedersen lives in London with her husband Andrew and two children (India, 11 & Kai, 8). India has just started at a high school very much like the wonderful Herschel. Whilst Shanna continues to work for BT, she has also gone 'back to school' and has completed a Masters in Sustainability Leadership at the University of Cambridge, combining her passion for business with her passion for sustainability.

PIENAAR, KIRSTEN - 2015

Since matriculating five years ago in 2015, Kirsten was recruited to play field hockey and study at Cornell University, an Ivy League school in a college town in upstate New York. Her daunting journey involved moving countries for four years and joining a highly competitive team she had only just met. However, it turned out to be the most rewarding experience she had ever undertaken. After four years of training for 30hrs a week while fitting in time for studying and becoming close friends with her teammates, she graduated in May with a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Kirsten is completing her Master's in Biomedical Engineering at Cornell and, in December, will be entering the real world of work in the US!



STEPHENS, ANTHEA - 1989

Anthea Stephens has been appointed as Fiduciary Director at Maitland from the 1st September. Anthea will be responsible for managing the Fiduciary South team and overseeing all activities and operations of our business in South Africa. Anthea is a qualified tax and fiduciary specialist with 20 years of international experience spanning the USA, UK, Europe and South Africa.

VAN HEERDEN, EMILY - 2010

I returned to South Africa at the start of this year following two years at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. I graduated from the Bachelor of Civil Laws (BCL) with distinction in July 2018 and spent my second year of study reading for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Law, focusing on the interplay between women and children's rights and medical law in South Africa. My graduation for this second master's degree was unfortunately cancelled due to the current state of affairs. Since January this year, I have been working as a law clerk for Justice Sisi Khampepe at the South African Constitutional Court.

WRIGHT, JODI - 2018

Jodi Wright matriculated from Herschel Girls school in 2018. She studied nursing at UWC and achieved recognition for her academic achievements from the Golden Key Society in 2018. She then applied to Oxford Brookes, Oxford, UK, and has been accepted to study Occupational Therapy. Jodi started her 3-year honours degree there in September 2020.

Roger Ramsbottom and Bruce Probyn placing roses in the cross at Founder's Day

The Chapel
Photo credit: Anna Engelhardt

Founder's Day 2020.
Old Herschelians gathered on the verandah to sing the School Song.

Obituaries

PATRICIA JANE HARPUR (LINDSAY) – CLASS OF 1948
6 March 1932 - 20 February 2020

Patricia Jane Harpur passed away at home with her close family by her bedside after a long and brave fight with colon cancer. Her closest friends remained from her days at Herschel.

Born and bred in Cape Town, Pat married Noel G Harpur in 1956 in Cape Town and moved to Mufulira, Zambia, with him - returning in 1968. Patrick and Colin, her sons, where born there in 1957 and 1959 respectively. She was the daughter of the Honourable Kenneth Lindsay of the Lindsay Scottish Clan and Kathleen an 1820 Settler descendant. And a direct descendent of Lady Anne Barnard, nee Lindsay, and Lord Lindsay of Balniel and Balcarres (The Red Earl of Balniel and Balcarres) the family seat of Balcarres in Colinsborough Fife.
Pat or Tish as she was also known had many characteristics and similarities with Lady Anne Barnard, being a pioneer, a talented painter, writer (under a pseudonym), a publisher (Vanity Publishing business) and property developer (7 houses) in times when this was unheard of for a woman.

Widowed for over 40 years she managed to put both her sons through Bishops and UCT finding a way without means and by pure determination and a never-say-never attitude.
She was one of the first women to overcome the sexist policies of the banks who would not allow women to obtain a mortgage at the time of her property development activities.

A humanist and warm outgoing socialite who loved people, she was completely self-sacrificing for her family and found strength in her religion and self-reliance. She worked at UCT to benefit from the staff discount on university fees to allow both sons to qualify with degrees of Business Science and BA (English Literature). At the same time, she studied through Unisa obtaining a BA History and Literature degree. She was a liberal thinker, broad-minded intellectual and academic. A free spirit and champion of the underdog.

Diagnosed in March 2019 she travelled with Patrick twice to visit Colin in Ireland and orchestrated a rapprochement between them with Colin sadly passing away before her in January 2020. She leaves Patrick and Rodney, her stepson, and Harpur cousins, David, Kevin, Richard, Michael and Steven as well as Rodney's wife Leigh and their children Andrew, Kerry and Sean as well as her true friends some of them lifelong and some more recent. Her Angels as she called them. "Gone, but Here Always!"

The Farm Chapel - painted by Patricia Harper

DIANA ELIZABETH HAMILTON RUSSELL - CLASS OF 1955
6 November 1938 – 28 July 2020

Diana Elizabeth Hamilton Russell, world-renowned feminist activist, scholar, and author died on 28 July 2020 in Oakland, California. She was 81 years old. The cause of her death was respiratory failure.

Diana Russell devoted her life to the remediation of crimes against women. She authored numerous books and articles on marital rape, femicide, incest, misogynist murders of women, and pornography. In addition to her scholarship, Diana was a grass roots organizer. In the mid-1970s, she started lobbying feminists around the world. Her organizing efforts resulted in the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women in Brussels, Belgium. Two thousand women from 40 countries heard first-hand accounts of the gender-related violence and oppression tribunal speakers had experienced. Simone de Beauvoir in her introductory speech to the Tribunal said: "I salute the International Tribunal as the beginning of the radical decolonization of women." Later, Belgian feminist Nicole Van de Ven documented the event in a book, Crimes Against Women: The Proceedings of the International Tribunal.

Diana Russell was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, the fourth of the six children of a South African father and a British mother. After completing her Bachelor's degree from the University of Cape Town, at the age of 19, Russell left for the United Kingdom.

In Britain, she enrolled in the London School of Economics in Political Science. In 1961, she completed a master's degree and received the prize for the best student in the program. In 1963 she was accepted into an interdisciplinary PhD program at Harvard University and she moved to Boston. Her research focused on sociology and the study of revolution.

Diana's research focus stemmed from her own involvement in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. In 1963, Russell had joined the Liberal Party of South Africa that had been founded by Alan Paton, the author of Cry the Beloved Country. While participating in a peaceful protest in Cape Town, Russell was arrested with other party members. She came to the conclusion that non-violent strategies were futile against the brutal violence and repression of the white Afrikaner police state. Thereafter, she joined the African Resistance Movement (ARM), an underground revolutionary movement fighting apartheid in South Africa. The principal strategy of the ARM was to bomb and sabotage government property, and though Russell was only a peripheral member of the ARM, she still risked a 10-year incarceration if caught. During this period, Diana's father was a member of the emphatically apartheid parliament of South Africa.

After completing her doctorate, Diana was hired as a sociology professor at Mills College in Oakland, California. During her first year, she co-taught the first course on women ever offered at Mills. Eventually this course led to the development of the Women's Studies curriculum at Mills –one of the first in the U.S.

In 1977, Diana conducted an extensive series of in-depth interviews with women. Data she gathered from these nine hundred interviews appeared in a series of books: Rape in Marriage (1982), Sexual Exploitation: Rape, Child Sexual Abuse, Workplace Harassment (1984), and The Secret Trauma: Incest in the Lives of Girls and Women (1986). The Secret Trauma, the first scientific study of incestuous abuse ever conducted, was the co-recipient of the prestigious C. Wright Mills Award in 1986.

In 1987, Diana traveled to South Africa to conduct interviews with revolutionary women activists in the anti-apartheid liberation struggle. Upon her return, she published Lives of Courage: Women for a New South Africa (1989). In 1993, Diana edited an anthology on pornography, Making Violence Sexy: Feminist Views on Pornography. Her 1994 book, Against Pornography: The Evidence of Harm, which included 100 pornographic photos, made the connection between pornography and increased incidents of rape.

Perhaps Diana's most significant theoretical contribution to the field of women's studies was a single word. In 1976 Russell redefined 'femicide' as "the killing of females by males because they are female." Russell's intention was to politicize the term. She wanted to bring attention to the misogyny driving lethal crimes against women, which she said gender-neutral terms like murder failed to do. In order to deal with these extreme crimes against women, Diana insisted, it was necessary to recognize that, like race-based hate crimes, "Femicides are [also] lethal hate crimes."

Feminist movements in many countries in Latin America, as in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Chile, and El Salvador among others, have adopted the use of Russell's politicized 'femicide' and have successfully used it socially, politically and legally to address lethal violence against women in their respective countries. In 1992, she co-edited an anthology, Femicide: The Politics of Woman Killing.

In addition to her publications, Diana always found time for boots-on-the ground activism. She was often on the front lines of feminist protests in the USA, South Africa, Europe, and the U.K. In concert with other feminists, she demonstrated outside courthouses and theaters; she staged sit-ins in various government offices; she spray-painted feminist slogans on misogynist businesses; and destroyed magazines in porn stores. For many months, she was the solo picketer outside a Berkeley restaurant owned by a trafficker in underage girls. Her acts of civil disobedience often satirized her targets. In 1991, for example, a waitress refused to serve a male customer because he was reading Playboy. She was fired for her act of rebellion. Hefner responded by flying in a large quantity of issues of his magazine that were distributed free to all the diner customers to read. Diana and six friends dressed as waitresses and served ketchup-covered penises and testicles (adroitly sculpted hotdogs) on plates to the crowd that had gathered outside.

For her various acts of civil disobedience, Diana paid a price. She was sued, arrested a half dozen times, and, on occasion, physically attacked. She remained undaunted. She continued to start feminist organizations. In 1977, Diana co-founded Women Against Violence in Pornography and Media (WAVPM), the first feminist anti-pornography organization in the United States and internationally. She also founded FANG (Feminists' Anti-Nuclear Group) in response to the failure of the peace movement to recognize the role of patriarchy in the development of nuclear arms. This culminated in the publication of Exposing Nuclear Phallacies (1989), designated an Outstanding Book on human rights in the United States by the Gustavus Myers Center in 1990. In 1993, Russell initiated an organization called Women United Against Incest, which supports incest survivors with legal assistance against their perpetrators. Similarly, she created the first TV program in South Africa where incest survivors talk in person about their experiences.

After spending a half century conducting research, writing and publishing books and articles, public speaking, and political activism to combat male sexual violence against females, Diana shifted her attention to her memoirs. She died before she could complete them. For a more complete summary of Diana's life and accomplishments, please visit her website: dianarussell.com.

Consonant with her egalitarian values, Diana lived in a collective household with several other women and a succession of cherished rescue dogs. On the occasions when she allowed herself time-outs from her work, she shared a meal with one of her friends. Those of us fortunate enough to be included in her circle were awed by her single-minded dedication and her remarkable achievements. In addition to our reverence for her, we loved her.

She is survived by her sister Jill Russell, scores of friends and co-activists, and the thousands of women who owe their survival to her work.

In her honor, donations can be made to any feminist organization or to your local animal shelter.

A TRIBUTE TO DIANA ELIZABETH HAMILTON RUSSELL FROM PAMELA ELLEN FERGUSON "FERGIE" - CLASS OF 1960

Diana Russell was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa, the fourth of six children of a South African father and a British mother.

I encourage all members of OHA and current Herschel girls to absorb the extraordinary life of revolutionary feminist activist Diana Hamilton Russell PhD (www.DianaRussell.com) who died in California in July 2020 from respiratory failure. She was 81 years old. Her obituary filled an entire page of the New York Times. Diana's campaigns over four decades after a brilliant academic career at Herschel, UCT, the London School of Economics and Harvard, resulted in a lifetime dedicated to exposing global femicide and every aspect of violence against women and girls, including pornography, rape and incest. Diana organised the first International Tribunal on Crimes against Women in 1976 in Brussels which was attended by 2000 women from 40 different countries. In 1969, Diana initiated the first women's studies program at Mills College in Oakland California where she taught for 22 years. She designed several political T shirts including the well-known Sisterhood is Powerful.

Diana authored or co-authored some 17 books and scores of articles in mainstream and academic publications. She was a renowned street fighter, organizing pickets and acts of civil disobedience against porn shops and a Berkeley California restaurant accused of employing sex slaves.

A relentless campaigner against apartheid, Diana was also a member of the banned African Resistance Movement, and later wrote the milestone Lives of Courage: Women of the New South Africa in l989.

Herschelians of the late l950s will also remember Diana's mother Kathleen Mary (Gibson) Russell who was active in the Black Sash along with Mrs Robb, mother of Robud (1957) Libby (1959), and Susie (1962).

JACQUELYNNE SHIPSTER (MANN) - CLASS OF 1966

4th June 1950 – 31st August 2020

Jackie died on 31st August 2020 aged 70. She was an actor, pianist and music teacher who used singing to help those with dementia and brain injury. Jackie completed her schooling at Herschel in 1966 before graduating with a BA in music from the Witwatersrand University and gained a postgraduate diploma in music librarianship at UCT the following year.

She started work at the SA Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg in 1972 and married Michael Shipster in Gaborone in 1973. In 1976 they travelled to Britain by motorcycle via India and Afghanistan. Jackie worked as an actor and toured with the Cambridge Theatre Company, appearing as Amanda opposite David Jason as Lord Foppington in the comedy The Relapse.

Jackie and Michael were posted to the USSR in 1980 where Jackie found scope for drama, including directing The Real Inspector Hound with a British embassy cast.

Their daughters, Katya and Tuuli, were born in Moscow and travelled with them to China on the Trans-Siberian Railway. They were then posted to India, where their son, Robert, was born and where Jackie struck up a friendship with the writer Vikram Seth. She accompanied Seth in a concert of Schubert's Winterreise at their home. In 1991, they were posted to South Africa where Jackie wrote and produced a musical, The Rain Queen and the Baobab Tree which played at the Market theatre in Johannesburg.

They returned to Hampshire in 1994 where Jackie taught piano and singing. After a final posting to Washington (2004 – 06) and then back to the UK, Jackie dedicated herself to the Alzheimer's Society's Singing for the Brain project. In 2016 Jackie suffered a brain haemorrhage which left her paralysed and unable to speak. After two years of rehabilitation, Jackie was able to return to her home to be cared for by her family. Earlier this year, she was diagnosed with untreatable breast cancer.

Jackie is survived by her husband, three children, two grandsons and her brother, Chris.

DIANA SCHMID (SPENCER) - CLASS OF 1966

20th May 1949 - 15th January 2020

A TRIBUTE BY CHIPPY BURNETT (Schipper) 1966

I first met Di Spencer, a tall gangly, friendly opponent on the Netball Court. I was the shooter; she was the defence. Little did I know at that time, that the following year I was to be enrolled at Herschel into Grade 9. A daunting thought at that stage in one's life, however I knew one person … Di Spencer.

Such was Di's huge personality. She was a people person, she was mischievous, she was adventurous, she was very creative, she was outspoken, she was stylish but above all she was a genuine friend who cared about people.

From being an art teacher, she progressed to being a guide at Groot Constantia. Having specialised knowledge in the wine industry and her proficiency in German, Di went on to becoming one of Cape Town's leading tour guides.

Di Spencer will be remembered by many from the different years at school. Being an only child, she loved the Herschel life … the wonderful camaraderie and sport it gave her, and the platform to stage her quick wit and humorous views on life and people around her.

Di, the class of 1966 will remember you with warmth and your ever-infectious laugh. Di leaves behind a wonderful supportive son, Stefan and many friends around the world.

RIP Di Spencer

JANE KATHLEEN VILJOEN (BULEY) - CLASS OF 2000

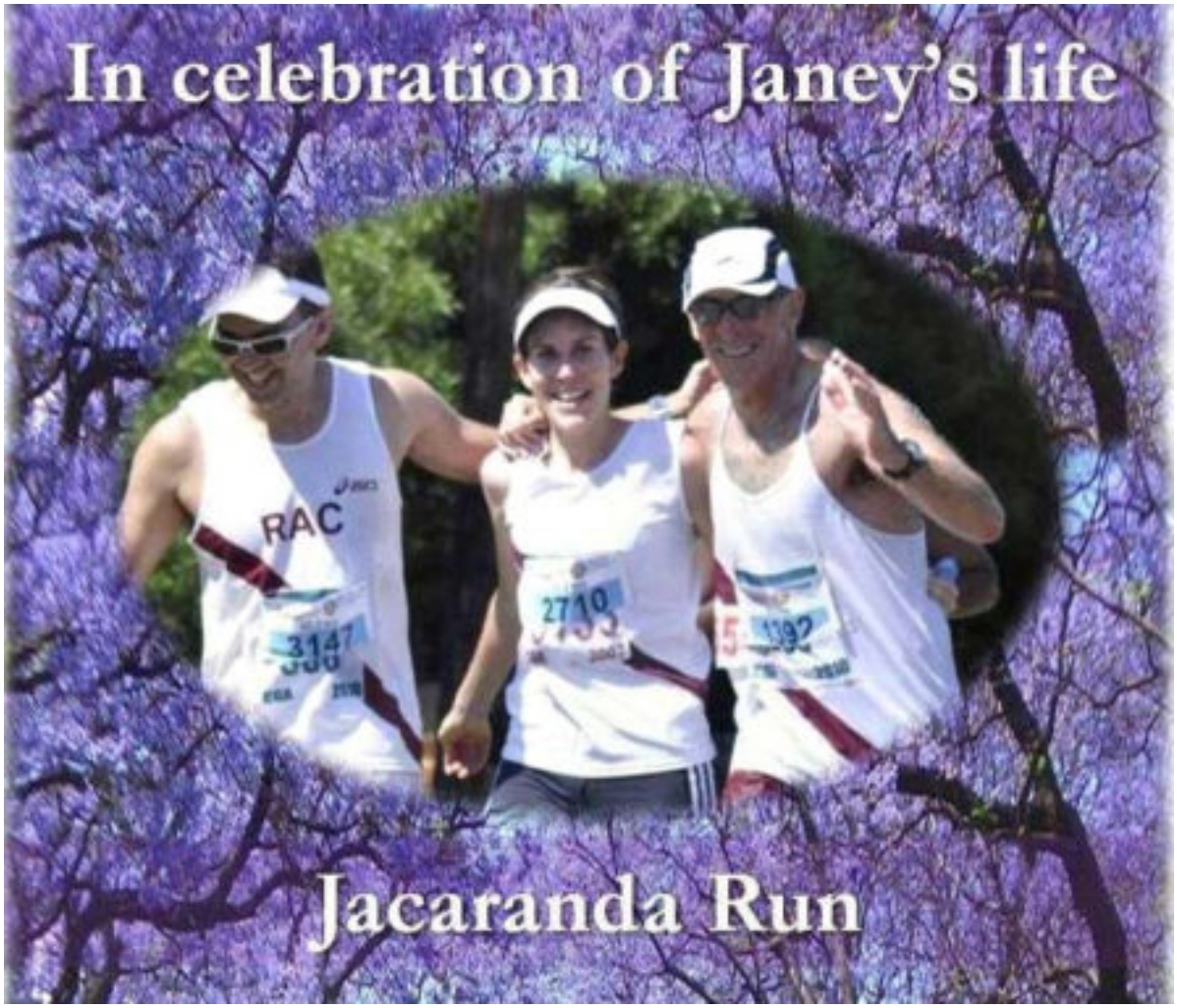
27 October 1982 – 28 July 2020

A TRIBUTE FROM LAUREN KOHN GOLDSCHMIDT – CLASS OF 2000

On 28 July 2020, the world lost an earth-angel. Jane was a remarkable woman; a multifaceted woman: a woman with tremendous room in her heart for many people and many passions. Jane matriculated from Herschel in the class of 2000 with a suite of 'As'. She was stellar scholar, a talented sportswoman, a caring mentor and a much-loved friend. The world may have seemed to be her oyster, but in truth, it was really the other way around… Jane was a light in this world; a rare treasure with her kilowatt smile, infectious laugh and sincere care for her fellow human-being. Jane went on to study medicine at UCT, but ultimately decided it was not her vocational calling. She had a heart of gold and a gift for numbers, and realised her talents might be better harnessed for difference-making in another field. With the courage of her convictions, Jane went on to excel in her Business Science Degree and had a successful career in the financial sector.

Jane was also a champion in many other respects. She ran several Comrades marathons – a testament to both her mental and physical endurance. Indeed, it was the former that saw her fight brain cancer with incredible bravery, grace, dignity, resilience and positivity. Jane never wavered; she did not let it define her. If anything did define her, it is the real legacy she leaves….a legacy of brilliance and love, personified in her exquisite children (Ciara and Joshua), her beloved husband, Graham (or 'Gra' as she affectionately called him), her dear mother, father, brother, sister and many, many friends.

On 31 October 2020, a run ('the Jacaranda run') took place in Janey's honour; a huge crowd turned up to celebrate her legacy of love and determination, amidst a sea of purple jacarandas. It is perhaps fitting that the jacaranda tree is said to symbolise wisdom and rebirth. Janey was wise beyond her years, and she soars above (and alongside) us now. We miss you so very much, my friend. We love you and salute you. Thank you for the gift you gave this world: the gift of your unique energy, huge heart and brilliant mind. 'Fly high', dear angel…. as you always have done.



Deaths

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

GILLIAN CASSIDY (MACKENZIE)

Class of 1981
27/10/1963 - 07/11/2019
Gillian lived in Dublin, Ireland and is survived by her husband, John.

Rest in Peace, Gillian.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

DIANA MARY COMPTON

who passed away recently
1929 - 2020

Rest in Peace

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

MARY COXON (JONES)

CLASS OF 1950
who passed away on 15 November 2020

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

JENNIFER ANNE DOWNES (DICEY)

CLASS OF 1959
who passed away recently.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

THELMA HALLAM (FRITH)

Class of 1956
who passed away recently.

Rest in Peace

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

PATRICIA JANE HARPUR (LINDSAY)

Class of 1948
06/03/1932 - 20/02/2020
Passed away peacefully and with dignity after a long illness. Beloved mother of Patrick and Colin. She will be missed and remembered forever. Taken by her 'Good Angels' to a better place on her terms when she was ready to go.

Rest in Peace

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

SUSAN HOLMES (ABERNETHY)

Class of 1971
1954 – 2018
who passed away.

Rest in Peace

DIANA HUGO

Class of 1965
who passed away recently.

The members of the Old Herschelian Association wish to extend their deepest condolences to Diana's family.

Rest in Peace

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

ROSEMARY KEEN (HOLLINGDALE)

who passed away recently.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

VIRGINIA LESTER (OWEN SMITH)

Class of 1955

Rest in Peace, Virginia.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

BRIDGET OSLER (DICEY)

CLASS OF 1961
who passed away recently.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

MARY REAY (DE VILLIERS)

Class of 1951
1934 - 2020
who passed away on June 11th 2020 in Cape Town

In Memory Of

DIANA ELIZABETH HAMILTON RUSSELL

Class of 1955
6 November 1938 — 28 July 2020

The members of the OHA
extend their deepest condolences to the family of Diana.

With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

DIANA SCHMID (SPENCER)

Class of 1966
who passed away in January 2020

In Memory Of

JACQUELYNNE SHIPSTER (MANN)

(Class of 1966)
who passed away on 31 August 2020 aged 70

The members of the Old Herschelian Association wish to extend their deepest condolences to Jackie's family at this tragic time.

Rest in Peace

JANE KATHLEEN VILJOEN (BULEY)

(Class of 2000)
who passed away 28 July 2020

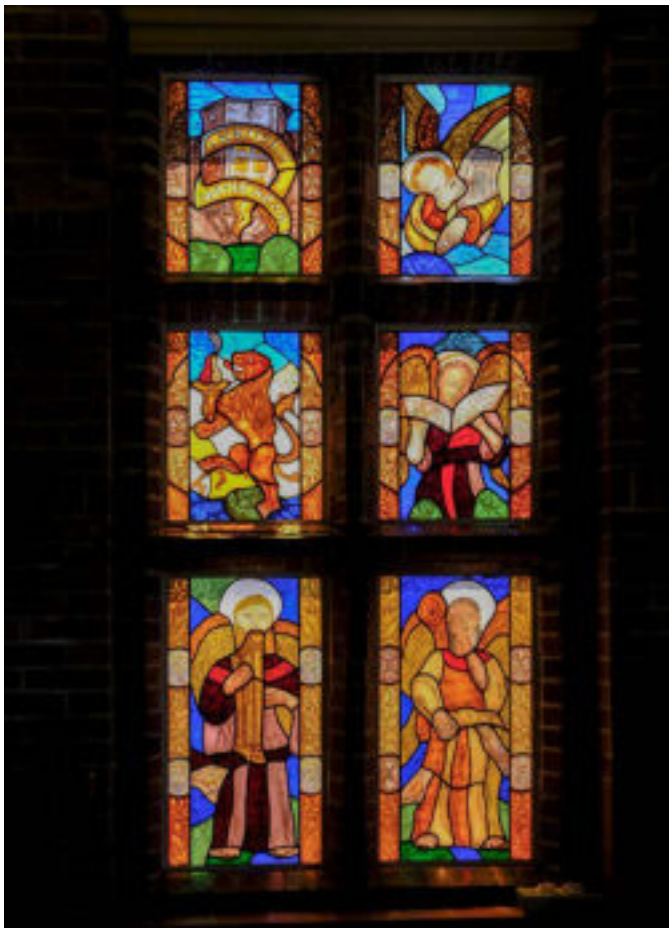
The members of the Old Herschelian Association wish to extend their deepest condolences to Jane's family at this tragic time.

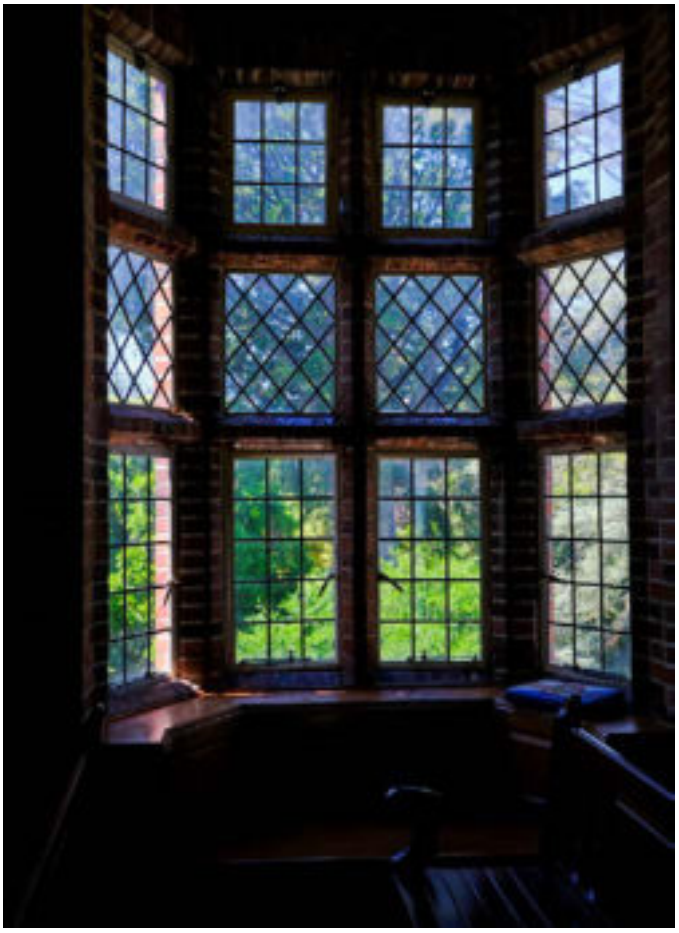
With Sympathy

The members of the OHA
extend their condolences to the family of

MARGARET WARD-ABLE (IMPEY)

Class of 1949
who passed away in Cape Town on 7 December 2019.





Photographs taken inside the beautiful Herschel chapel
Photos credit: Anna Engelhardt

Thank you to all Old Herschelians and Circle Secretaries who contributed to this newsletter.
Please remember to submit your news to your Circle Secretary
and to send changes to your contact details to
Joyce Goldschmidt - OHA Secretary - oha@herschel.org.za