Old Herschelian News

2021

OHA NEWS

STAYING CONNECTED

Founded 1922

HERSCHEL GIRLS SCHOOL

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Front Cover
A photograph of the sculpture by Neil Rhoda created from part of the Ilex tree

WHAT'S INSIDE

The Committee 2
Dates to diarise 3
2021 Reunions 3
Letter from the Head 4
Grade 7 Special Awards 5
Report from the Chair 7
The Herschel Chapel needs some TLC 9
The Ilex Tree 10
Caroline Herschel Award 2021 12
Background to the Bursary Support Fund 15
Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club 16
Centenary Celebrations and Book 19
Herschel Heritage Centre 23
The House that Schonnberg built 25
Minutes of the 93rd AGM 26
OHA Author Corner 29
News from Old Herschelians 30
Messages from the Class of 1960 35
Obituaries 36
Death Notices 39
The story of the Stone pine trees 40

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
Wed 16 Feb 2022	17:00	AGM online	The link will be emailed to everyone in early February
Thu 17 Feb 2022	17:30	OHA Cocktail party (R120 per person)	RSVP by 8th February 2022 Acceptances only, to OHA@herschel.org.za
Fri 18 Feb 2022	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 8th February 2021 (Acceptances only, to OHA@herschel.org.za)
	12:30	School Song & Arch Ceremony around the fountain	All are welcome
	13:00	Luncheon - venue to be confirmed	RSVP by 8th February 2021 (Acceptances only, to OHA@herschel.org.za)
	14:30	Guided tour of the school by Matric girls	All are welcome
	15:00	Visit the Herschel Heritage Centre	All are welcome (Tea will be served)
tbc	18:00	Winter Dinner (R250 per person) - OHA, Staff and Friends of the School welcome	RSVP - (Acceptances only, to OHA@herschel.org.za)

Reunions

Class of	Reunion	Circle Secretary	Email Address
1961	61 years	ANNE SNYDERS	snydersfamily@telkomsa.net
1971	51 years	SALLY SILBERBAUER	sallysil@iafrica.com
1981	41 years	KATHY TRIPP	kathytripp@bigpond.com
1991	31 years	JUSTINE MACDONALD	justinemac33@gmail.com
2001	21 years	JULIA DA SILVA	julesdurrant@gmail.com
2006	16 years	EMMA ACKERMAN	emma.ack@gmail.com
2011	11 years	MIRA BRIEL & ALISON ROTHMAN	mira.briel@gmail.com / alisonrothman101@gmail.com
1962	60 years	MANDY VAN DUGTEREN	amandalouise@iafrica.com
1972	50 years	SHAN BIESMAN-SIMONS	shan@biesman.co.za
1982	40 years	BELINDA PANDIANI	bj.pandiani@gmail.com
1992	30 years	TAMLYN PREVOST	johnandtam@elginorganics.com
2002	20 years	ANGELA INGLIS	angela@inglis.co.za
2012	10 years	FRANCES HAMPTON	franceshampton@telkomsa.net

A letter to the OHA from the Head

Dear Old Herschelians

What feels like the end is often the beginning …

It has been another somewhat disrupted and unpredictable year and to be honest it feels a little like having gone down the proverbial rabbit hole!

I am so proud of the Herschel students and staff for soldiering on and getting to do as much as possible, despite the daily logistical challenges that have arisen. As I write this the Grade 10s are on Stepout in Greyton and it gives me pause to celebrate that we are learning to live within the pandemic and finding our way back to the immersive holistic schooling experience that Herschel offers. All the Senior Preparatory School grades have enjoyed excursions in the past two weeks and Carol Service rehearsals are in full swing, with the first service (Grades 4 – 7) taking place this evening. More recently we have returned to sport, excursions and activities (across all phases) at school, adapting accordingly to ensure compliance with Covid-19 protocols.

Having witnessed massive disruption in the education sector, we are considering how we will respond to this as a school, integrating technology and determining the relevance of the curriculum in response to change. Last year I expressed my gratitude to the Herschel staff for their commitment, 'hands on' and 'heads down' approach, during what was an exceptionally challenging year. This year, they have taken that a step further and despite the continued uncertainty, changing goal posts and ongoing protocols they have soldiered on, always putting their students first. I applaud their efforts in preparing this year's matrics for the final WCED NSC Examinations, while ensuring that all grades felt supported during this second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are excited about our move to the Independent Examination Board (IEB) in 2022 and look forward to the growth opportunities that this provides both staff and students. That said, we are equally committed to the WCED as the current Grade 10s and 11s will complete their National Senior Certificate Examinations in the state system.

Eighteen months into the pandemic we have seen how essential the core 21st century skills are, especially with regard to communication, creativity, collaboration and problem-solving. This cohort of students has also actively acquired an adaptive quotient which will stand them in excellent stead in their lives. They have learnt the need to be responsive and flexible and they have learnt to accept disappointment (through the cancellation of events/functions and sports and cultural activities). They have learnt to be observant and to notice how people around them are doing and feeling. Some of them have, at a young age, learnt about loss and grief, about having to start again. There have been many lessons which have taught humility and patience, empathy and gratitude. The acquisition of these skills and values is important in a world that has been disrupted and we need to ensure that they are harnessed in the healing and rebuilding that needs to happen, especially within our complex South African context. We are intentional in our quest to see the differentiator at Herschel being the young adults we produce (in partnership with parents) to take up their places in the world and to be fearlessly authentic, contributing meaningfully to society and holding to the core values that they have witnessed, felt and lived in this school.

The Transformation, Equity and Belonging (TEB) Committee has engaged in discussions on strategy, values and key focus areas and we have taken into close consideration the need to improve our communication channels and to ensure that we close the loops in communication chains. Staff and students have had the opportunity to participate in self-development and group conversations and workshops and we have access to practical toolkits that support connection and greater self-awareness and social awareness. We are fully committed to making Herschel Girls School a safe and brave space as we move forward into the school's centenary year wanting to celebrate 100 years of learning to make a difference. We have all the makings of an incredible, holistic and transformative educational space at Herschel.

In a recent visit to Archbishop Makgoba's offices in Bishopscourt, we were reminded of our identity as an Anglican Church School and of the importance of placing the values of belonging, community, respect, integrity, stewardship, dignity, social justice and family firmly at the heart of the school in order to create a sustainable, ongoing culture of learning and growth and a sense of community within Herschel. The Archbishop has shared a compelling message with the Herschel community and we are grateful for his support of our school and for the ongoing support and input provided by Ven. Mark Long, the Archbishop's representative.

I am so grateful to work alongside staff who care about the roles that they play across all areas of operation at Herschel. This school is a busy and vibrant space and the educational experiences do not simply happen. We work together and support each other and there is a respect and appreciation for each area of operation. The whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts!

My wish is that we are able to celebrate Herschel's centenary in 2022 and that our actions, words and choices underpin our duty of care to all students, as well as to each other and ourselves.

It is in this spirit that I wish you all a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

With kind regards

Heather

Grade 12 Special Awards - 2021

The OHA take this opportunity to congratulate these worthy recipients:

PricewaterhouseCoopers Book Award for Accounting and Mathematics	Safiya Mia
Prize for Enthusiasm in Afrikaans Home Language	Maryam Ameen
Ethel Hill Cup for Spoken English	Epiphany Stransham-Ford
Bilingual Oral Proficiency at Home Language level	Maryam Ameen
Mrs McCormick's Prize for Spoken French	Safiya Mia
Janet Steyn Prize for Interest in the Humanities	Epiphany Stransham-Ford
Daphne Beames Aequa Mente Cup	Jessica Prevôst
The Alicia Wilkinson Silwood Prize for Practical Cookery	Emily Dalley, Saskia van Der Byl
Mary Muller Picture of the Year	Georgia Horrigan
Stobie Musicianship Prize	Robyn Dunn
Choral Prize	Olivia Beauchamp
Jennifer Sale Drama Trophy for Outstanding Performance	Kayla Casewell
Annette Hartmann Trophy for the Dramatic Arts	Noa Duckitt, Caitlin Wilson-Trollip
McClurg Trophy for the Theatre Arts	Bibi Aishah Balim
Waterfield Prize for Commitment, Initiative and Fellowship in the Creative Arts	Noa Duckitt, Sibulele Sodayise
Jenny Torr Prize for Service to the Library	Maryam Ameen, Sarah Gordon
Erasmus Community Service Trophy	Aliya Bhorat
Claremont Rotary Club Prize	Jessica Prevôst
Kirsten Locke Fellowship Award	Chloë Rumbelow
Sandra Wingfield Fellowship Prize	Amaara Abdulla
The Jenna Lowe Trophy	Isabella Slabber
Schönborn Trophy for exceptional achievement	Hannah Pearse
Pietas Trophy presented by the Labia Family	Gemma Wellington
Pamela Duff Award for an Enquiring Mind	Natasha Paul
The Di van Zyl Award	Maryam Ameen, Sarah Gordon
The Head's Award for Compassionate and Authentic Leadership	Laura Formby
The Head's Award for Compassionate and Intuitive Leadership	Jenna Betty
The Head's Award for Dedicated Servant Leadership	Haadiyah Ebrahim
The Old Herschelian Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership (trophy)	Haadiyah Ebrahim

Jessica Prevôst, Dux of the School 2021

Natasha Paul, Second place (Proxime Accessit)

Aria Ward, Third Place

Report from the Chairman of the OHA

By Kristina Miller

This year brought with it a year of firsts. We were forced to cancel Founder's Day celebrations and award Joan Smith the Caroline Herschel Award virtually via a MS Teams call! A sad 'first' this year was the cancellation of the annual Winter Dinner in the 3rd term, but a fantastic first we can all celebrate is the realisation of years of hard work by the OH Centenary Committee and the launch of the OHA100 website! For the first time the OHA boasts its own website, albeit a temporary one, stocked with wonderful items in celebration of the Centenary in 2022. One final wonderful first was the virtual OHA fundraiser launched in July in support of our Archives Digitalisation project which reached its R55 000 target within three months, all thanks to generous Old Herschelians around the world – truly heart-warming.

Our 2020 Caroline Herschel Award recipient was Joan Smith. Joan and her husband Tich are the founders of LIV Villages across South Africa and abroad. The LIV model is long term cluster foster care, where children have a sense of belonging in a supportive community.

They place orphaned and vulnerable children in a family environment where all their needs are met by taking a holistic approach to physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

Due to travel restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic, Joan could not attend Founder's Day assembly in person. Please spend a few moments watching the Senior School Founder's Day Assembly when Joan Smith addressed the School and talked about her work with LIV.

Please visit this link to view the recording of assembly.

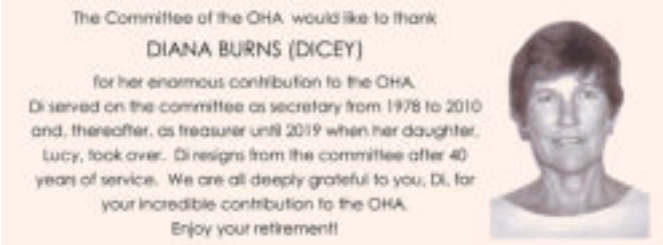
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16g-3sgSv5TAQLT-VAlkqzAsGJ7vPiPUrF

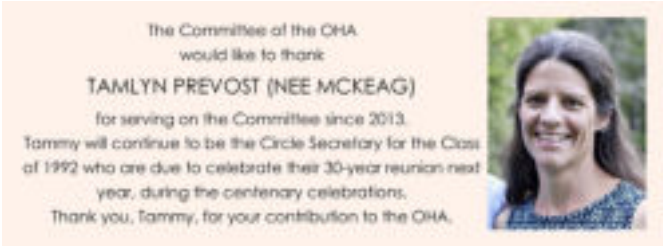
Joan Smith (Waring) - Class of 1966

'It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a lot of help to support a village.'

https://www.liv-village.com/

In last year's newsletter we ran a feature on the OHA Committee that serves you, the OH members, and you were able to read a little about everyone's Herschel journey. In 2021, two of our long-serving OHA Committee members decided to retire and to Diana Burns and Tamlyn Prevost we say thank you for your commitment and passion for Herschel and your service to the Old Herschelians for so many years.





For those of you who aren't aware, we have had a Herschel Archives project on the go for about four years. This has involved an immense amount of work by many individuals and included our relocation of the archive collection to our new home in the old music block, which has proudly been named the Herschel Heritage Centre (HHC). Kathy Wheeler wrote last year of her work underway to inventory and itemise each and every artefact and document in the collection. It took a full year to work through 100 years of material and Kathy issued her final report in July 2021. This then kicked off the next phase of the project which has involved digitising the irreplaceable and sensitive records as well as identifying items requiring restoration and preservation work. We have also realised through Kathy's work that there are many missing items from the collection, so this is a formal call to all Old Herschelians to reach out to us about any items you are happy to part with so that our collection can be made whole.

During this same time Joyce Goldschmidt has been working hard to make the HHC a welcoming and warm place for visitors, something her natural skill for interior design has made ever more impressive. In 2022, we will welcome Founder's Day guests to the newly refurbished HHC and have a refreshment station following the Founder's Day lunch and school tour so that Old Herschelians can visit the HHC and make use of iPads to access the Digital Archive online. So … another first! It will be the first time that Herschelians will be able to search for their records and histories online whilst also having access to the hard copies of the material all in one place.

The school is about to launch their revamped website and, as part of this, the OHA has prepared a new look and feel 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. The Digital Archive will also be

accessible through this platform and the result will be an online repository of all archived Herschel records that are fully accessible to all current and Old Herschelians and will be easily searchable in terms of date, name and theme such as sport, cultural activity and academic subject. We are excited to be moving along so swiftly with this project after many years and COVID delays slowed progress to a virtual standstill.

We are looking for volunteers to support the OHA on the "Wikipedia Project". 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. Please contact Kris Miller should you have any Wikipedia experience and be willing to volunteer a few hours a month to support us with this work.

In 2020, the OHA reviewed its membership and value offering to ensure we are giving something to our members other than news. As of 2020, the lifetime membership fee had not increased in over 30 years and so the Committee has implemented an annual increase to ensure we are able to function effectively and continue to host OHA events and provide value to our members now and in years to come. Matrics are billed in their final invoice for membership, but Herschelians who leave Herschel prior to matriculating, or who would like to opt into membership at a later stage, are welcome at any time to become members of the OHA.

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.

You can read more about the Centenary Celebrations in this newsletter, but notably, the celebrations will offer something slightly different in 2022. The annual OHA cocktail party will be held on the Thursday evening before Founder's Day in conjunction with the Herschel Centenary Picnic. The Cocktail Party will be held slightly away from the picnic area and entrance will be R100. Should you have children or family who wish to attend the picnic, you can all be at the same venue; you don't have to choose between the picnic and the cocktail party.

The Centenary week will also feature opportunities for Old Herschelians to participate in sports events and philanthropic activities. The Golden Oldies tea party and the Winter Dinner will be held in August 2022 to coincide with both Women's month as well as the launch of the Herschel Centenary book written by Neil Veitch and Leah Nasson.

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 two and half years – I honestly don't know what I, or the Old Herschelians, would do without her. Joyce innovates and problem-solves in ways that make us all better, and when not using her amazing skills to design and collate this newsletter and many other pieces of media, she has been known to roll up her sleeves and get gardening the HHC courtyard garden. One day when I die and go to heaven (I hope!), I will know I am in the right place because Joyce will be there with a cup of tea and our favourite heart-shaped biscuits.

I cannot contain my excitement for the Centenary celebrations. To be able to see everyone in person and celebrate the triumph in women's education that Herschel represents would be just what we all need after two very hard and emotionally exhausting years.

Ad Dei Gloriam.

Kristina Miller

OHA Chair

Matric Art Exhibition 2021

The Herschel Chapel needs some TLC!

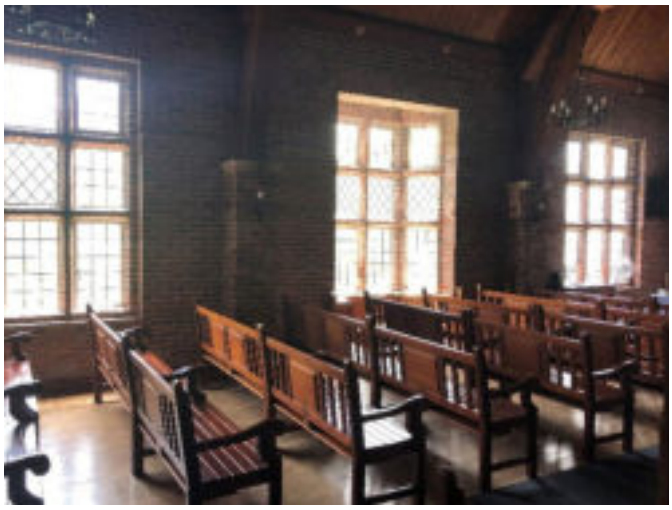
By Andrew Scott

Our beautiful chapel which is a heritage building requires some important and difficult remedial work. 'Spalling' (breaking) within the brick work surrounding the stained-glass and bay windows has resulted in huge cracks developing in the walls surrounding the windows. These cracks allow for significant water penetration which is damaging the internal wooden alcoves but more importantly may also cause the beautiful stained-glass itself to be compromised.

Our architect has been working closely with a structural engineer and contractor and the restoration has commenced. It is going to be a time-consuming and very costly project that will only be completed towards the end of 2022 due to the intricacies of the numerous brick designs and the nature of the repairs.

To date the contractor has removed the south facing windows and boarded up the openings so that the chapel can continue to be used whilst we wait for the bricks to arrive next year.

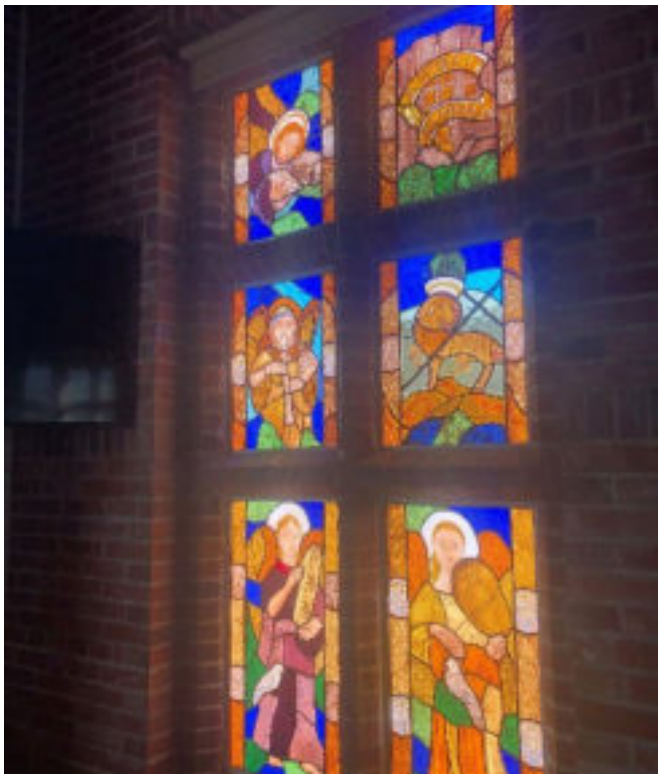
If anyone is willing to contribute to this expensive project, please email the Secretary:
OHA - oha@herschel.org.za.



North facing wall still to have all the windows removed.

South facing wall with windows removed and openings boarded up.

Damaged bricks due to the metal rods within the brickwork expanding.



Our beautiful stained-glass windows that we need to save!

Ode to the Ilex Tree

by Reverend Bob Commin

The Ilex tree
watches
the Ilex tree
waits
In mid-morning light
the Ilex tree
creates
draws up water
giving birth
to new leaves
like an octopus in air
the ilex stretches
reaches out to spin clouds
Its fingers enchant music
all day above our heads.

From above we are like threads, blue,
our heads, weaving through leaves and branches
making a tapestry no one sees
On our any like journeys
we stop to chatter
timed in our classroom lines.
Days of arriving under its shade
fledging in uniform newness.
Evenings suspended in twilight
waiting for our performances.

But daily we gather round it - Falstaffian
storytelling encouraging our presence and voice.
I have heard its night groans
grieving the lost sisters
lamenting the generations of girls
remembered in the rings of years
girls thread into its memory.

Like the steps of Jacob's ladder
You wind up to the milky way of stars
reaching beyond the imagination
of the younger girls
who lose their feet looking up
into your Ilex heaven
For them you are the sky
the moon suspended in your branches

O how you tame the torment above our heads
and give us a gentle breeze of mellow peace

I have seen light descending in you
Falling from the highest leaves
Shimmering on the edges of boughs
intensifying into trillions of angels
funnelling like a fountain of light
through your trunk and feeding the earth
and have remembered guardian angels.

When they sawed you up
You where like a beached whale
your song cut into blocks,
stakes of Cape Salmon
Moist and red in your earthiness.
The space howled in its nakedness.

Your punctuations lay on the earth
bereft of sentences.
The ruin of circles, the stops
and colons and question marks,
the mathematics of angles,
the science of levers and balances
and of how one masters gravity,
of mass dancing in the lightness of air.

Your coming down was like
the death of a culture
the stripping of a language
the collapse of rhythm
the implosion of symmetry
the loss of a centre
burial of a myth
Your coming down
is a terrible exposure

already a new sapling
is planted and grows playfully
like a new girl.

One of the sculptures carved from the Ilex tree
Photo credit: Anna Engelhardt

The Ilex Tree

'Neath it's Shade

by Daphne Beames

The rich, green canopy of Herschel's historic Ilex tree has provided the majestic stage-set for a myriad of nostalgic moments.

In 1982, a Herschel fête saw brightly-coloured stalls arranged below its over-hanging boughs - as Herschel opened its doors to family and friends who enjoyed the festive spectacle whilst 'spending for charity'. The Herschel Cookbook was a top seller, with Helen Botha's 'Cape Date Pudding' being the star turn. (Perhaps we should re-print these delicious recipes?)

The 1990s saw an Educational Display beneath its branches, where Alchemists from the past and Costumed Events depicting all other subjects in the curriculum were staged in the gardens.

The 75th Herschel Ahead Pageant of 1997, commissioned by Mrs Pamela Duff and written by Daphne Beames was played out beneath the branches of the tree as guests witnessed almost eight decades of flamboyant tableaux unfolding – including a life-size Maypole on the lawn, complete with long, coloured ribbons and lithe dancers. A brass band played, squirrels frolicked in its dappled shade and the beautiful strains of the Herschel choir rang out.

For decades the all-embracing tree provided a backdrop and forum for lunchtime notices and, in the '90s a school tradition was born as new pupils were welcomed under an arch of encompassing arms - while the tree watched and benignly rustled its small, green leaves.

In May 2011, Mrs Lynn Reid, who was a Herschel Council member for 22 years, unveiled a wood wsculpture done by Neil Rhoda. The sculpture was fashioned from a branch of the Ilex tree which had been part of the Herschel garden since the school opened in 1922. In 2006, the tree had to be removed for safety reasons.

Photo credit: Anna Engelhardt

Spirit of Herschel

by Daphne Beames

Majestic in recall an Ilex soars,
God's constant crest shields gable-shaded lawn,
A stage for dreams where echoes of applause
Acclaim each youthful quest and new hope born.

The Heavens, where Uranus roams, still cast
Light of renown on a discoverer's name.
The timeless challenge of tradition past,
A matchless spur to charge ambition's flame.

And oft, in after years, an image speaks:
Of friends and knowledge won, of laughter's store,
Of youth, celestial skies and blue Cape peaks
That call, to stand, where once we stood before.

With worth and wisdom this seat still imbues
Collegial kin who strolled these avenues.

Speech Day, 2006

An excerpt from the Address by Di van Zyl

... I would like to end on a reference to the changing landscape of education: for so long the Ilex tree – Quercus Ilex - stood guard over our school community like a giant sentinel - it has been a gathering place for generations of girls, staff and families who have been shaded and shielded beneath those massive boughs.

When this ancient repository of institutional history was cut down in June, it coincided with an inexorable shift in the educational landscape and marked the beginning of a new path to follow — a new era of learning.

In place of the Ilex there now grows a young and vigorous tree, flexible and resilient, that we know will grow to fill the void. Thank you to the year of 2006 for this gift. In the same way that this new organism will adjust to the conditions we, too, will fashion the fabric necessary for the implementation of the new curriculum, shaping it to the very high standards of past generations and geared to those expected by future generations of Herschelians.

The Ilex tree - Quercus ilex - the evergreen oak, holly oak or holm oak, is a large evergreen oak native to the Mediterranean region.

Caroline Herschel Award 2021

This year the Caroline Herschel award, in its 5th year, received 8 nominations from Old Herschelians, with 6 of those nominees accepting their nominations.

In 2020, we revised our approach to the award and the voting processes. In previous years the OHA Committee would vote with support of the Heads of the school and the recipient would be announced. Last year we decided to make the process more inclusive, transparent and independent. This approach was continued into this year and you would have seen the emails sent to the OHA that contained each nominees inspiring story.

The voting process was opened up to all OHA members via a virtual vote, the criteria for the award were expanded and finally an independent panel of judges were appointed representing the Education, Business and Philanthropy sectors. The top two nominees as voted for by the OHA were submitted to the external judging panel. The judges found the process incredibly difficult, commenting that both finalists they were presented with were equally worthy of the award.

It is a truly humbling experience for us all to read about everyone's achievements and the amazing work being done in the world by our Herschel alumnae.

This year's recipient of the CHA Award

This year's winner, as selected by the external judges, is Susan Sonnenberg. Our hearty congratualtions go to this worth recipient of the 2021 Caroline Herschel Award.

Susan will be invited to receive her award at Founder's Day in 2022 at the Centenary celebrations. She will also be invited to speak at the Junior and Senior Schools about her journey.

More information is accessible to you via these links:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/17BiMrZCZc3MfhsTweA4s0Jmylly7p_Pk/view?usp=sharing
&
https://www.wellingtonprep.college/

Brendalyn Stempel Old Herschelian Bursay

Applications are now open for Grade 8 2023

- 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

known as 'Astromony's Cinderella'

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. 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. 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.

Caroline and William Herschel

Our thanks to the CHA judges

As stated in the CHA criteria, the top voted nominations are submitted to an external panel of judges. The panel will consist of three female individuals sourced from the education, philanthropy and business sectors. The judges will have no ties to Herschel in any form. We have great pleasure in thanking our 2021 panel of judges.

Shirley Harding

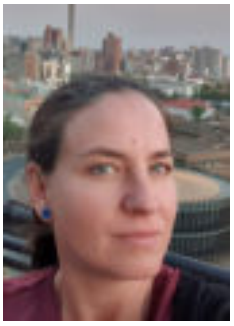
Shirley Harding has spent her life in education, retiring after 21 years as principal of Wynberg Girls' High School and 39 years in education. Beginning her teaching career as a school counsellor, she also taught a variety of subjects and enjoyed various promotion posts before accepting the principal's post. During her tenure as principal, she initiated change in many areas, particularly in the area of leadership, for staff and learners, service-orientated activities and school organisation. Meaningful transformation from old traditions was started and a commitment to this process was undertaken by the school community and governing body.

Shirley has always felt a commitment to sharing knowledge and served as part of the professional development team of the National Teachers' Association of South Africa, facilitating weekend seminars on a variety of educational topics. She also served as a mentor to other principals while seconded to the Western Cape Education Department in 2006. Passionate about empowering women through girls' school education, she served as president of the South African Girls' Schools' Association for four years.

Service to others has always been an important part of her life and she ran the Interact Club (junior Rotary) at Wynberg for many years, and joined the Rotary Club of Wynberg in 1992, serving as the first female president of the club in 1998/99. She was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship (highest international Rotary award) for her work with the youth. Using her training in psychology, she also served as a Lifeline counsellor for six years.

Education

- Matriculated at Fish Hoek High School
- Bachelor of Arts degree, majors Psychology and History (1975)
- Higher Diploma in Education (1976)
- BA Honours (Psychology) with distinction (1995)
- Diploma in Business Management with distinction (1996)



Nerissa Roberts

Nerissa Roberts was a photojournalist for 10 years before a short stint in copywriting led her to start thinking about using her skills to contribute to good causes. In her personal capacity she got involved with the South African Haemophilia Foundation, which helped her understand the need for professional input in non-profit organisations. She started working at forgood.co.za as a community manager in 2013 and has since taken over the role of cause and operations manager at SA's biggest online volunteering platform. Forgood connects people who want to make a difference - to the Causes that need their help.

Nerissa is responsible for the management of the forgood non-profit ecosystem of 450+ organisations. This includes business process creation, compliance strategy, quality control, data management, training, education, communications and digital engagement. In addition, she collaborates with marketing and digital advertising to build the forgood brand and engage with the community across multiple channels.

Forgood is the largest volunteering platform in South Africa, responsible for connecting over 100 volunteers a week. The non-profit ecosystem is also exposed to 14 corporate employee volunteering programmes.

Nerissa is also a Patient Voices Ambassador at Rare Diseases South Africa, where she is especially focused on helping with awareness of Haemophilia A, a rare genetic bleeding disorder. At home she is mom to Ezra (9) who has Haemophilia A, and Calista (4) who is already training to be a nurse.

Nerissa has recently taken an interest in website development, and hopes to help grow the volunteering culture in South Africa by changing the concept of volunteering to include more skills-based involvement. Introducing individuals who can help by giving their time and experience to causes who need these skills can result.

Sindi Mabaso-Koyana

Sindi is Chairperson of AWCA Investment Holdings and the founder of The African Women Chartered Accountants. She later led the formation of the commercial arm, AWCA Investment Holdings (AIH) which she currently chairs. She is the Principal of AIH Capital the Private Equity firm of AIH, which is a proud member of The Southern African Venture Capital and Private Equity Association.

She has served on several large and listed companies where she has chaired the Audit & Risk Committees, Social & Ethics Committees and Remuneration Committees. Her current boards include MTN Group, Bidvest Group, Sun International Limited, Sugar Association of South Africa amongst others. She is a Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, Member of International Women's Forum.

Origins of the Bursary Support Fund

By Lynn Reid-Jacobs

In 2008, as Chair of the School Council, I realized that many historically disadvantaged students were unable to accept Herschel Bursaries owing to a shortfall in funding needed to cover the many associated costs. I believed the solution lay in the form of a support fund to cover sundry expenses such as books, uniforms, extra mural activities, transport and more – an "add-on" fund, as it were.

Our Headmaster, Bruce Probyn, and Financial Manager, Roger Ramsbottom, embraced my idea with enthusiasm and within a matter of days had calculated exactly how much funding would be required to meet these needs. As Head of the Council Bursary Committee, I shared the concept with my colleagues, Aileen Golding, Renata Williams and Susan Stelzner, all of whom fully supported the idea.

In launching the fund, I pledged the first donation, and a few of my personal friends, not connected to Herschel, donated generously. Within a week, we had the first funding available and our Deputy Head, Lindy Clarke (also in charge of Entrance Examinations), was able to inform the 2009 recipient of her acceptance into Herschel.

In 2009, Pru Crawley, the Old Herschelian Association representative on Council, asked me to present the fund to the OHA AGM and I was delighted by how many Old Herschelians began donating and raising funds for this cause.

We were the first school to initiate such a fund and I thank each and every person who has contributed to this endeavor, thereby ensuring its continued success. From a small beginning, great things have been achieved.

Matric Farewell Dance 2021

Spring Day 2021

Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club

By Daphne Beames

2021 marks the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club - and events have been in full swing.

We have welcomed friends for convivial lunches and cocktail evenings, shared happy stories (and sad ones) and generally sparkled as the energy of the group is special and caring. It still saddens me to hear, as recently as November 2021, from mothers of alumnae who say they cannot join us as they are not Old Herschelians. Of course you can join us – our club is inclusive and welcomes the wider Herschel family and their friends. While there have been some restrictions on numbers these past two years, we are looking forward to opening fully in 2022. The Lady Herschel Club has friends on many continents and news from afar is always so welcome. We look forward to many more companionable gatherings next year as we celebrate Herschel's Centenary Year.

Standing: Alicia Wilkinson (Faull) – 1962, Jeanette Beauchamp, Daphne Beames, Jenny Jacobs, Nancy Todd (Jackson) – 1978, Angie Montandon (Jacobs) - 2003, Margie Stevens, Joyce Goldschmidt
Sitting: Neil and Helen Veitch, Mandy van Dugteren (Noakes) – 1962

Standing: Joyce Goldschmit, Cindy Montandon, Angie Montandon (Jacobs) 2003, Jenny Jacobs
Sitting: Jeanette Beauchamp, Daphne Beames, Nancy Todd (Jackson) 1978, Stephanie Mills

Standing: Mandy van Dugteren (Noakes) 1962, Caroline Isted 1985, Joyce Goldschmidt, Denise Baws, Jeanette Beauchamp
Sitting: Jenny Jacobs, Nancy Todd (Jackson) 1978, Daphne Beames

Greetings from afar ...

By Daphne Beames

The Lady Herschel Cocktail Club has friends on many continents. Below are a few excerpts from friends of Lady Herschel who have written to me to share their stories.

My career path has not exactly followed the norm, but at every corner, I thank my lucky stars for the incredible grounding I received at Herschel. I remember performing a rendition of The Lorax, by Dr Seuss, at one of Herschel's Eisteddfods, and thought back to that performance, and the many other opportunities I received at Herschel, when writing my "what matters most to me and why?" essay to get into Stanford's MBA program. Yes, I'm a wildlife veterinarian but took advantage of Stanford's Africa MBA fellowship, and now I've combined my veterinary and management leadership background to help start a community conservation non-profit in southern Zimbabwe (Rangelands Restoration Trust). Most recently, I've joined Conservation International to expand their Herding 4 Health Programme throughout Africa. Even now, many years after matriculation, I look back to my Herschel experiences with immense gratitude. At the time, I don't think I fully appreciated what a privilege it was to have such a holistic education – from top class academics to sport, music, and drama. My diverse Herschel experiences, friendships, and education continue to bubble up and add value to my everyday life.

Anna Haw - 2002

Mike and I are still ridiculously happy being peasants on the farm outside Greyton, 20 years later, woken up by donkeys hee-hawing and deafening birdsong. We are pretty involved in our community one way and another, and are still making music, still not taking ourselves incredibly seriously, and have not aged at ALL in twenty years, of course.

Our two little boys (the ones who were threatened before their births with names too rude to print) are 26 and 24 – one with a master's in entomology and the other will have completed his vet training by the time this goes into print and becomes a best-seller.

I enjoyed many fabulous years at Herschel, with greatly loved pupils trustingly passing through our hands, and a staff unequalled, in my opinion, at any other school., I look back to my time at Herschel with enormous affection, and a huge smile on my face.

Congratulations, Herschel, on turning 100!

I do hope – really do hope – you will change the uniform for the 200th anniversary.

Rosie Taylor - ex-staff

We are doing so well. Victoria just started kindergarten (Grade 0) at an all-girls school in our neighborhood- Convent of the Sacred Heart. It reminds me a lot of the traditional English schools (Herschel, Kingsmead, etc) and has lots of great traditions whilst encouraging creativity- our most famous alum being Lady Gaga! Victoria is very happy and has strict but lovely teachers - she does well with some structure and discipline! Not unlike her mother in history class all those years ago!

Henry is in pre-school and couldn't be happier- he just wants to be a big kid like his sister! He will be 3 in December- Victoria will be 6 on Saturday!

All is well otherwise. I'm still very happy working at Estee Lauder. I'm also running promotional marketing for Clinique which I really enjoy. Charlie is doing really well and his business is really taking off. If you recall, he suffered a traumatic brain injury after he was struck by a taxi walking across the street shortly after graduating from college. Luckily he was treated by a renowned neurosurgeon who saved his life. He formed a close friendship with Dr Riina and together, along with a materials Scientist at Oxford University they have developed a patented material composite made of natural silk that is impact resistant. Essentially it's a natural, sustainable replacement for EPS foam so the use cases range from the protective inner layers of bicycle helmets to premium shipping for valuable and fragile freight. It's all very scientific but is gaining traction- especially now with the increasing importance and attention to global warming/need for sustainable solutions so fingers crossed!

Anyway, sending so much love and hugs.

Hopefully we'll get to see each other one day soon xxx

Caroline Maddock (Sylvester) - USA - 1999

Congratulations & Salutations on your Centennial. I am so proud of being an Honorary Old Herschelian. My 12+ years as secretary to two Herschel headmistresses (Pamela Duff & Di van Zyl) were some of the happiest and most fulfilling of all my working life! I learned so much during that time!

Some of my Herschel highlights included the building of the Theatre and the Sports Centre. And for me, the camaraderie amongst the staff was a treasure which gifted me with many life-long friends. The skills & experience I acquired at Herschel helped to equip me to secure a position as a secretary in a private school in San Diego, California, where I am completing my ninth year.

Sending love & blessings

Brenda Roberts - California - ex-staff

My adventure to the vast land of OZ certainly has been eventful...and challenging at times. And then I moved to Hong Kong in the early 1990s for 5 years and opened my own design and photography business, which was immensely fulfilling. However, I moved back to Sydney in 1995 and 'Here I am, living in the Blue Mountains.' I do think fondly of those years at Herschel and the gentle Cape Town. I have 2 granddaughters, Mila and Anja (who is about to write the matric equivalent), and a grandson, Orlando, starting high school in January.

And lastly, as Festival Director, I am curating and producing the 4-day Blackheath Chamber Music Festival featuring the cream of Australian artists who. in normal times, would be playing in the famous Concert Halls around the world

And I forgot to say how much I enjoyed my last, rather large,

class of year-12 art students at Herschel. They were receptive and a delight to teach. Sadly, I didn't stay in touch and by now some could potentially (just) be grandparents!

Cat Sanders Gower Harker - Lorraine Gower - ex-staff

This has been our home for close on 27 years. We are truly lucky to have our all our family here as well, so I've had the pleasure of watching our 7 grandchildren grow up and I'm pleased to say they are all competent in the kitchen. I remember my years at Hershel with much fondness.

Sheena Abert - New Zealand - 1994

We are all doing well although I did get COVID a couple of months ago and still don't have my smell and taste completely back yet. Luckily, I had hardly any symptoms and thought I just had a cold. Also, very lucky that I could work from home. No one else got it from me thank goodness! We are heading into the cold months now. In fact, we had our first frost this morning! I have been enjoying beautiful sunrises over the ocean each morning on my way to work but the time changes this weekend so will miss those from next week. Snow soon to follow, I am sure. I love seeing the pics of your Herschel gatherings. Please give my love to all those I know.

I can't believe it is now the Herschel centenary. I remember being a part of the 75th photo on the field at the prep school. I have such fond memories of my teaching years at Herschel, especially the students and teachers that I met there.

Of course, my favorite memory is getting married in the Chapel - and we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year. Our oldest son is in his 3rd year of college and the youngest will be graduating from high school next June. Both are playing baseball, and both are pitchers. We have certainly learned a lot about baseball over the years!

I now work in healthcare administration as a Credentialing Specialist, which I love. It's a bit like playing detective, making sure we have the best practitioners to take care of our patients.

We love living in Maine, with beautiful scenery and a National Park in our back yard (although nothing beats Table Mountain!)

Helen Burnett - USA - ex-staff

Angie Montandon (Jacobs) - 2003, Daphne Beames, Jeanette Beauchamp.

Nina Daniel-Gruber, Daphne Beames, Elisabeth van Wyk (Mallett) and Sandy Liddle (van Hoogstraten) Matric 1989

Caroline Isted 1985, Margie Stephens

Kim Hunter 1993 and Kate McCarthy 1986

Centenary Celebrations

Monday 14th February - Thursday 17th February

- School activities, including dress-up days, dance parties and House days
- Sports events - to which Old Herschelians will be invited to participate including matches between OHs and Herschel girls
- Community Engagement Day: Where Herschel girls will donate 100 minutes of their time to charity. Old Herschelians who manage or are involved in charity work / community initiatives are invited to reach out to ensure this engagement day is a collaboration between current and past pupils and is an entire Herschel family exercise.

Thursday 17th February

Old Herschelian Cocktail Party.

Friday 18th February - Founders Day

- St Saviour's Church Service
- Arch around the fountain and the singing of the School Song
- OHA lunch (there may be a need to prioritise reunion year attendees from 2020 and 2021 due to capacity limitations - we will confirm this)
- Tours of the School followed by a visit to the Herschel Heritage Centre
- Sale of Old Herschelian Centenary commemorative items.

Friday 25th - Saturday 26th February

- Herschel Carnival on the Douglas Murray Field - which is adjacent to the Prep School
- Old Herschelians' stall offering Centenary commemorative items for sale.
- We are looking forward to seeing you at these events and hope to receive your support for our fundraising efforts by purchasing some of the Centenary commemorative items which will be on sale. These items have been designed and sourced by the Old Herschelian Association Centenary Committee.

Come and enjoy a Centenary Cocktail at the Herschel Carnival made with the Herschel Centenary Gin which is also available on the ***OHA100.co.za*** *online store!*

OHA Centenary online shop

All these items are available for purchase via our website: ***https://oha100.co.za/shop/***

By Justine MacDonald

Chair: OHA Centenary Committee

The Herschel Centenary Website is being hosted by the Old Herschelian's Association. This temporary site has been created to communicate events surrounding Herschel's Centenary celebrations and to showcase items for sale in commemoration of Herschel's Centenary.

The vision of the Old Herschelian's Association is to sell commemorative items to raise funds that can be used to support both the OHA network and provide financial relief, when required, to pupils and their families in the course of their studies. We endeavoured to support members of the Herschel family and, as a result, all the items - except the rose - have been proudly procured from Old Herschelians.

You will find a wonderful variety of items for sale on our website and most items will be available for collection from the Heritage Centre at Herschel Senior School. Jewellery - by Kirsten Goss - must be collected in person from a local outlet. Certain items can also be sent by courier to a destination within South Africa. Please contact us if you need our help in terms of delivery of the beautiful commemorative items.

Above: A branded water bottle.

Above: A selection of jewellery designed by Kirsten Goss.

Above: Herschel Centenary rose (to be ordered)

Below: Tote bag with Herschel badge.

Below: Pencil case with pen and pencil set.

Above: Teddy Bear in school uniform (to be ordered)

Below: A5 Journal with an ink pen.

Above: Gin - sweeter than London Dry - with hints of orange, fynbos-infused honey with a subtle saffron finish.

Below: Thermal mug

Centenary Book

by Neil Veitch and Leah Nasson

2022 sees the celebration of Herschel's 100th birthday which, along with a range of commemorative events, will also be marked by the release of a centenary publication. Already a few years in the making, the book aims to represent the multiple facets of the school's present and its past. From the history of its colonial roots to the progressive reforms of recent years, the book covers a broad range of themes which are unique to Herschel. Drawing on archival material and extensive interviews, the co-authors - Neil Veitch, an experienced writer of school histories, and Leah Nasson, an ex-history teacher at the school - hope that all members of the school community see themselves reflected in the text. As such, a concerted effort has been made to write an inclusive history which gives voice to the silences which so often characterise narrow interpretations of the past.

It is hardly surprising to note that a great deal has changed since the school's early beginnings in the 1920s – not least of which is the boarding house, which no longer subjects pupils to sleeping outside on an open-air balcony. Sporting codes, like lacrosse and equitation, have come and gone, with the likes of water polo and hockey now taking centre stage. The long tradition of music and cultural activities both at the preparatory and at the Senior School has continued well into the 21st century, culminating in the recent opening of the Inkwenkwezi Music Centre in 2020. Innovation in curriculum has also been at the forefront of the school's focus, with the emphasis on a holistic education which stretches beyond the traditional academic curriculum providing pupils with a global perspective from a young age. The centenary book tracks the development of all aspects of school life over the past 100 years, incorporating the rich memories of Old Herschelians and photographs derived from valuable archival material.

The common thematic thread which runs throughout the publication is Herschel's school motto, namely Learning to Make a Difference; be it in the classroom, through leadership or through social outreach. This process of learning is not restricted to the pupil body, but it is a philosophical principle which incorporates the whole school community. In recent years, the school has embraced an Afrocentricity, confronting issues of social justice and transformation and belonging as part of a broader trend in South African education. This, too, is part of a learning process which will no doubt have a significant influence in years to come.

A gratifying aspect of compiling a school history of this sort is the groundswell of interest and support, even in its preparation, it seems to arouse in past and present pupils, their parents and friends. Self-satisfaction is not an admirable trait, but the completion of a full century is an achievement already being happily marked particularly by Old Herschelians.

While in Herschel's case the past is certainly another country, the school eagerly looks forward to the new and fresh challenges of its next century.

Tennis Team 1949
Standing: Margaret Impey (Vice Head), Denise O'Connell
Sitting: Di Douglas-Hamilton (Head Girl), Celia Norgarb (tennis captain), Maureen Bourke

Prefects 1954
Standing: Wendy Hartford, Betty Rudland, Diana Dicey, Helen Sgoutas,
Sitting: Revel Reilly, Jean McCall

Herschel Heritage Centre

By Kathy Wheeler (Caradoc-Davies) 1973

The long-term aim of the Heritage Centre project, to become a living collection as "one of the few schools in South Africa to offer online archives access to all in the Herschel family by the end of 2022", is well on target. Thanks to the vision and energy of Kris Miller and the technical expertise and knowledge of Joyce Goldschmidt, this project is being managed by a focussed team.

The first step was to compile an inventory of the entire collection which consists of documents, artefacts, photographs and books. This involved sorting out the contents of about 100 boxes, working out categories and sub-categories and then compiling the inventory. Once the inventory was complete it was possible to assess the content of the collection and it soon became apparent that many categories, such as the newsletters, were incomplete. An appeal was sent out to old Herschelians and, thanks to their prompt response, it has been possible to plug many of the holes.

The next step was to evaluate the collection and identify which parts should be digitised.

The devastating fire at UCT accelerated this process as it illustrated to all involved in collection management how vulnerable these collections are. It was therefore decided that irreplaceable material would be the priority: D's Deeds, the very first school magazines, hand-written and illustrated, were produced from 1922-1924, prior to the first printed magazine published in 1927; legal documents such as the original mortgage bonds; old scrapbooks; the diaries of Miss Ralph, the first headmistress of Herschel; Norma Bettison's diary; early building plans, some of which are hand-coloured; house magazines, many of which are handwritten and contain beautiful illustrations by the girls; year books; newsletters; the earliest programmes of events at the school; histories of the school written by teachers such as Elizabeth Stockwell, June Kurtz and Margaret Chambers .

These items have been sent for digitisation and, together with the Herschelian magazine which has already been digitised, will be placed online in time for the centenary celebrations next year.

However, although much has already been achieved, managing a collection cannot be regarded as a once-off process consisting of compiling an inventory, digitising, uploading on a web page and then regarding the work as complete.

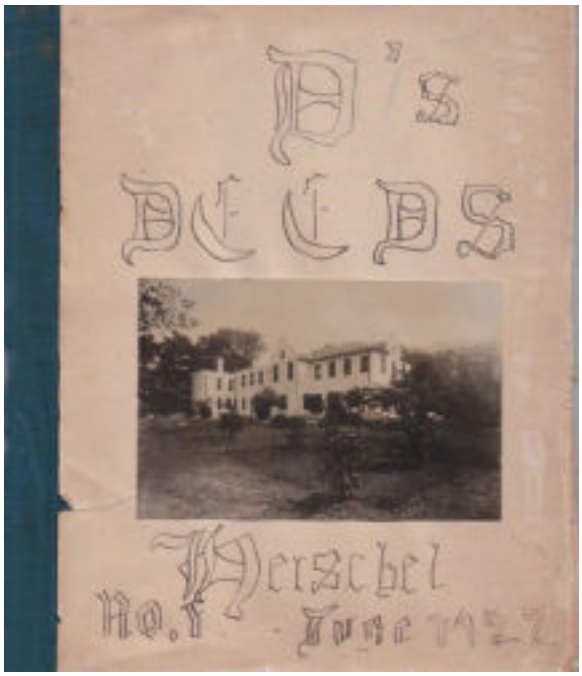
The collection now needs to be carefully evaluated and a master plan drawn up so that it can be properly curated, and its scope worked out so that it can be developed and used in a relevant way. This is a wonderful opportunity for Old Herschelians to help us to add to the collection. For example, it is not possible to show the evolution of the school uniform as we have only one house badge!

One of the most important issues needing urgent attention is conservation as irreplaceable documents, such as early photographs, are in a very fragile condition.

A conservator has been consulted and, once funding becomes available, the aim is to attend to the condition of these items so that they can be enjoyed by current and old Herschelians for the next 100 years.

Plans are underway to display some of the collection for the centenary celebrations.

A display cabinet is to be installed for artefacts, as well as a gallery wall for photographs of the school. We look forward to welcoming Old Herschelians to the Herschel Heritage Centre after the tour on Founder's Day so that they can enjoy looking back at the rich history of Herschel.



D's Deeds, the first school magazines, hand-written and illustrated, were produced from 1922-1924

A view of Devil's Peak through the pine trees

Photos from yesteryear

Library Chapel

The Choir outside St Saviour's Church, 1959

The Preparatory School - 1953

Sketch made from old photo in Mrs Ralph's diary for the 1972 Pageant

Thandi Siebert, Pamela Duff and Naledi Pandor (Speaker) Prizegiving 1994

Scarecrow, Tinman, Lion and Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz - the opening production in the new Theatre - 1988

The House that VA Schonnberg built

By Neil Veitch

Far back in the mists of time, in fact in 1835, Valentinus Alexis Schonnberg, the owner of a property in Claremont known as Feldhausen, was forced to sell it to a new arrival from Britain, Sir John Herschel. The price of £3000 was very acceptable to Schonnberg but Herschel threw in 'a small piece of waste ground, near Cloete's Spring.'

Here Schonnberg planned to build a new house. In gratitude, so the story goes, Schonnberg named his small property 'Herschel.'

The house, which appears in the accompanying photograph, shows a low-pitched roof, with dormer windows and the stoep skirting the frontage of the building. Effectively single-storeyed for the 19th century it went through some changes after the Herschel ownership, sometimes as a school and at other times as a small private hotel.

The building was enlarged, and the property acquired an additional ten acres of ground.

As is well-known, the property was purchased by the English Church Schools' Association in 1920 through the generosity of JW Jagger and its slightly nondescript facade changed to the more imposing, gabled outline we recognise today.

As time went on, further improvements were made and the rooms were modified to suit contemporary needs. This was to provide offices as well as the private accommodation for the Principal.

While occasional refurbishment was made to the lower front rooms, this has not been overdone and one easily senses the past in what is the historic core of Herschel.

One wishes that Sir John had been more generous than he was in his allocation of land to Schonnberg all those years ago. Herschel's real need has always been for more land in which to expand.

The Hill property's acquisition was a lifesaver for the school, but the Senior School has just had to continue building and rebuilding on the same slightly narrow plot.

However, what a wonderful acquisition both property and house were a century ago.

Herschel as painted by Jean Armytage in 1865

Minutes of the 93rd AGM

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 93RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD HERSCHELIANS' ASSOCIATION HELD ONLINE AT 17:30 ON 10 FEBRUARY 2021

1. WELCOME

I am, for the first time ever, able to extend a warm welcome to members of the OHA from around the globe. In particular, I welcome the 2021 reunion classes. Although Founder's Day has had to be cancelled making it impossible to celebrate together, we recognise that this is a special year for you and hope that you will be able to join us for the Centenary celebrations in February 2022 – COVID permitting.

Attendance: K Miller (Chair), P Crawley (Vice Chair), L Bailey (Treasurer), J Goldschmidt (Secretary), C Symons, T Prevost, A van Dugteren, D Burns, J MacDonald, A Cader, E Tshala, HM Dunmore, J de Beyer, AG Watson, C Burnett, J Bester, K Joshua, S Burns, L Gold, H Henderson, J Smith (Waring), R Bishop. Unfortunately, Heather Goedeke, Head of Herschel, was unable to join the meeting.
Apologies: Sally Hannath (Brimble), Sue MacGregor, Pamela Duff, Bridget Cockburn, Anne Spruce, Edwina Burger.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were circulated to all members by the secretary via email on 4 February 2021.
Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by A van Dugteran and seconded by P Crawley.

3. STUDENT AWARDS AND NEW OHA MEMBERS

3.1 Recipients of special awards:

- The Old Herschelian Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership: Shannon Pitman
- The Brendalyn Stempel All Round and Brendalyn Stempel Old Herschelian Bursaries are awarded to girls in Grade 8 for their entire school career. The Matrics who held those bursaries in 2020 were Raine Halvorsen (Old Herschelian) and Rebecca Sparg (All Round). These students have now matriculated.

In future, we will not be making public the names of the girls who are awarded bursaries or scholarships. This is inline with the school's move towards keeping the identities of girls receiving financial support confidential.
Congratulations to the above recipients and to those who receive these awards and bursaries in years to come.

3.2. New OHA Members in 2021

Number of new members joining the OHA: 99 which constitutes 99% uptake on membership.

The school committed to covering the OHA membership fees of the CV Starr scholarship students whilst the SBF (Students for a Better Future) covered the OHA membership fees for 2020. From 2021 onward the SBF payment model has changed, so we may need to call for sponsorship of membership fees for SBF students from 2021 onwards.

4. 2020 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS

Congratulations to the 2020 Matrics for their strength and perseverance during a very difficult academic year. The 2020 Grade 12 results are due to be released on 23 February 2021.

5. OHA MATTERS

5.1 In remembrance of Old Herschelians who passed away last year and in recognition of the lives they lived:

- DIANA E HAMILTON RUSSELL - CLASS OF 1955
- JACQUELYNNE SHIPSTER (MANN) - CLASS OF 1966
- DIANA SCHMID (SPENCER) - CLASS OF 1966
- JANE KATHLEEN VILJOEN (BULEY) - CLASS OF 2000
- GILLIAN CASSIDY (MACKENZIE) - CLASS OF 1981
- DIANA MARY COMPTON
- MARY COXON (JONES) – CLASS OF 1950
- JENNIFER ANNE DOWNES (DICEY) – CLASS OF 1959
- THELMA HALLAM (FRITH) – CLASS OF 1956
- PATRICIA JANE HARPUR (LINDSAY) – CLASS OF 1948
- SUSAN HOLMES (ABERNETHY) – CLASS OF 1971
- DIANA HUGO – CLASS OF 1965
- ROSEMARY KEEN (HOLLINGDALE)
- VIRGINIA LESTER (OWEN SMITH) – CLASS OF 1955
- BRIDGET OSLER (DICEY) – CLASS OF 1961
- MARY REAY (DE VILLIERS) – CLASS OF 1951
- MARGARET WARD-ABLE (IMPEY) – CLASS OF 1949

After the death of Diana Russell, a number of OHs donated books which were authored by Old Herschelians. These books will be kept in a special corner of the Senior School library.

5.2. OHA Committee Members

In 2020 the OHA Committee welcomed 3 new members and said farewell to two longstanding members. We welcomed Talysa Rudah (2011), Emmanuelle Tshala (2015) and Ariyaana Cader (2019) who bring a young perspective and more recent Herschel experiences to the OHA and its support of the school.

Lucy Bailey has resigned as Treasurer and passed the portfolio on to Barbara Vintcent. So, firstly I would like to say thank you to Lucy who served as secretary when I became chair then moved to treasurer, taking over from Di Burns 2 years ago. Thank you for your service to the OHA. Barbara Vintcent has taken over from Lucy this week, but Lucy will still be giving the Treasurer's report later in this meeting.

We say farewell and thank you to Tamlyn Prevost who served on the committee for 8 years and was always willing to roll up her sleeves and get busy!

And a massive thank you to Diana Burns who has been a committed and dedicated member of the OHA for 43 years. Di was OHA Secretary for 32 years between 1978 and 2010. She then moved into the treasurer role which she held until 2019 but remained on as a steadfast committee member. She has been our constant through the years and has always had the answers to all questions pertaining to the OHA. She knows histories, names, events and information better than anyone I have met at Herschel or the OHA. She continued to support Joyce by editing the newsletter until the end of last year and I know that we will continue to see her at Herschel events and that I will always be able to ask her anything I need to know and she will know the answer!

Di Burns thanked Kris Miller for her kind words and said how worthwhile and fulfilling the 43 years of working on the OHA Committee have been. Di thanked Kris for her support.

5.3. OHA Bursary Fund Donations

The OHA made their annual Bursary Relief Fund donation of R20 000 in 2020. As from 2017, an amount of R10 000 from the OHA Fund was matched with another R10 000 from the trust account, setup for this purpose.

In addition, last year, the class of 1980, donated a further R5,250.00 raised from a collection taken on Founder's Day 2020.

This totaled R25,250.00. Mr A Bearne, Herschel's Business Manager, has provided us with details of how the funds were used.

Due to the disruption of Covid-19, many of the activities of a 'normal' school year were, unfortunately, cancelled. However, the school utilised R15,790.00 of the above amounts for the following support costs:

- Two pupils were awarded 50% of the cost to be able to go on the tennis tour to Kingswood College in Grahamstown
- One pupil was awarded 50% of the cost to be able to go on a netball tour to Port Elizabeth
- Two pupils benefitted from being able to take additional music lessons/instruments
- Two pupils benefitted from having textbooks and other small items paid for from the OHA relief funds

The School will retain the balance of the 2020 funds to support bursary pupils in 2021 and report back to the OHA in January 2022 in this regard. The School thanked the OHA and the 1980 reunion years for this funding and the enrichment it affords the pupils.

Sue Burns, Class of 1980, said they were passionate about being able to help girls who needed financial assistance and was pleased to hear that the funds had been used wisely. Kris asked Sue to convey the thanks of the OHA to her class members.

5.4. Caroline Herschel Award

The 2020 Caroline Herschel Award was awarded to Joan Smith. The school will be hosting a virtual Founder's Day where they will be welcoming Joan and presenting her with the Caroline Herschel Award during the online event. In 2020 the award process was overhauled by, firstly, opening the voting to all Old Herschelians and secondly, by submitting a shortlist of nominees to an external panel of judges for their evaluation and consideration.

Joan has joined us for this AGM and we are so glad to have her with us. I would now like to hand over to Joan to hear a few words from her.

Joan thanked everyone involved for awarding her this highly prestigious award. She acknowledged the many achievements of Caroline Herschel during her life and, especially, her famous words: 'As much as we need a prosperity of economy, we also need prosperity of kindness and decency'.
Kris thanked Joan for the work she does to make the world a better place, and for being a remarkable Old Herschelian.
More will be shared on Joan's accomplishments in the OHA Newsletter later this year and I will be sharing the video recorded for this event on the Facebook page this evening.

5.5. 2020 OHA Newsletter

Immense thanks to Joyce Goldschmidt who put together the 2020 newsletter under very difficult circumstances due to some technical challenges. I would like to thank the School for supplying Joyce with a new laptop just in time for her to finish the newsletter and get it to you all. We have received fantastic feedback on the 2020 edition and thank Joyce for her hard work.

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 Herschelian school magazine can be ordered in August each year - at a cost - if so required.

5.6. OHA Archives and Heritage

Following a few years of mayhem during which the OHA Archives and museum were moved from one venue to another whilst construction of the new music block was underway, we finally have a permanent home. The OHA Archives have moved into the old music block and we have made ourselves very comfortable. It is great to have control over the archive material again and to have secure premises which will ensure that there are no further losses of valuable artefacts.

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 in coming years.
We have been working with Kathy Wheeler (Caradoc-Davies) 1973 who commenced work in the archives in June 2020 to inventory and sort all objects and records. This year will see the digitisation of all artefacts through African Media Online once Kathy has completed her inventory. The ultimate objective is to have an online archive to which all Herschel family members and OHAs will have access. Searches by topic, name, sport, etc will be able to be carried out.

Once this has been achieved, Herschel will be one of only a few schools that can offer this efficient access to our heritage and history. We take this opportunity to thank the School who has fully supported this project.

5.7 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, as well as the annual OHA Newsletter.

Additionally, members of the OHA are now also advised via Facebook of all school events to which they are invited. These include:

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

All OHs are invited to join the Old Herschelian Facebook Page to receive notifications of these events. Please also ensure that the OHA Secretary is notified of any changes to your email addresses to ensure that you receive the newsletters and mailers.
We are also working towards setting up an Instagram page and a LinkedIn profile in months to come to reach a wider audience.

5.8 OHA Database and keeping in contact

Your contact details can be updated via the website under the ALUMNI section or by emailing the OHA secretary: oha@herschel.org.za. Please keep in touch by joining us on Facebook via both the Old Herschelian Facebook Page as well as the Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club Page.

5.9 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 cocktail party and the Winter Dinner. We are committed to keeping these costs as low as possible and aim simply to cover event costs.
Should you wish to make a monetary donation, you can specify what it should be used for - OH (for Old Herschelian) or BF (for Bursary Fund) as a reference. Eg: OH Joan Bloggs / BF Joan Bloggs

Additionally, we have introduced an increase in the OHA membership fees which remained the same, at R400, for over 22 years. Fees increased by 10% last year to R440 and will again increase by 9% to R480 in 2021. From 2023 the increase will be reduced to a nominal annual increase.

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 across Cape Town and all Old Herschelians and the wider Herschelian community, are invited to attend the cocktail evenings. You can join the Facebook page or email Daphne and ask to be added to the mailing list: gilespie@iafrica.com

6.2. Cocktail party

As our annual cocktail party had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, we are hoping to hold a cocktail party or picnic later in the year when restrictions allow us to do so.

6.3. Other matters to discuss

The OHA updated the Constitution in 2020 and it was sent out to all members following a vote. The Constitution will soon be available on the Herschel Girls School website (under the Old Herschelians section) should anyone wish to access it.
The OHA has also formed a Centenary Committee to prepare for the 2022 Centenary celebrations in February next year and to raise funds for the OHA. The Committee, chaired by Justine Macdonald, has met several times and work is underway for what we hope will be a fantastic series of events to mark this occasion. If you have ideas on how we could showcase the school, the OHA or include members of our Herschel family in events or sale items, we would love to hear from you. Please email Justine McDonald on justinemac33@gmail.com with your ideas.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Herewith the Treasurer's Report by Lucy Bailey:

- The net income for the financial year ended 30 September 2020 is R96 684. (In 2019 it was R49 421) This increase is due to the donation of R48,000 from Herschel for work on the Archives.
- The net expenditure for the financial year is R53 621. (In 2019 it was R27 808) The increase is due to the archives project expenses.
- Income over expenditure shows R43 063 which has been transferred to accumulated funds.
- The market value of the Unit Trust Investment is R541 899. (In 2019 it was R544 158).
- R10 000 was withdrawn from the OHA current account in September towards the Bursary Assist Fund.
- R20 000 was withdrawn from the Trust Account (for 2019 and 2020) making a contribution of R30 000 (includes 2019)
- Our thanks go to Sue Cooper and Hazel King of Willow Financial Services and to Craig Hirst of Trident Trust Account Solutions.

8. THANK YOUS

- To the members of the OHA committee who give of their time so generously
- To Di Burns for her dedication and commitment to the school and the OHA and for her unfailing support and guidance.
- To Daphne Beames for keeping the spirit of Lady Margaret Herschel alive with her cocktail party evenings.
- To Justine Macdonald for her leadership of our Centenary Committee.
- To Heather Goedeke for her support of the OHA and our causes.
- To Herschel for the financial support of the OHA by funding the refurbishment of the new Archives centre and office and for supporting the Archives digitisation project.
- Old Herschelians who read our emails, vote online, contribute to the functions and activities of the school whether in person or virtually and who display an interest in the welfare of the OHA at all times.
- Lucy Bailey extended a vote of thanks to Kristina Miller for her contribution to the OHA and for being so passionate about the OHA. She thanked Kris for her excellent leadership and for contributing so many hours despite currently studying and having a full-time job.

The meeting adjourned at 18:15.

AGM OF THE OHA

to be held online on Wednesday 16 February 2022

Notice is hereby given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Old Herschelians' Association will take place as follows:

DATE: Wednesday 16 February 2022
VENUE: This will be a virtual meeting using MS TEAMS
TIME: 17:30
LINK: This link will be sent out next year

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 4 February 2022 on oha@herschel.org.za

AGENDA
FOR THE 94th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
OLD HERSCHELIANS' ASSOCIATION

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. New OH Members
4. OHA matters
5. Other matters
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Adjournment

OHA Author Corner

By Carmelia Prins

Senior School Librarian

It is with great excitement that we can announce that our OH Author Corner has been set up in a prominent corner of the library. Despite the challenges of 2021, our year in the library has been a bumper and busy one. Throughout the pandemic the library has provided a safe space for all students, demonstrating that we can find comfort through literature. When it comes to writing, no one can be a better role model than our very own Old Herschelian successful authors! The OH author corner serves as a powerful reminder to our students and aspiring authors that, while the journey of writing a book might not be easy, it is definitely possible.

We are, however, still in desperate need of more OH authors and co-authors to contribute and share their books and articles with our students. We would like to have a big reveal of our OH Author's corner during our centenary celebrations next year, and we would like to invite all Old Herschelians to send us a copy of their works.

By Pamela Ferguson - Class of 1960

Calling all OHA authors or friends of OHA authors!

We need more donations for the unique OHA corner in the school library lovingly crafted by librarian Carmelita Prins!

I'm honoured to know some of my books are displayed there along with wonderful memoirs written by famous global OHA members like Sue MacGregor of BBC radio and Annette Campbell-White, rare book collector and venture capitalist.

How about yet more OHA authored books? Edited works? Theses? Reports? Magazine articles?? Roll them toward Carmelita!! Imagine younger versions of yourselves relishing all the above while seeking inspiration for dreams and visions beyond their schooldays.

Love to all from Fergie, Austin Texas

The Ilex tree was a gathering place for many generations of Herschel girls. When the ailing tree was felled in 2006, a slice of this majestic tree was polished and mounted on a stand. It is proudly displayed in the OH author corner in the library.

'If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.'

Martin Luther.

A corner of the Senior School library has been allocated to books written by Old Herschelians. We are hoping that OH authors will add to our collection by sending in books and articles they have written.

News from Old Herschelians

BRINK, NICOLA - 1977

Brink, Nicola (Dr. Nicola Brink MBE now) has been awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire and will receive her honours in a ceremony at Windsor Castle on 8th December. She received this for her work on the covid response as the Director of Public Health for Guernsey and Alderney. Herschel girls are truly special!

DA SILVA (DURRANT), JULIA - 2001

A son, Santiago da Silva, born 24 February 2021.

Also, we postponed our 20-year reunion this year for obvious reasons and are planning on celebrating our '21st' alongside the Herschel Centenary in February 2022 – assuming Covid doesn't throw us any more curveballs!

BROOKS, EMMA - 2014

After completing her Bachelor of Business Science at UCT in 2020, Emma moved to Montreux, Switzerland, to pursue a masters' degree in Digital Business at EU Business School. She is one of four students selected to study a master's degree at the school. Emma is also the president of the school board and the first South African to study at the campus. She hopes to make the most of this opportunity and is proud to represent South Africa and Herschel abroad.

DUFF, PAMELA - HEAD 1986 – 1997

I retired nearly 25 years ago shortly after the school celebrated a 75th birthday. I recall the pageant that depicted the story of Herschel to that date, the then Archbishop as celebrant at the open air service on the hockey field and the cutting of the birthday cake by Mrs Sheilah Henderson, grand-daughter of our Founder, John William Jagger. She was joined by several of her granddaughters who were pupils at the school. And now plans are afoot to celebrate our Centenary in 2022 – what a momentous milestone. I hope that many Old Herschelians can be there to celebrate their reunions and the Centenary. In August, I visited KwaZulu-Natal to stay with my daughter Shelagh and to spend time with my newest and eighth great-grandchild, a beautiful little girl called Kayla. After eighteen years in Greyton and seven years in Somerset West, the time has come to be nearer my Cape Town family (daughter Fiona Cochrane and granddaughter Bridget Lawrence). So, early next year I shall be moving into a flatlet adjacent to Fiona's in Constantia.

DU PREEZ, NATHALIE - 2000

Nathalie du Preez and her husband Paul Tselentis were delighted to welcome their daughter, Isabella Chloé Tselentis, to the world on 15 February 2021. Isabella was born at 11:15pm at St Mary's Hospital in London, weighing in at 3.285kg. Isabella's grandmother, Jackie Tselentis (née Niehaus) is also an Old Herschelian. While it was tough to be away from South Africa throughout the pregnancy and the first 8 months of Isabella's life, they were thrilled to have Isabella's grandparents (Grannabel and Oupa) join them in London on the day she turned 6 months and to introduce her to Cape Town at 8 months!

FERGUSON, PAMELA - 1960

Pamela organized volunteers to work with her on ICU crews at a local Austin Texas hospital late 2021.

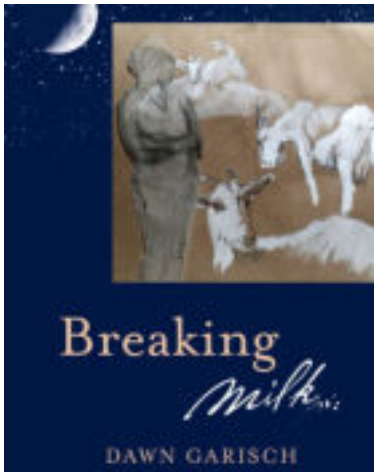
Colleagues in acupuncture and bodywork joined her in volunteering 15 minute stress-busting sessions for the intensive care nurses and respiratory therapists working with Covid patients at a local hospital in Austin. They worked on the day and night shifts …. Usually 6 volunteers joined Fergie each session when Covid was at a peak in Austin, and they worked on dozens of crew members. They brought snacks and created a wonderful 15 minute contrast to the crews' 12 hour shifts.

Covid is down now so the ICU volunteering is on hold. Fingers crossed. The stress busting sessions were appreciated beyond belief says Fergie!

That's Fergie in action on the left, and on the right, is Acupuncturist, Ainge Lin.

GARISCH, DAWN - 1975

My novel Breaking Milk (Karavan Press, 2019), was on the short list for the Sunday Times CNA prize this year. I am a co-founder of the Life Righting Collective www.liferighting.com that helps participants find connection, recovery and community through memoir writing.



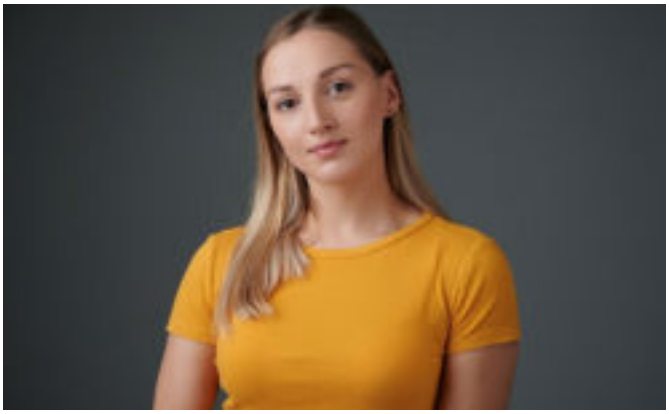
KOHN GOLDSCHMIDT, LAUREN (KOHN) – 2000

Lauren has been recognised as a Young Fellow of UCT for her ground-breaking contribution to legal scholarship. Her research has been endorsed by the courts and filtered into law reform. She is the only female Young Fellow of 2021 and one of only three ever to be drawn from the Law Faculty. Lauren has partnered with colleagues abroad in a comparative study on their systems of administrative-law. She presented at several local and international conferences this year, including the Sorbonne 'Academic Days On Open Government and Digital Issues' and ICON-S Conferences. She has been awarded a record-breaking 3rd Law Faculty Research Prize for her article, 'Time to go back to first principles: A critical analysis of the 2017 Procurement Regulations….'. The anonymous reviewer commended it as, 'highly original & compelling in its legal reasoning'. Next year, Lauren embarks on a significant research project on a full scholarship and she has been invited to be the Key-Note speaker at an International Conference on Commissions of Inquiry. In March this year, Lauren and Andrew celebrated their 10-year wedding. They have been together since their Law-School days 17 years' ago and have three children, Olivia, Georgia-Mae and Connor.

KOEN, JODINE – 2013

I would like to share good news of my twin sister (Liné Koen) which I think would do Herschel proud and deserves a share!

She was head of drama in matric (alongside myself) and took it to the next level! She has just recently been nominated for a Fleur du Cap award as most promising student which will be announced in October! She recently performed at Kalk Bay Theatre as well as in two musicals, You Should Be Dancing, and Feeling Pretty. I am extremely proud of her and I think she is an outstanding role-model for future Herschelians who are going into the field of performance.



MCDONALD, SHONA (MILTON) - 1975

Shona is delighted to be recognised as one of this year's MB100 (Meaningful Business Community), an award celebrating leaders combining profit and purpose to help achieve the @UN Global Goals. View all of the 2021 winners here:

https://meaningful.business/mb-100-2021/

MILLER, KRISTINA - 2002

Apart from serving as OHA Chair and on the Herschel Council, Kris works for the Anglo American Group as Principal: Sustainable Development Special Projects and Integration. Kris started Great Girls in 2014 (www.greatgirls.co.za), an NGO that upskills and empowers girls and women in disadvantaged environments to either find meaningful full-time employment or to pursue further studies. She is mom to three stepchildren and is reading for her second Master's degree in Sustainable Development Policy.

Kris was recently invited by Western Cape Premier, Alan Winde, to serve as a panelist during a discussion on "the importance of women's empowerment in the fight against GBV" where the changes needed to ensure women and girls live fulfilling and prosperous lives in our province and country were discussed.

OELZ, HANNAH - 2016

Hannah Oelz graduated, Summa Cum Laude, from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) with a Bachelor of Fine Art degree in May this year.

RETIEF (RAUBENHEIMER), LAUREN - 2001

Lauren and her husband David welcomed their daughter Ava in September this year. Lauren is still working in private practice in the Winelands as a Radiologist with special interests in neuro imaging and fetal MRI. She currently reports all the fetal MR's in the Cape and does sessional work at Groote Schuur for the Fetal Medicine Department.

SCOTT, OLIVIA - 2020

Olivia has officially committed to her 4-year swimming scholarship at Emmanuel College, Georgia, starting Aug 2021.

As a family, we want to thank Herschel Girls School for the support given to her to get her to this point. Olivia did not have the opportunity to swim for the Herschel Girls High School team but in a roundabout way, the school created the environment for her to pursue her swimming outside of the school setting & for that we are grateful. We are thankful too for the academic & social grounding being a pupil at Herschel has afforded her & know that this will provide her with a firm foundation as she embarks on the new chapter in her life in Aug 2021. None of this would have been possible without the input of every Herschel teacher that crossed paths with her for her last 5 years at Herschel. We wish the entire body of Herschel Girls School every success in the future & know that many girls will, like Olivia, journey through there & so be well prepared for a future filled with promise. Much appreciation & proudly pink.

WARD (HOOK), KELLY - 2003

On the 16th April 2021, Kelly and her husband Craig welcomed their second daughter, Hayley, into the world.

WEIMANN, LÉA - 2016

Léa graduated from St Andrews, Scotland in June 2021. She was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at the Students' Association recognising her outstanding contribution to enhancing the St Andrews student experience and in June 2021, she was awarded for her Highly Commended Dissertation in Sustainable Development. At her graduation, she received a first class degree in International Relations and Sustainable Development and was bestowed with the honour of the prestigious Principal's Medal for academic excellence, community service, and exceptional endeavour and achievement during her time at St Andrews.

Her personal eco activist journey continues with a new chapter studying climate law at the University of Edinburgh. The change we wish to see in the world starts on the ground; its starts with each one of us.

WHEELER, KATHY (CARADOC-DAVIES) - 1973

Kathy graduated with a PhD in History from North-West University in July 2020. Her thesis, Historic house museums and communication: a case study of the Irma Stern Museum investigates the challenges faced by historic house museums both internationally and in South Africa and considers the question of whether effective communication could address these problems.

WILLS, NICOLA – 2015

Nicola is embarking on a very exciting journey to study an MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge (Magdalene College, 2021/22). After completing her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at UCT, she has been given this amazing opportunity by the Cambridge Trust and Skye Foundation to pursue her dream. The Herschel faculty and the friends she made during her time at Herschel have been integral to this, and for that she is eternally grateful.

WHITFIELD, ALEXANDRA (ALI) – 2009

Alexandra married Christiaan Bestel in April 2021.

Messages from the Class of 1960

Our Class reunion was such a good experience. Little did we know as we said our goodbyes, that the world would seem to fall apart, and our own lives would change drastically. This is a catch up from some of us since then.

Gill Cobley (Liebermann) writes from Ontario to say she has done quite well, thanks to mask wearing and vaccinations. She and Malcolm live in a supportive community and can see good friends and enjoy TV and books, are grateful for Zoom and WhatsApp, and are grateful that they and their family are all well.

Hilary Hanson (Simpson) writes from California saying that after the reunion Chris had a long battle with back pain due to a spinal cyst. But after successful surgery they are resuming activities like hiking, sailing and camping. She has rearranged the garden to deal with the drought and bush fires they experience. They have continued to wear masks and safely distance, though these restrictions were lifted a few weeks ago. They are able to have time with their two sons - always enjoyable.

Carol Henshilwood (Simpson) writes that she and David had to stop playing bridge with friends, but have found other pursuits like yoga and meditation and walking. They listen to lectures and have had time to reconnect with the really important things in life. Carol has also become fluent in Afrikaans and reads Die Burger for practice! They are both fit, healthy and happy!

Pamela Ferguson writes from Austin Texas She has missed her usual teaching in Europe, but she and Bernadette organised groups of acupuncturists and shiatsu therapists to give stress-busting sessions to nurses and respiratory therapists from ICU and ER departments at Bernadette's hospital. This has been deeply rewarding.

Phillipa Harvey (Ward) writes from Wimbledon that when she returned from Cape Town her youngest daughter and husband contracted Covid - luckily they made a good recovery. She did very little during the tight lockdown but now she sees family quite often. She's fully vaccinated and braves the trains and other public transport with visits to friends out of London.

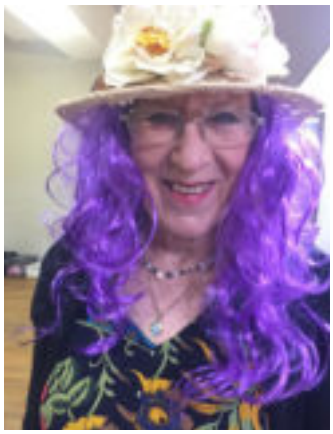
Margie Everett (Thompson) lives in a lovely, thatched house in Durbanville. The large rose garden has about 350 rose bushes. She's passionate about keeping fit though wonders if she's going down the slippery slope! She has 3 daughters with children in SA and two sons in UK & Canada, also with children. The UK son hopes to visit at Christmas and Margie hopes to see her overseas families next year. One daughter lives nearby in Cape Town. Margi lost her husband 37 years ago, and finds grandkids' hugs are a great blessing.

Lesley Fisher (Wares) writes from Hout Bay. She and Chris recently visited family in UK for several weeks, and they spent much time together. A driving net set up in the garden made inter-generational golf possible, though they also visited some larger courses to play their favourite game. They also have much involvement with family and grandchildren in Cape Town.

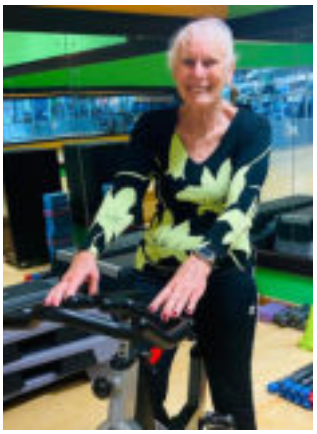
Sal Carter (Baxter) writes from Hermanus. She and David continue to see grandchildren, though not as often as pre-Covid times. One of Sal's great joys is being in charge of the soup kitchen at their local church. David makes most of the soup. She also fits in yoga and line dancing for her brain! They plan to move 5km away to a retirement complex, Berg en See, in December. This will be a problem as they have a huge amount of stuff, as we all do, and David cannot bear to part with most of it.

Fiona Noble writes from Perth in Western Australia. We have had a much easier time with Covid. A couple of brief lock downs earlier this year, but Delta has not taken hold - yet. Family times with 7 grandchildren aged 9-14 are always good. Cycling and hiking are my great interests, with a few overnight hikes that mean carrying a bit more ... just do-able! Reading newspapers on a radio program for low vision listeners and playing hymns on the piano at church like I did at school, also keep me busy.

Hilary Hansen (Simpson) on their yacht



Sal Carter (Baxter) at a church high tea



Margie Everett (Thompson) doing what she loves best!

Phillipa Harvey (Ward) in a brand new British Rail coach

Fiona Noble on a hike

Obituaries

PAMELA JOHANSEN (PEARCY) 1966

02 September 1949 – 27 August 2021

In remembrance of our dear friend Pam Pearcy, who passed away at her daughter's home here in Johannesburg on 27/08/2021 from breast cancer.

She had moved from St Francis Bay 2 years previously - after being diagnosed - to be with Andrea, her son-in-law, Mike and her grandson, CJ.

We were with her 5 days before she passed away, when she was in high spirits and planning her life onwards. Needless to say, it came as a big shock to us in that she had seemed so well, but we all knew that her illness was stage IV.

Bev Gerhardt (Moore)

IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with the deepest sorrow that we share the news of the passing of Pammie, a dear friend to so many of us since 1964, when she arrived at Herschel, and subsequently to so many more as she traversed the varied roads of her life.

When memories of Pammie spring to mind, the most vivid are those of love, laughter and sunlight – of bright colours and champagne days, of joie de vivre, yet always tempered by compassion, sincerity and concern for her fellow human beings.

Of her love for her family, friends, animals - especially her horses and her dogs - and her determination to see the best in almost every situation. She lived her life to the last with compassion, love, laughter and positivity. She was a true friend, a loving and dedicated mother and wife and a courageous "force of nature"!

RIP Dear Friend.

SHELLEY SIMONSZ, (WELLS) 1966

1 October 1949 TO 7 April 2021

Michele Margaret Isabel Wells matriculated from Herschel at the end of 1966.

She was only at Herschel for the years 1965 and 1966 but she obviously made an impact because apart from being in the hockey and swimming teams, she was also made head of Jagger House in her final year.

After leaving Herschel she did a BSc (Microbiology) at UCT and won several class medals along the way. After graduating, she worked in the breast cancer research department before getting married and moving to Pietermaritzburg where she became a valuable member of the Plant Pathology department at the University of Natal (PMB).

She returned to Cape Town in 1976 with her husband and soon became fully occupied as a wife and mother of 4 children. During these years she was very actively involved in their schools and particularly Vista Nova School.

Her battle with cancer started in 2009 and involved significant time with surgeons and oncologists. Despite this she nursed her "flock" through various serious crises and when she died on 7.4.21, it could justifiably be said that she had done an exceptional job!

She is desperately missed by her husband Charles and children Suzy, David, Tessa, Janet as well as her grandchildren Lizzie and Poppy. Her as yet unborn grandchildren will never know what they missed.

Charles Simonsz

Newlands 30.10.21

HELEN STANFORD

25 August, 1949 – 24 February, 2021

As a school community, we were saddened to hear the news of Helen's passing earlier this year. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic restricted face-to-face visits with Helen. Despite these constraints, Helen tried her best to stay in contact with her friends and family.

Helen was a kind and gentle woman who loved people. Her relationships with everyone she encountered were based on selflessness and generosity. Apart from assisting others in a physical way, she generously gave of her time and herself to help others who were in need. Nothing was ever too much trouble. She was always concerned about marginalised people who struggled to make ends meet and who often felt that they did not belong. Many of these homeless people knew that 8 Park Rd, at Rondebosch Common, was a place where they could get food, a blanket, clothes to keep warm and help if they needed it. One year during a lengthy birthday tea party at her home, I remember how Helen chuckled when she discovered that two vagrants felt so at home that they had slipped into her front garden and taken up their place on the garden bench there, happily welcoming guests in at the gate and ushering them out again. Like two well- trained butlers! Dave, her late husband, and Helen reacted to a ringing doorbell very late one night and were only too happy to rescue a little puppy for a small cash price! Helen, who had improved her Italian for a trip overseas at the time, bestowed upon this cute little dog the very 'grand' name of Piccolo (meaning tiny). He has been her loyal companion until the end. Helen and Dave were very involved in the work done at Crystal House in Ottery before his passing: this educational centre helps impoverished children and young adults to further their skills and education. Helen often opened her home to young adults who needed accommodation while they wrote exams.

Her actions spoke louder than words: Helen was a loving person. She loved people, children and animals unconditionally and prioritised the needs of others above herself every day. Without fail, her past pupils recognised this in her and often mentioned it in tributes to her as a teacher. Children and teenagers, in particular, related to her because of her patience, love and sincere interest in them. She accepted them and often managed to grow the self- confidence of many who were taught by her. Her actions were driven by care and deep love: Helen was a very popular educator at Herschel who put all her energy into preparing lively and meaningful lessons for her classes. Many past pupils will remember the mock-wedding that was held under the Ilex tree complete with a groom, bride and minister to officiate. All 'guests' were also dressed up for the occasion and of course there were treats and drinks to enjoy afterwards! By the end of the occasion, many girls had unwittingly learned their 'woordeskat' in an unforgettable context that made far more sense than studying it in isolation. Herschel girls loved being in Helen's Afrikaans lessons as they included fun and laughter and they learned so much from her. As the teacher in charge of Rolt House, Helen got into the spirit of interhouse competitions, for example swimming galas, by dressing up in bright yellow fun outfits and including a whacky hairstyle with yellow ribbons! She worked hard on introducing new war cries and fostering healthy interhouse competition. Helen was fun to work with and there was always laughter in the staffroom when she was around: her positivity and sense of fun were infectious. Helen was a ray of sunshine in the context of school life and all who were in her company were transformed by her cheerful disposition.

Helen will also be fondly remembered by many Old Herschelians for the careful arrangements she made for the annual Matric Dances. She organised glamorous fashion shows to raise funds and chose themes that were apt and appreciated by the Grade 12s. Her personal skills in catering, flower arranging, events planning, designing invitations as well as the complete transformation of the Preparatory School Hall every year, was thanks to Helen's enthusiasm, creativity and resilience.

We will remember Helen as being joyful and loving life. She had a delightful sense of humour and being in her company was always uplifting. Her personality and presence brought light and positivity to any group, crowd or situation. Helen was always hopeful – no matter how difficult her world had become due to challenging health issues. Every dark cloud had a silver lining and despite her fear at times, she truly believed that. She appreciated the beauty of colour, travelling, beauty in nature, she loved the beauty of movement, for example, dancing and loved music – although she always playfully admitted that she could not sing in tune! Her enthusiasm was infectious and, despite all her health issues, remained energetic and spirited even until the end of her life.

Her passion for sport was legendary – she loved watching rugby and 'Sevens' rugby competitions – especially the Boks and Stormers! If 'her teams' lost, she always joked that she would have to improve her coaching technique! She was an avid hockey player even touring overseas to Asia as a veteran player. Tennis players amongst the staff knew it would be a tough game if they were up against Helen's very capable serve and overhead and backhand shots.

Attending music concerts, going to the theatre and watching movies were among Helen's favourite activities. Being with people made her very happy. Her children and Dave meant everything to her. She was so proud of her children and missed them all deeply when they went to live overseas. She regularly listened to Dallen's sport broadcasts and was deeply joyful about Melissa's relationship with Tim and the birth of little Noah.

The final quality that I will always remember about Helen was her faith. She was a deeply committed Christian who lived her faith through her actions. Helen was always authentic and a faithful friend.

In closing I would like to include the following words which are certainly true of Helen: "There are some who bring a light so great to the world that even after they have gone the light remains."

May your soul rest in peace, dear Helen – you enriched our lives in so many ways - you will be lovingly remembered by many, forever.

By Sue Grové

Colleague and close friend

HELEN STANFORD obituary continued

By Daphne Beames

Darling Helen
Your quality was intangible: you radiated love and warmth;
you threw your vital energy over those you loved;
you gave more than you ever expected;
and we are the richer for having known you.
Thank you for twenty-one unforgettable years of friendship and for sharing your magic with us. Never to be forgotten, my fabulous friend.

'There's a light in my window,
It shines through the day,
It's Helen, who's sparkling
With sunbeams at play.
There's a light in my window,
It shines through the night,
It's Helen who's dancing
With Angels in flight'.

By Kate McCarthy

Helen was always kind, always generous and always willing to give her time, energy and attention to those lucky enough to be called her friends. A brave and adventurous soul, she was a true inspiration to many.

We will never forget you.

Left to right: Daphne Beames, Kate McCarthy, Helen Stanford on the occasion of Helen's 60th birthday

Standing: Stephen and Annemarieke Golding, Peter and Alison Bodenstein, Michael Brasler, Nikki Gerhardi
Seated: Richard and Kate McCarthy, Daphne and Simon Beames
at a dinner in celebration of Helen's 60th birthday

In Memory Of

PRISCILLA DU TOIT (WATERSON)

Class of 1948
who passed away on 29 June 2021

The members of the Old Herschelian Association extend their deepest condolences to her family.

ANGELA PREW (BARRY)

Class of 1949
who passed away on 14 May 2021

The members of the Old Herschelian Association extend their deepest condolences to her family.

JEAN RONAN (MURPHY)

Class of 1954

The members of the Old Herschelian Association extend their deepest condolences to her family.

GILLIAN WRIGHT (JEFFERY)

Class of 1955

The members of the Old Herschelian Association extend their deepest condolences to her family.

The story of the stone pine trees

By Pamela Duff

Until 1985, the Herschel Girls School magazine had a blue cover with a small picture of 6 Stone Pine trees with Devil's Peak in the background.

This is the story about the picture. It depicted six trees that stood at the corner of the property diagonally opposite the Claremont Tennis Club courts. The trees have since been cut down – but there may still be one near the bottom gate at the far end of the sports centre.

In 1986 and 1987, the magazine changed to an A4 format with a photograph on the front cover. But it was agreed to keep the tradition of the trees by putting the picture on the back cover.

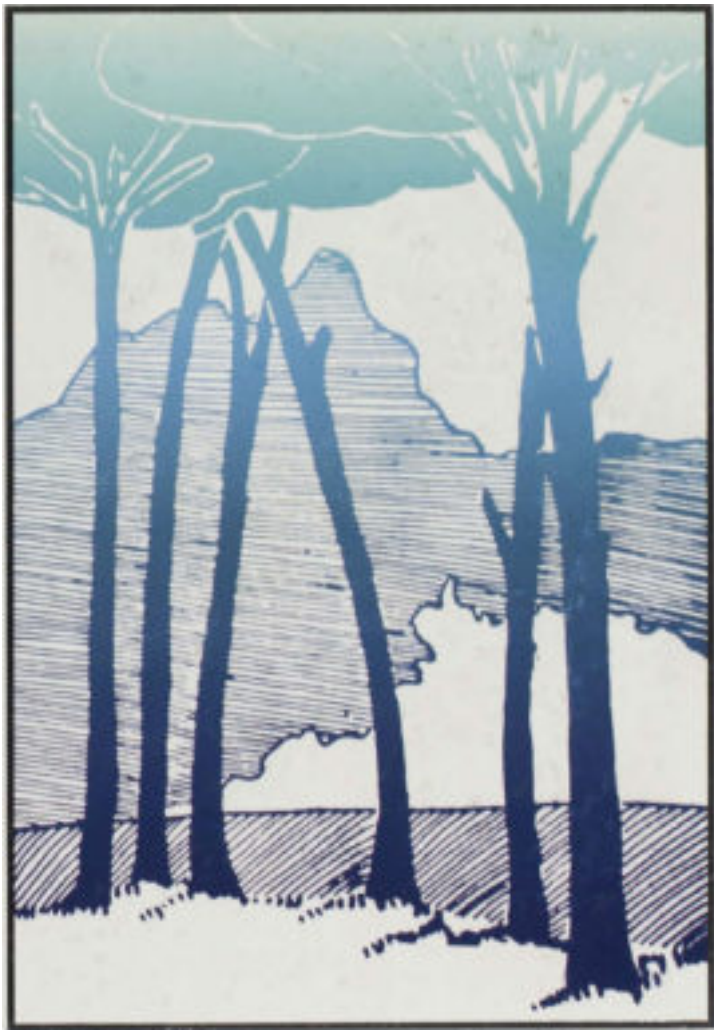
In 1988 the original small picture of the trees was used on the title page of the magazine until 2009.

From 2010 until 2017, the trees, together with Devil's Peak were depicted on the cover page in an enlarged modernised version of the original.

In the 2019 and 2020 magazines, there were no longer the Stone Pine trees - they had morphed into something quite different!

Happily, in 2012 as Herschel celebrated 90 years, the original lino cut picture was used on the front cover – with the enlarged version on the title page.

All cultures have traditions handed down - so it would be wonderful to see the original picture being resurrected and used once again - perhaps for the Centenary!



Thank you to all Old Herschelians who contributed to this newsletter.

Please remember to send in your news each year in October,

and to send new contact details to your Circle Secretary and to the OHA Secretary,

Joyce Goldschmidt - oha@herschel.org.za