



HERSCHEL
ALUMNAE UNION

NEWSLETTER



2024

HAU NEWS

STAYING CONNECTED



The 2024 Committee

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Heather Goedeke

Chair:

Karen Meyer

Interim Treasurer:

Barbara Vintcent

Secretary:

Nikki Turner

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Daphne Beames

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Siobhan de Esnouf (Mannion)

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Front Cover:

The fountain and chapel at the Senior School

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Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome.

Please submit articles to the Secretary,

hau@herschel.org.za



<https://www.instagram.com/herschelalumnaeunion>



www.herschel.org.za/alumni



[Herschel Alumnae Union](#)



[Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club](#)

Dates to Diarise

Date	Time	2024 DATES TO DIARISE	RSVP
Wed 12 Feb 2025	17:00	AGM online	The link will be emailed to everyone in early February
Thu 13 Feb 2025	17:30	HAU Cocktail party (R150 per person) in the Senior School Atrium	RSVP by 1st February 2025
Fri 14 Feb 2025	10:15	Walk to St Saviour's Church from school	All Herschel Alumnae
	11:00	Founder's Day Service, St Saviour's Church	RSVP by 1st February 2025
	12:30	School Song & Arch Ceremony	All are welcome
	13:00	Luncheon in the Mary Jagger Hall	RSVP by 1st February 2025
	14:30	Guided tour of the school by Matric girls	All are welcome
	15:00	Visit the Herschel Heritage Centre	All are welcome
TBC	18:00	Winter Dinner - HAU, Staff and Friends of the School welcome	RSVP nearer the time

2025 Reunions

Class of	Reunion	Circle Secretary	Email Address
1965	60 year	JEAN BRADSHAW	jeanb@intekom.co.za
1975	50 year	SUZETTE PELT	pelt@whitsunday.net.au
1985	40 year	NONE	Please get in touch with hau@herschel.org.za if you would like to volunteer as circle secretary and help organise your 40 year reunion.
1995	30 year	ZARA QUAIL	zaraquail@mac.com
2005	20 year	LAUREN GOVINDEN	lsoobramoney@gmail.com
2015	10 year	NONE	Please get in touch with hau@herschel.org.za if you would like to volunteer as circle secretary and help organise your 10 year reunion.

A letter to the HAU from the Head

By Heather Goedeke

To all members of the HAU

By changing nothing, nothing changes. (Tony Robbins)

Thank you so much to all members of the HAU for your contributions, support, attendance at the gatherings, and continued interest in and support of Herschel. 2024 has been a productive year and one filled with plenty of opportunities, activities, growth and learning – and change!

Moving from the WCED NSC to the IEB NSC has required a lot of hard work from our staff having regard to a shift in focus from marks to learning. This has been ably led by Kerri-Lyn East (Deputy Academics) and the hard-working team of Subject Heads. They have undertaken the additional work in support of the transition with good grace and I am so grateful to them all for their hard work and hands on approach to the transition process.

We are indeed fortunate at Herschel because we have a beautiful environment in which to foster a vibrant culture of learning. The staff is committed to, and invested in, the education of girls, and we are fortunate to have a supportive parent body which partners with us in providing the diverse and evolving educational experience that we offer. The move to the IEB has supported our independence and aligns with our wish to provide a challenging and relevant assessment programme to prepare pupils for the tertiary educational and career choices that they will make. Ms Confidence Dikgole (CEO of the IEB) visited Herschel last term and shared a wonderfully supportive message with the Class of 2024:

The IEB examinations are indeed rigorous. They are designed not only to test your knowledge but to challenge your ability to think critically, to apply what you've learned, and to innovate. These exams are a reflection of the world beyond school—one that is complex, dynamic, and full of opportunities for those who are prepared. But, rest assured, they are not insurmountable.

The fact that you are here as the Herschel Girls Class of 2024, having successfully navigated 12 years of learning, is a testament to your resilience and determination. You have been preparing for this moment, not just over the past few months, but throughout your entire educational journey. Your teachers have equipped you with the tools you need, and you have within you the ability to succeed.

Remember, excellence is not about being perfect, but about giving your best effort. It's about approaching each exam with a mindset that is focused, calm, and determined. It's about understanding that every challenge you face is an opportunity to grow, to learn something new, and to push your boundaries.

As you prepare for your exams, I encourage you to take care of yourselves—both mentally and physically. Balance your study time with rest, engage in activities that will help you relax and maintain perspective, and reach out to your teachers, friends, and family when you need support. You are not alone in this journey; the entire Herschel community stands with you, so does the IEB.

I also want to remind you that these exams, while very



important, do not define you. They are a stepping-stone to your future, but they do not encapsulate your entire worth or potential. You are bright, capable young women with limitless possibilities ahead of you. The knowledge, skills, and values you've gained at Herschel will serve you well, not just in these exams, but in all the endeavors you will pursue in life.

I believe in each of you, and I have no doubt that you will rise to the occasion. Herschel Girls, you've got this!

I have taken the liberty of including a fair portion of Ms Dikgole's letter to the matrices, to give you an indication of the personalized and holistic approach to learning that reflects the philosophy of the Independent Examination Board. The matrices of 2024 know that they have our full support and that they are well equipped to sit the final examinations. I know that you will join me in wishing them every success.

On the academic, cultural, and sporting fronts, we continue to enjoy success. Just as importantly, we have grown participation so that more pupils are benefiting from the holistic experience of being involved. Beyond the actual involvement, the benefits of friendship, collaboration, shared experiences and feeling that one belongs are heartfelt.

This year's pupil leadership team led the school with authenticity, continuing with a focus on the values of kindness and belonging, but also looking at accountability and representation. Head Girl, Emily van Heerden, has led with humility and grace, fulfilling her role in her unassuming way and achiev-



ing incredible accolades in academics, sport and leadership. The values of accountability, equity and equality and respect were particularly evident in the Student Representative Council, ably led by Erin Meyer. The impact of this is evident in the pupil body's choice of leaders for 2025 where these values are clearly visible, along with an intentional focus on building community. It is indeed a privilege working alongside dynamic young adults and gaining some insight into how they view the world. In the complex and conflicted world in which we live, the jaded cynicism of adults (a generalization I know!) is refreshingly diluted and we can move into spaces of possibility, promise and hope.

I have no doubt that Herschel will continue to contribute to the rise of strong women and leaders in South Africa. Our environment empowers and equips young women to strive for excellence and to back themselves, and we are proud of their advocacy, confidence and drive.

We have developed an exciting vision for Herschel to take it into the future as a relevant, innovative and empowering

A letter to the HAU from the Head cont.

holistic educational and growth environment for girls. The strategy has been informed by feedback from all stakeholders via the OISESA quality assurance audit, a SWOT analysis with staff, strategic planning sessions and information and thought leadership shared in sessions at conferences and online presentations. We have appointed Misti Watson (Strateverse) to work with us to package our strategy and vision for Herschel and are excited about Project 2040. Misti will help us to bring to life our strategy and provide us with some of the visuals and tools that we need to take forward to potential donors and contributors (individuals and corporates) as we aim to raise funds to close the gender gap in the Science and Technology sectors.

The girls are the heartbeat of Herschel and we understand that our collective purpose is to expand their views of what they are capable of and to lead them towards discovering their passion and their purpose.

The strategy includes the design and development of inspiring learning environments for the future, incorporating the spaces needed to develop core skills and to integrate technology and artificial intelligence into the curriculum. The first build in our strategy will be a Science and Technology space which will support innovative and futuristic teaching in a collaborative, practical, high-tech environment. A lot of research, as well as visits to other schools (local, national and global – thanks to online access) have provided us with a clear view of what is required. We want the Herschel girls to be well prepared for a future world of work. This includes their having a clear sense of who they are and what they stand for.

In writing this newsletter, I am cognizant of the conflict that the world is experiencing and of the difficulties, uncertainties, fear, pain, suffering and loss facing so many people. Aside from the many challenges that millions of South Africans experience daily, the world is in a mess. How do we find the balance between keeping things real by creating awareness through what we teach, discuss and prepare and providing young people with hope for a future in which they can find a space; one which will be safe, and which promises hope? Wellbeing and mental health continue to be issues that have taken centre-stage in schools and we have continued to focus on these. As I write, TikTok is under scrutiny for being negligent in mitigating the addictive qualities of its app. We are in the process of procuring a smartphone pouch which will see us regulating

devices effective January 2025. We aim to give back such things as focus, friendship and time to the girls by regulating the use of their devices during academic time and break times.

I think that it is important to mention that this year sees three very well known, respected and long-serving teachers retiring. Karen van der Merwe (Life Sciences/Biology teacher) has taught at Herschel for 34 years. She has had a phenomenal career at the school and has enriched and shaped the

lives of so many young women not only in the classroom, but also through her involvement in Interact. Alison Bodenstein has played many roles at Herschel, including that of Pastoral Deputy and House Director and is a renowned and much-loved English teacher who has taught at the school for 24 years. Sandy Rule has taught at Herschel for 23 years – also in the Life Sciences/Biology Department. Sandy pioneered Stepout and has been instrumental in growing this annual Grade 10 adventure. Given the extent of their service and commitment to Herschel, and knowing that many of you will have passed through their hands, I thought it would be appropriate to share this information with you. We shall miss them!

We are looking at Advancement as a specific part of our Marketing and Fundraising Sub-committee and would like to build our base of Herschel Alumnae to include all Herscheli-ans, and to be able to include, involve and partner more across projects, growth and sustainability for the future! Herschel has a proud past and we want to ensure that its future is secure and that it continues to be a relevant, dynamic and nurturing school.

Thank you to all members of the HAU for your commitment to and support of Herschel.

Ad Dei Gloriam!

Warm regards

Heather



Grade 12 Special Awards - 2024

The HAU takes this opportunity to congratulate these worthy recipients:

Accounting	Taskya Pillay
Afrikaans First Additional Language	Taskya Pillay
Business Studies	Kaitlyn Knight and Hanna Wright
Consumer Studies	Catherine Barton
Dramatic Arts	Emma Gordon
Design	Maggie Mallinson
English Home Language (Lady Woolley Prize)	Zoe Arenhold and Emma Gordon
Further Studies English	Emma Gordon
French Second Additional Language	Catherine Barton and Emma Naude
Geography	Anna Ashbolt
History	Leah Josi
Information Technology	Taskya Pillay
Life Orientation	Erin Meyer
Life Sciences	Leah Josi
Mathematics (Liz Gibbons Prize)	Taskya Pillay
Further Studies Mathematics	Taskya Pillay
Mathematical Literacy	Safara Ackermann
Music	Julia Mira
Physical Sciences	Taskya Pillay
Visual Arts	Taybah Isaacs
Chambers Trophy for Sportsmanship	Not Awarded
Hannath Trophy	Not Awarded
Bridgman Trophy for Sports Girl of the year	Not Awarded
PricewaterhouseCoopers Book Award for Accounting and Mathematics	Taskya Pillay
Prize for Enthusiasm in Afrikaans Home Language	Not Awarded
Ethel Hill Cup for Spoken English	Emma Gordon
Multilingual Oral Proficiency	Tia Deliperi
Mrs McCormick's Prize for Spoken French	Amy Heffren
Janet Steyn Prize for Interest in the Humanities	Emma Gordon
Award for Interest Shown in the Natural Sciences	Ashley Silberbauer
Daphne Beames Aequa Mente Cup	Leah Josi
The Alicia Wilkinson Silwood Prize for Practical Cookery	Anna Searson
Mary Muller Picture of the Year	Taybah Isaacs
Stobie Musicianship Prize	Enqi Du
Monique Zurich Trophy	Not Awarded
Chorale Prize	Buhle Lekoma
Inkwenkwezi Music Award	Enqi Du
Jennifer Sale Drama Trophy for Outstanding Performance	Francis Hathorn
Annette Hartmann Trophy for the Dramatic Arts	Michaela Edwards
McClurg Trophy for the Theatre Arts	Emma Gordon
Waterfield Prize for Commitment, Initiative & Fellowship in the Creative Arts	Jasmine Hatherill and Nobuntu Lingela
Jenny Torr Prize for Service to the Library	Kaitlyn Knight and Ameera Yacoob
Karen Dudley Design Award	Nobuntu Lingela and Alba Swanepoel
Claremont Rotary Club Prize	Kate Hodgson and Zoe Arenhold
Arderne House Fellowship Prize	Not awarded

Grade 12 Special Awards - 2024

Kirsten Locke Fellowship Award	Leah Faurholm
Sandra Wingfield Fellowship Prize	Emily van Heerden
The Jenna Lowe Trophy	Michaela Edwards
Schönborn Trophy for exceptional achievement	Erin Meyer
Pietas Trophy presented by the Labia Family	Ruth Madonko
Pamela Duff Award for an Enquiring Mind	Cate Lea
The Di van Zyl Award	Maggie Mallinson
Head's Award for for Focused, Consultative Servant Leadership	Taskya Pillay
Head's Award for Consultative and Compassionate Servant Leadership	Zaynah Darsot
Head's Award for Commitment, Authenticity and Dedicated Servant Leadership	Emily van Heerden
Herschel Alumnae Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership	Emily van Heerden
Premier Academic Award - Third place	Zoe Arenhold
Premier Academic Award - Second place (Proxime Accessit)	Leah Josi
The Desmond Loch Davis Award for Dux of the School	Taskya Pillay

Grade 12 Awards for General Academic Excellence

Mia Andrew, Zoë Arenhold, Anna Ashbolt, Catherine Barton, Tia Deliperi, Gabrielle du Toit, Sanaa Ebrahim, Sufiyah Essa, Kate Formby, Amy Gordon, Emma Gordon, Francis Hathorn, Taybah Isaacs, Leah Josi, Kaitlyn Knight, Cate Lea, Ruth Madonko, Maggie Mallinson, Erin Meyer, Emma Naude, Taskya Pillay, Tai Ravat, Ashley Silberbauer, Victoria Van der Watt, Emily van Heerden



PREMIER ACADEMIC AWARDS: Grade 12 Order of Merit

Third place: Zoe Arenhold (left)

Second place (Proxime Accessit): Leah Josi (right)

The Desmond Loch Davis Award for Dux of the School: Taskya Pillay (centre)

Report from the Chair of the HAU

By Karen Meyer (2004)



As my first year as chair of the Herschel Alumnae Union concludes, I am honoured to share a summary of our accomplishments, challenges, and aspirations. Our previous chair, Kristina Miller, left very big shoes to fill and we are grateful for her years of dedicated service and for spearheading so many successful projects and initiatives. The HAU is lucky to still have Kris on the committee as she tirelessly heads the Heritage Centre and Digital Archives portfolio.

As always, our Founder's Day celebrations were the highlight of the year, starting with our 96th AGM. The cocktail party in the Senior School atrium was a chance to gather and catch up before Founder's Day the following day, which included a service at St. Saviour's, the special arch ceremony and school song around the fountain and the HAU Founder's Day lunch in the Mary Jagger Hall. We hosted the Matric classes of 1954, 1964, 1974, 1994 and 2004, and the constant buzz of chatting and reminiscing meant the tours of the school by the Matric girls were almost missed. Each year group regaled us with memories and anecdotes of their time at Herschel which were special to hear.

This year, we met with the Matric class of 2024 in the first term instead of at their valedictory and it was wonderful to meet our next group of Herschel Alumnae Union members. We wish them all the best as they await their final results and look forward to them being part of our Union from next year.

We welcomed two new members to the committee this year: Siobhan Mannion de Esnouf (1978) and Zoë Simpson (2004). Siobhan joins Caroline Isted on the Overseas Branches and Reunions portfolio and Zoë will be handling the Digital Marketing portfolio. Please do follow our [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages to keep up to date with news, events and a bit of Herschel history. We said goodbye to Zanele Ngolonkulu who resigned as treasurer, and we thank her for her time and efforts. Ariyaana Cader has accepted the new role of treasurer going forward.

After a fantastic and well-attended Winter dinner last year, we were devastated to have to cancel this year's event due to low ticket sales. We blame this year's awful Cape winter, as well as the Women's Day public holiday, which meant many people were either hibernating or away. We were sad to miss out on the opportunity to spend time together and raise more money to contribute to the school's Bursary Relief Fund. We look forward to a successful event in early August next year and hope more members will be able to join us for a cosy evening with friends, delicious food, and a talk by one of our alumnae.

We continue to market and sell our Centenary commemorative items and HAU merchandise in order to keep raising money for the Bursary Relief Fund, and hopefully establish the HAU Bursary in the future. Items can be purchased on our website: www.oha100.co.za.

Looking to the future, we are excited for the digital archives to be made public in 2025. This has been a mammoth undertaking, and we look forward to the Herschel community being able to access and enjoy our rich heritage from wherever they

are in the world. Another goal is to set up regular gatherings and reunions elsewhere in the world to better serve our alumnae across the globe. The focus is to start in London early next year and from there spread the model far and wide. Along with this is the aim of setting up an alumnae network of mentors in various global cities for when our younger members graduate and go out into the world - watch this space.

The HAU's overarching vision is to not only preserve the heritage of our school but also build a brighter future for our alumnae community and the students who will follow in our footsteps. We are privileged to be able to contribute at least R30 000 to the school's Bursary Relief Fund per year and would love to do more in supporting the school as well as establishing an HAU Bursary one day. We encourage our members to visit the school when in the area to have a look at our Heritage Centre, as well as to experience the school as it is today and the vision they have for the future. Please contact our secretary, Nikki Turner, via email if you would like to visit or have a tour: hau@herschel.org.za.

Thank you to all the alumnae for their continued support and engagement and we look forward to sharing time together in 2025. My thanks also go to the HAU committee who has worked so enthusiastically and diligently together, especially with me in my first year as Chair. I also thank Herschel's IT team, especially Stuart Levey and Lorenzo Davids, for all their IT help and support. And lastly, to our secretary, Nikki Turner, who so effortlessly keeps the HAU on track.

Ad Dei Gloriam



Founders Day 2024: The arch ceremony and the class of 2004 enjoying lunch in the Mary Jagger Hall.



HAU Committee News

Welcome:

We are excited to welcome Zoe Simpson and Siobhan Esnouf to the committee, you're already adding great value, and we are so grateful for your time.



Siobhan Mannion de Esnouf

I matriculated in 1978. After completing a BA LLB at the University of Cape Town, I moved to Johannesburg, where I served my articles. I continued working there. I met my husband, Patrick, and we married in 1988. We moved to Argentina with his work the next day! We remained in Latin America for the next thirty years, living in Argentina, Brasil and Chile - mostly the latter. Our four children, a son and three daughters, were born abroad.

Patrick and I now live between South Africa and Chile, whilst our children are constantly on the move. When in Chile I was involved with a legal firm for a few years. I was a director of the Institute of British Chilean Cultural Affairs, which had under its auspices the British University. I served as the President of the English Speaking Union.

More recently in Cape Town, I, together with others, was involved with resuscitating the Franschoek Literary Festival and sit on the Board of that. We travel extensively which we enjoy with our family and friends being spread the world over. I like to keep active running when I can and am able!

I am delighted to join the HAU and accept the portfolio of Overseas Branches and Reunions and hope that I can be useful in spreading the Herschelian spirit.

Zoë Simpson (McClarty)



After matriculating from Herschel in 2004, Zoë studied Classical Dance and Human BioScience, followed by a Marketing Diploma at UCT.

She has taken on many different adventures ranging from teaching English in Austria, yachting in the Mediterranean and Caribbean, to acquiring her Yoga Certification in India. Finally ending up in Johannesburg to start her career in Digital Marketing. She moved to Cape Town where she now lives with her husband and their two children, Ivy (age 4) who started at Herschel in pre-Nursery this year and Sebastian (age 2).

Zoë is looking forward to being a part of the HAU Committee and taking on the Digital Marketing portfolio.

Thank You and Farewell:



Huge thanks to Zanele Ngalonkulu for her time as treasurer of the HAU, we so appreciate your efforts.



AGM OF THE HAU

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Herschel Alumnae Union will take place as follows:

DATE: Wednesday 12 February 2025
 VENUE: This will be a virtual meeting using MS TEAMS
 TIME: 17:00
 LINK: The link will be sent out in January 2025
 Requests from members of the HAU for any motion(s) to be placed before the AGM must be emailed to the secretary before 12:00 on Friday 7 February 2025 on hau@herschel.org.za

A G E N D A FOR THE 97th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HERSCHEL ALUMNAE UNION

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

Caroline Herschel Award 2024

This year the Caroline Herschel award, in its 8th year, received 5 nominations from Herschel Alumnae with all 5 nominations accepted.

In 2020, we revised our approach to the award and the voting processes. In previous years the HAU Committee would vote with support of the Heads of the school and the recipient would be announced. In 2022 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 HAU that contained each nominee's inspiring story.

The voting process was opened up to all HAU 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 three nominees (due to a tie) as voted for by the HAU were submitted to the external judging panel. The judges found the process incredibly difficult, commenting that all the finalists were equally worthy of the award.

We are grateful to have had such a difficult choice to make in awarding this prize as it shows the calibre of women in the world that Herschel had a small hand in creating.

Caroline Lucretia Herschel

known as 'Astronomy'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.

Brendalyn Stempel Old Herschelian Bursary

Applications are now open for Grade 8 2026

- The successful applicant must be the daughter of a Herschel Alumna.
- 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."*

The recipient of the CHA Award 2024

This year's winner, as selected by the external judges at the end of October, is **Cheryl Hemingway** (1982). We offer her our sincere congratulations on being chosen as the recipient of the 2024 Caroline Herschel Award.

Cheryl will be invited to accept her award at the 2025 Founder's Day lunch. She will also be invited to speak to the Senior girls about her journey at the Founder's Day Assembly.

When Cheryl started studying medicine at UCT in 1983, she wrote in her year book that she expected to practise as a GP in a small up-country South African town. Instead she is a Paediatric Neurology Consultant leading the Department of Neuroinflammation at one of the world's best known children's hospitals, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital (GOSH) in London and Associate Professor at the Institute of Child Health, University of London.

After graduating from UCT with distinction in both the pre-clinical and clinical years, and as the overall gold medal winner for 1988, Cheryl was awarded a prestigious scholarship to Oxford University, where she read for a BA (Hons) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE). The violence she was exposed to in the trauma units of Frere Hospital as an intern in 1989 in the politically tumultuous Eastern Cape, helped push her towards Paediatric training.

After graduating with her PPE, she stayed on working in Paediatrics at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and obtained her UK Paediatric Specialist qualification (MRCPC), before returning to the newly democratic South Africa to further her Paediatric training at Red Cross Childrens Hospital (RXH) in Cape Town.

She completed her Paediatric specialist exams and training at RXH and subsequently began specialising in Paediatric Neurology. After hearing about a high fat, low protein diet which

could help stop seizures in young people with devastating epilepsies, she started successfully offering the diet to patients at Red Cross. Professor Freeman, the Paediatric Neurologist behind the diet at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, USA heard this and offered her a Roxanne Fellowship to the USA to continue studying with him, so in mid 1999 she left RXH, this time for the USA. The Ketogenic Diet is now recognised as extremely beneficial and used worldwide in most epilepsy centres as a leading alternative to drug treatment for young people with difficult to control seizure disorders.

After her fellowship in the USA, she obtained a Heinz Fellowship from the Royal College of Paediatrics in the UK to further her paediatric neurology training in London, and she continued her specialist training at GOSH. It was while she was here that she met her husband to be, Theo, and also realised that to work as a consultant at GOSH she would need a PhD. In 2001 she started her PhD at Imperial College, London funded by a Wellcome Fellowship, investigating immune mediators of inflammation in infectious brain diseases.

This PhD was to set her future path of establishing at GOSH one of the largest services across the UK and Europe for children and young people with inflammatory brain diseases

such as multiple sclerosis (MS).

Over her 20 years as a consultant at GOSH, she has established herself as a world authority in the field of Paediatric Neuroinflammation. She has, with colleagues, developed new genetic diagnostic tools for children and young people with rare brain disorders and introduced highly effective treatments. Cheryl is the author of over 150 peer reviewed journal articles in child neurology and has written several book chapters. She has also contributed to several television documentaries and podcasts. She is frequently asked to deliver academic lectures around the world in her area of expertise. She is Chair of the UK-Childhood Neuroinflammatory Disorders group and holds a number of leadership roles on International Steering Committees. She is research active, and currently holds a sought after Medical Research Council (MRC) career research award



investigating personalised treatment for paediatric MS. She is the Principal Investigator on a number of national and international trials.

Above all, though, Cheryl is dedicated to providing excellent patient care to all children, not only in the UK but internationally. Africa remains close to her heart. She has always felt the need to invest time and energy into promoting child health in resource poor countries, and with the support of the British Paediatric Neurology Association Charity was instrumental in establishing international Paediatric Epilepsy Training (PET) courses to improve patient care around the world. She was one of 5 UK Paediatric Neurologists to launch the first ever international PET course which was run in Nepal, then was lead on the next course in Myanmar, and over 5 years trained all the Myanmar paediatric neurologists and paediatricians

in three main cities (Yangon, Mandalay and Magway). She has also been on faculty for the PET launch courses in Zambia, Uganda, Cape Town and the Caribbean and continues to both teach and train new UK and international faculty. These highly successful PET courses have now trained over 10 000 healthcare professionals nationally and internationally and are established in over 15 countries around the world.

Cheryl worked throughout Covid as an NHS Paediatrician ensuring that children could always access the healthcare services they needed. She has been actively involved in medical education, and sits on the Royal College of Paediatrics Specialist Accreditation Committee for recruitment and training of UK paediatric neurologists, as she believes passionately in ensuring that the next generation of paediatric neurologists are appropriately trained. She is also Deputy National Training Advisor for Paediatric Neurology in UK.

She remains working full time at GOSH, living in London with Theo, and their children, Jonty and Fleur. Over the next few years she plans to remain at GOSH providing care for paediatric neuroinflammatory patients and continuing her research into the use of new medications for children with MS. She will also spend time further developing the international paediatric epilepsy courses. She enjoys travel, reading and still misses Cape Town and Africa on a daily basis!

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 2024 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

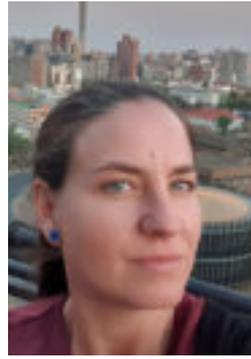
and learners, service-orientated activities and school organisation. Meaningful transformation from old traditions was started and a commitment to this process was undertaken by the school community and governing body.

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.

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 Foun-



ation, which helped her understand the need for professional input in non-profit organisations.

Nerissa started working at forgood.co.za as a community manager in 2013 where she grew into the role of cause and operations manager at SA's biggest online volunteering platform. In 2022 she continued her career working with tech and non-profits by taking on the role of technical analyst at Vera Solutions where she helps build M&E systems for mostly international organisations, using a CRM platform.

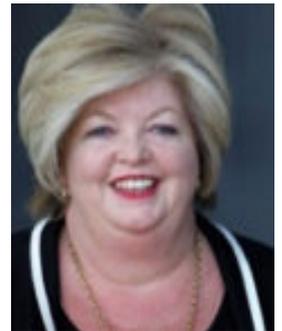
Nerissa is also a Patient Voices Ambassador at Rare Diseases South Africa, where she is focused on helping with awareness of Haemophilia A, a rare genetic bleeding disorder. At home she is mom to Ezra (11) who has Haemophilia A, and Calista (6) who is already training to be a nurse.

Nerissa is passionate about empowering non-profit organisations to fulfil their mission and vision using available resources, especially skilled volunteers and technology.

Bronwen Rohland

Bronwen Rohland has spent her life in the corporate world and is currently Head of Retail for Africa with Tata Consultancy Services which is part of the Tata Group, India's largest multinational business group.

After completing her Bachelor of Social Science at the University of Cape Town, Bronwen joined Woolworths as a trainee manager. She then moved to Pick n Pay Retailers where she held a number of executive leadership positions including that of Chief Information Officer, Supply Chain Director and Chief Marketing Officer. She also led the team that designed, developed and implemented the very successful Smart Shopper loyalty programme that was launched in 2011. A desire to take a study sabbatical, prompted her to leave Pick n Pay in 2013 and attend the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom to study for her Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership. Bronwen is committed to diversity inclusion in the workplace and continues to actively encourage, support and develop women to reach their potential through workplace coaching and mentoring.



Herschel alumnae gathered on the school steps to join the school in singing the school song on Founder's Day.



Gathering in the Mary Jagger Hall before Founder's Day lunch.

Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club

By Daphne Beames

Our Cocktail Club has just celebrated its 23rd anniversary – the time has simply whizzed by and we are literally watching a new generation grow up before our eyes. Caroline Maddock (Sylvester, 1999) sent a photo of her lovely daughter, Victoria, celebrating her First Communion in the US and Angie Montandon (Jacobs, 2003) brought her beautiful baby daughter, Raphaella, to meet us. Our inclusive club was designed to fill a 'gap in the market' and welcomes not only Herschel Alumnae but also their friends and family.

Our club is named after Lady Margaret Herschel (the wife of Sir John Herschel) who arrived in Cape Town in 1834 age 23 and lived on the Feldhausen/Grove/Herschel estate with her growing family (three of her twelve children were born at the Cape.) She was a noted hostess and botanical artist, and also took a keen interest in education.

The Lady Herschel Club has forged friendships across the world and we are in regular contact with friends in far flung places: Siobhan Mannion de Esnouf (from Chile) and her sister, Deirbhle Mannion (from Australia) joined us for our most recent evening in August.

Our 'end of year' celebration at the Mount Nelson's Planet Bar is always a dazzling cynosure and sets the tone for 'end of year' festivities.



Mandy van Dugteren, Kris Miller, Joyce Goldschmidt



Daphne Beames and her daughter, Caroline



Nancy Todd, Alicia Wilkinson



Jeanette Beauchamp, Ruth Butters, Kim Hunter



Shirley Bales, Nina Daniel-Gruber, Leanne Kinghorn, Kyra Schlessbusch, Julia Stallard, Nicki Venn, Claire Reilly

Herschel Heritage Centre

By Kathy Wheeler (Caradoc-Davies, 1973)



Introduction:

2024 has been a year of consolidation for the Herschel Heritage Centre (HHC) and we continue to make good progress towards our goal of making the collection accessible to current and past Herschelians. Our team, consisting of Kristina Miller, Karen Meyer, Nikki Turner and Pamela Duff, continues to play an active and supportive role.

Display of the collection:

A specially designed and constructed display cabinet has been delivered and placed in the HHC. This project, arranged by Kris Miller, has provided a suitable space to display some of the school uniforms and artefacts. The drawers in the bottom half now house documents which have been conserved, and there is also space for books.

The aim is to have rotating displays on a regular basis so that there is always something new and interesting to see, making a visit to the HHC worthwhile.

Karen Meyer has done valuable work introducing the school to Herschel's Heritage. Panels of text and photographs, Uniform Then and Now and Our Buildings, have been installed in the foyer of the Prep and the Senior School library to build interest.

Documentation and digitisation of the Collection:

A database has been obtained for recording the collection so that it can be properly managed. This has been the major project for this year and will continue throughout 2025. The priority has been to enter all the items recorded on the inventory

into the database. The result will be a detailed record of each item, together with a facility to record its management, such as location. As material is digitised it is linked to the database. When the database project is complete, we will know what we have in the collection and where it is.

Knowing what we have is important as we had a request from a researcher from the United States who was interested in Sir John Herschel. We were able to send him details of the Herschel material in the collection by extracting it from the existing inventory.

As good progress is being made, the aim is to produce an on-line exhibition on an HAU website during next year.

The digitisation project continues to progress. Further documents were selected and sent for digitisation.

Conclusion:

It is important that the Herschel collection continues to grow and does not remain static. We are looking for items from your time at Herschel and are also happy to record your experiences. Thank you for all your continued support during this year and please keep in touch.



Heritage Displays in the Prep foyer and Senior School library.



The new display cabinet in the Herschel Heritage Centre.



Minutes of the 96th AGM

AGENDA FOR THE 96th HERSCHEL ALUMNAE UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 14th February 2024

1. WELCOME

Meeting started at 5.03pm.

Welcome to all members present for the 96th AGM. I'm Karen Meyer, the new chair.

Special welcome to classes of the years celebrating their reunions.

Specific years we are welcoming to the Cocktail Party and Founder's Day events are as follows:

1954, 1964, 1974, 1994, 2004 and 2014 (1984 is holding their reunion event at the end of the year)

We are looking forward to all the events this week.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These have been circulated to committee members as per the email sent to all HAU members by the secretary on 2nd February 2024.

Proposed: Kris Miller

Seconded: Lucy Bailey

3. MATRIC RESULTS, STUDENT AWARDS AND NEW HAU MEMBERS

Every year we welcome new members to the HAU, and we hope they enjoy the work we do on the behalf of our alumnae.

We welcomed 77 Matrics from 2023. Others didn't give a reason for not joining, but it has been made clear that the school will help financially with membership if that is the barrier to joining.

Herschel achieved a 100 percent bachelor degree pass rate, the results were sent out along with the AGM minutes, so I won't repeat them now.

3.1. Recipients of special awards:

Old Herschelian Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership: Suzanne Wall

Daphne Beames Aequae Mentis: Esther Cuvees and Megan Harrison

Alicia Wilkinson Silwood Prize for Practical Cookery: Chelsea Thompson

We don't give out bursary recipient names any more due to POPIA. The number of bursaries awarded this year are:

Brendalyn Stempel Bursaries – 12

CV Star Bursaries – 15

Herschel Bursary Fund - 14

3.2. HAU Committee Members in 2023

Tania Johnstone, Lucy Bailey, Pru Crawley, Talysa Rudah and Zanele Ngalonkulu have all resigned from the HAU committee. We thank them all for their service, as some of them served for many years.

4. HAU MATTERS

4.1. HAU Bursary Fund Donations

The HAU usually makes an annual donation to the Bursary Relief Fund donation of R20 000 – which the school in turn then provides a report on the expenditure of. In 2023 we contributed R37 000 which we were really excited to be able to do. We are hoping to update our baseline contribution to R50 000 this year. The generous donations from last year's Winter Dinner helped us to up our contribution, and we hope to do the same this year.

The school is very appreciative of the HAU's continued financial support of our Herschel Bursary fund. The funds have been used to provide for relief for pupils requiring financial assistance. Below is a brief summary of the assistance provided in 2023:

- Books and stationery
- Assistance with various sport and cultural tours
- The matric dance
- HAU subscription

4.2. Caroline Herschel Award

The Caroline Herschel Award 2023 has been awarded to Shona MacDonald, who will receive her award on Friday morning at the Senior School Founder's Day assembly.

You can read more about Shona and her achievements in the 2023 HAU Newsletter sent out in December last year. Please join us at the Winter Dinner where Shona will be speaking, to hear her inspiring story.

4.3. 2023 HAU Newsletter

The newsletter is sent out electronically and can be accessed via this link: [HAU Newsletter 2023](#)

The Herschelian Magazine will be available on the Herschel website after Founders Day.

Hardcopies of the magazine and newsletter can be printed at a cost and collected from the Senior School, if required by members.

4.4. HAU Archives and Heritage Centre

On track to have everything digitized by end of 2025.

There is now a bespoke display cabinet in Heritage Centre which can be viewed on Friday's school tours.

4.5. HAU Communication

Please join the Herschel Alumnae Union Facebook Page and Instagram page, or follow the Herschel Girls School Facebook and Instagram pages to receive notifications of events. This is in addition to the emails sent out by the secretary.

4.6. HAU Database and keeping in contact

Please email the HAU secretary should there be a change to your email address: HAU@herschel.org.za

We rely heavily on Circle Secretaries to inform us of news of their class members. Please remember to email news from September each year which can be included in the Newsletter which is published in December.

News is also shared on Facebook on both the HAU Facebook Page as well as the Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Page.

4.7. HAU Funding and Donations

The HAU relies on membership fees and donations for its funding, and all support is highly appreciated. We are immensely grateful to members who have supported us.

Please note that donations can be made through the school account and for which a S18a tax exemption certification can be issued. The school passes on all of these donations to us.

Should you wish to make a donation to the Herschel Alumnae Union, you may wish to specify: HAU (for Herschel Alumnae Union) or BF (for Bursary Fund) as a reference. Eg: HAU donation J Blogs

Please contact the HAU secretary for bank details on the email above.

In line with inflation, the costs to join the HAU will increase each year. Cost has increased to R1000 per year in line with other alumnae unions. We are, however, committed to keeping these costs as low as possible. Accordingly, HAU membership fees will increase by a nominal percentage each year.

5. OTHER

5.1. Lady Margret Herschel Cocktail Club

The club meets several times a year at various locations across Cape Town and all Herschel Alumnae and friends/relatives are invited. Please join the Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/894720840635588> - or email Caroline (carolineisted@gmail.com) and request to be added to the mailing list: Caroline Isted has taken over from Daphne Beames as contact person for the club.

5.2. Cocktail party

Tickets still available on Quicket or at the door. We have 45 guests attending so far, and look forward to a wonderful evening.

5.3. Other matters to discuss

Who can you mail to get a hardcopy of the school magazine? Please mail Lydia on lititus@herschel.org.za

6. TREASURER REPORT

Zanele has stepped down as treasurer, so we will be sending out a mail soon to find a replacement.

This year's finances were dominated by fund raising largely via the sale of our Centenary items. As such, the increased activity on the bank account continued.

Pleasingly we were able, with ease, to repay the loan from our unit trust investment needed to fund the items. All additional sales generated enabled us to increase the HAU's contribution to the Bursary Relief Fund which is managed by the school. This fund provides very real support to families of pupils on bursaries including contributions to sporting and cultural tours, textbooks, stationary, transport and other ancillary needs.

Notable highlights:

- Cash and cash equivalents at the end of September 23 = R64,037
- Personal Trust investment = R770,132 (as at end Nov 23)
- Membership subscription = R62,560
- Archive project funded by the school = R71,820
- During the year, the committee repaid the loan from the Personal Trust investment in full
- We were able to increase our contribution to the Bursary Support Fund this year

Our thanks go to Sue Cooper and Hazel King of Willow Financial Services for completing our Financial Statement

7. THANK YOUS

- Barbara Vintcent for filling in with the financial report this evening, and all support with HAU accounts.
- Herschel IT dept and Digital Marketing Department for all their support as I learn the new systems.
- Nikki Turner for being organised and efficient, and her hard work on all the Founder's Day events this week.
- Kris Miller for her years of dedication to the HAU and all the help with the handover. I am so grateful.
- Justine MacDonald who is tirelessly working on selling our Centenary merchandise.

Adjourn meeting: 5.18pm

Karen Meyer

HAU Chair

14th February 2024

HAU

Treasurer's Report

By Barbara Vintcent (Interim Treasurer)



To date the main financial objective of the HAU has been to contribute to the Bursary Relief Fund which is allocated by the school to girls requiring financial assistance. The assistance provided includes books and stationery, school tours, matric dances etc.

To that end we are pleased to report that we have managed to increase our annual contribution meaningfully thanks to donations as well as market growth on our investments.

We remain enormously grateful for any additional contributions we receive along the way as well as the support we have seen over the years with our centenary gifts.

Please note that items from our Centenary fundraising remain available on our website (www.oha100.co.za).



*Heather Goedeke, Caroline Herschel Award winner for 2023
Shona MacDonald, HAU Chair Karen Meyer*

Class of 1954 - 70th Reunion

Di Burns's Founder's Day Speech

Seventy years ago I never thought that I would be standing on this stage reminiscing about our experiences all those years ago. This was the only hall and was used for everything. Morning assembly, gymnastics classes, matric dance, prize giving, ballet and orchestra practice, occasionally movies, including the coronation of Queen Elizabeth the Second in 1953, and at weekends the boarders used it for ballroom dancing and roller skating! It has certainly served many purposes.

79 years ago in 1945 I came as an eight year old boarder. The school was only 23 years old. As you know, we recently celebrated the school's Centenary so it has been a very long association for the class of 1954. It was the last year of World War 2 and we were just recovering from rationing in every sense of the word.

The entire school, from kindergarten to matric, was housed in this one building, which was considerably smaller than it is now. There were approximately 200 pupils in the entire school; about 70 of whom were boarders. Some of whom travelled by train from what was then Southwest Africa, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, and we even had one from Bahrein!

We all participated in The Extension Fund with fêtes, plays etc. which was raising money to enable the school to purchase the adjoining private residence called The Hill, which we all know is now the Prep school.

The uniform has scarcely changed over the years. The hem of our school dress had to clear the floor when kneeling, in winter we wore lisle stockings held up by suspender belts. We were not allowed to leave the schoolgrounds without a hat! In summer we wore panama hats and in winter blue velour hats! Our weight and height were checked at the beginning and end of every term and there were daily remedial exercises to correct flat feet and poor posture!

The boarders attended chapel every evening in what is now the matric common room. What is now the chapel was the library, and where the theatre and atrium stand were tennis and netball courts with the Sports centre now occupying the

Games field or "cabbage patch", as it was fondly known. Sport, or as we knew it games, was a compulsory activity every afternoon except Wednesday when it was voluntary. Apart from hockey, netball, tennis and swimming we also played rounders, cricket and lacrosse.

Each class comprised approximately 25 students and of our matric class we have about 12 still living in South Africa. Some of us are here today including our Head Girl Revel Christie who read the lesson in the service this morning. She has come from Johannesburg to celebrate the occasion. Many of us still have close and enduring friendships dating from our school days.

As boarders we slept on open balconies upstairs; the only protection from the elements were canvas blinds that were lowered when it rained and we had to move the beds to avoid getting them soaked. We were allowed a number of Sundays out per term and were allowed visitors on a Sunday afternoon as long as they were family members. In some cases, girls who had boyfriends would acquire many a so-called brother!

Now we focus on the wonderful school that Herschel has become, with all the exciting and challenging opportunities and subjects offered to the students. One has only to look at the outstanding annual matric results, to appreciate the hard-working teaching staff and diligent students.

It's wonderful to see how the school and its leadership has embraced and adapted to the enormous challenges of the 21st century and the digital era, the environment is so very different to 70 years ago. We sat at desks with an inkwell in the corner and wrote in our exercise books with nibs dipped in the ink assisted by blotting paper to mop up the excess ink!

I am fortunate to have had two daughters and currently a grand-daughter enjoying the benefits of the education offered. The old values are still entrenched in the school and we are proud to have been associated with Herschel for so many years. I think it is this privilege of belonging to the Herschel Family that we are most aware of as we look back along the corridor of the past 70 years.



Vicki Paterson, Revel Christie, Grace Smith, Gill de Kock, Di Burns, Jean Carlsson, Betty Casciati, Pam Sinclair



Pam Sinclair, Di Burns, Revel Christie

Class of 1965 - 60th Reunion

Report by Suzanne Williams

It had been 60 years since I left Herschel, and I'd never been back! So, I reckoned it would be now or never, and came over from the UK for our 60th class reunion - the class of '64. And I'm so glad I did.

It was a wonderful day, beginning with a moving Founder's Day service at St Saviour's. The girls sang beautifully, in the choir and individually, and the Chaplain gave a stirring address, a reminder to all of us to use our positions of privilege in the world wisely and compassionately. A few tears were shed during a musical pause to remember those friends no longer with us.

An exuberant mass of singing and dancing girls greeted us when we got back from the church, and the mood of the day was set - an emotional mix of joy and celebration, remembrance, and reconnection. Alumnae from many decades filled the school hall - which my year remembers so well as the gym hall, where, our bottom halves encased in monstrous bloomers like huge blue pumpkins, we clambered up the bars on the wall and trembled before vaulting the 'horse'.

We assembled at our table - Mosa Le Roux (Henderson), Moira Furter (Hennessey), Jean Small, Claire Shortt (Watson), Di Fleck (Cattell), Susie Raath, Mel Serrurier (Stuttaford), Susan Lieber-

man, Penny Whyte (Ismay) and me, Suzanne Williams. It was a treat to see my classmates again - some of whom I had not seen since school - both strange and very familiar. In my absence they had voted me to make the speech, so Mosa (our Head Girl, nogal) plied me with wine, and I wobbled up onto the school stage for the first time in 60 years.

After lunch, a couple of delightful Matrics showed us around the school, which was unrecognisable, with stunning new facilities and an admirable ethos of community engagement - 'Learning to Make a Difference' is the school's great new motto. The following day several of us met again for a jolly lunch at Groot Constantia, joined by Melissa Jesse (Perse). A few of us even said we'd come back again, for the 70th

All in all, it was a touching and rewarding experience - catching up after all the years felt so easy, interesting, and warm. Somehow, for me personally, living so far from everyone, something has settled. Across all that time and our different lives, through our shared time at Herschel, we could connect. I had not expected this - it was an unexpected joy, which is the best kind.

Many thanks to Claire and Penny for bringing us together.



Clockwise from left: Mosa Henderson, Mel Stuttaford, Jean Small, Claire Watson, Suzie Raath, Susan Lieberman, Penny Ismay, Moira Hennessey



Clockwise from left: Penny Ismay, Suzanne Williams, Melissa Jesse, Claire Watson, Moira Hennessey, Jean Small, Mel Stuttaford



Founder's Day service in St. Saviour's.



Reverend Lorna

Class of 1974 - 50th Reunion

Report by Shushy Hugo-Hamman (Fuller)

Our Class organised their reunion over the Founder's Day period in February. Many months were spent trying to trace people and updating email addresses. There were 34 girls who matriculated but I extended the invitation to 49 people. Some of our class only spent a year or two with us, left for overseas or left Herschel for other reasons. Seventeen school friends came to our reunion.

On Thursday evening we met at the home of Shushy Hugo-Hamman (Fuller) for drinks and snacks. It was a wonderfully relaxed occasion with lots of laughter, a few tears, and a feeling of just being happy to be with one another.

On Friday, 10 of us went to the Founder's Day service. In some ways the service has not changed at all but a lot more content is included. It was wonderful hearing solo singers, the marimba band, and an excellent sermon. We walked back to school and one could feel the joy amongst the schoolgirls once back on the school grounds. Singing, dancing and then a long crocodile was formed through which all newbies had

to battle their way. The school song is such a highlight. This part of Founder's Day is so different from our time at school and is a very profound and moving experience for girls going back to Herschel from our time.

Lunch in the hall was excellent. Very loud! There were seven reunions on the go and the speeches were excellent, especially the brilliant speech given by our Head Girl, Gill Austin. We were so proud of her!

On Saturday we met at Dorothy MacGinty (Beukes) home. We all sat at a long table in the garden. A lovely relaxed occasion.

To sum up our reunion I would say that it was a huge success, a happy and relaxed atmosphere and we all just felt comfortable with one another. The 50 years since leaving school just drifted away.

We are planning a big reunion in five years' time. 2029 will be our 55th and we hope that many more friends from overseas will be able to attend.



Back: Liz Jeffrey, Clemmie Robinson, Dorothy Beukes, Gill Austin, Gayle Jooste, Elizabeth Mudge, Shushy Fuller, Sue Le Roux, Gill Reay

Front: Patsy Thom, Francesca Welbore-Kerr, Tori Hau, Annemarie Serritslev



Patsy Thom, Jenny Dickie-Clark, Barbara Ward-Able, Julia Paley, Sue Le Roux, Annemarie Serritslev, Tori Hau, Shushy Fuller, Liz Jeffrey, Gill Austin, Francesca Welbore-Kerr, Gill Reay, Clemmie Robinson, Dorothy Beukes, Cathy Hund, Gayle Jooste



Past and Present.



Class of 1994 - 30th Reunion

Report by Sally Veary

The 1994 30-year reunion coincided with the school's Founder's Day celebrations on the 16th of February 2024, and we had a good turnout at each of the school hosted events – the Thursday evening cocktail party, Friday Founder's Day service, lunch and school tours. There were 31 girls in attendance across the three. It was particularly special to have our Head Girl, Thandi Siebert, joining us from the UK as she is credited with writing the school song 30 years ago. Tamsin O'Hanlon and Sarah Prain also came from the UK, Robyn Kadalie from the US, and Donna Gray from Canada. Gia Crowhurst, Karin Collocot, Nicola Collocot, and Nicola Dryden-Dymond had

a mini-Sydney, Australia reunion over the same weekend so that they could feel a part of the milestone.

On the Saturday following the Founder's Day lunch, we arranged a picnic lunch at Chardonnay Deli Uitsig and the day was spent in a beautiful setting with many girls reconnecting and catching up after many years of not seeing each other. The overwhelming feeling was that it was a special time for all. We really hope to see more girls at the next reunion, and many have arranged for mini get-togethers in the interim.



Gia Crowhurst, Nicola Collocot, Karin Collocot, Nicola Dryden-Dymond



Sam Roman, Kim Jackson, Thandi Siebert, Lindi Le Roux



Thandi Siebert (Head Girl, 1994) saying a few words after the school song that she helped to compose with peers in 1994.

Class of 2004 - 20th Reunion

Report by Karen Meyer

The class of 2004 eagerly awaited our 20th reunion with lots of reminiscing and sharing of old photos on our WhatsApp group started the year before. A few of us were able to attend the cocktail party and the service at St Saviour's which was a lovely start to a special weekend. Singing the school song was a highlight and the words came back instantly, as well as many a tear to the eye. There were 28 of us at the Founder's Day lunch and it was a noisy and fun afternoon catching up with each other. Leigh Macready Hedding made us proud with a lovely recollection of our high school years.

We ended our reunion the next day at Tryn in Steenberg for a fabulous brunch with 38 of us attending. The waitstaff

kindly told us they couldn't believe we were 20 years out of school, which was a great boost to our egos! Lots of bubbly, laughs and memories were shared and we missed those who couldn't make it this time.

The overarching feeling was one of gratitude for the amazing women with whom we shared our formative years, and to Herschel for bringing us together and the education we received. Although many of us have not spoken since matric, the ease with which we could slot right back in to chatting as if we were having brektime on the lawns was incredibly special. We are already looking forward to our 30th and hope to squeeze in a few more in the next decade too.



Tamyan Joseph, Shenagh Bruce, Asanda Maku, Zoë Simpson (McClarty), Karen Meyer, Camilla Owen-Jones (Tait), Melissa Nefdt



Zoë Simpson (McClarty), Jessica Doherty (Collins), Lee-Ann Maughn (De Villiers, Headgirl 2004), Tamyan Joseph, Sarah Girdwood



Crystal Espin, Leigh Macready Hedding, Romy Honneysett, Debby Vella (Goldschmidt)



Asanda Maku, Samantha Watermeyer (Woods), Taz Watson, Nadia Battlemann-Carroll



News from Herschel Alumnae

We thank the class of 1961 for sharing all their news! We'd love to hear from more alumnae next year. Please do send in your news to your circle secretaries or to hau@herschel.org.za by October 2025.

AVERY (MATTHEWS), DIANA (1961) has definitely not moved and will always be staying here. Her house is very small on big grounds. She was always an ardent gardener but sadly has not been able to move around outside without assistance since the beginning of the year. She had a bad fall a couple of days before Christmas last year, due to scoliosis which affected her balance, and now uses a walker. Her partner is a member of the Ford Classic Car Club and they go out on various outings with the club. They love going down to the sea at Blaauwberg to watch the sunset with a picnic and glass of wine.

Her daughter came back from the sea after 24 years and has got engaged and lives very close to her. She feels lucky to have all her children living in the Tableview area only about 15 minutes away from her.

Diana still enjoys cooking and baking, so even though she is slightly disabled, she doesn't let it get her down. In her own words, "I still keep active as that is me!"

CARTER (BAXTER), SAL (1961) has had an uneventful year. The highlight was a trip on Rovos Rail from Cape Town to Pretoria. There were only 32 passengers and only one other South African couple but fabulous food and unbelievably good service. They were bussed for the last part because of problems on the track. But they read a lot and enjoyed doing absolutely nothing for a while.

She also visited her sister Biddy. It was a sad visit as Biddy hasn't improved much from her stroke, now nearly two years ago.

Despite having a perfectly adequate kitchen in their "Vrek - Plek", she and her husband decided to extend it into their rather scruffy and totally useless back yard. This meant moving back to Gilgil, their former home, which they love, but is now old and leaks like a sieve. They are slowly moving furniture back into the very glamorous new kitchen, something which would have been easy ten years ago, but is now a bit of a struggle.

They are blessed with good health apart from the usual old age complaints - David is losing his hearing and Sal is losing her mind, but otherwise all's good.

Her grandson, Luke Carter, has been made Head Boy of Bishops - a great honor.

CATTELL (DEMPERS), HILARY (1961) has spent a lot of time in her garden which gives her endless hours of pleasure and some exercise.

Her eldest grandson, who is a border at Bishops, is about to leave on a school exchange to Sydney. He will board there but will spend weekends with a lovely family whose son was on exchange here!

Every second Wednesday some of the class of '61 meet at Anne Steen's house, and it's always good to see Anne Fauville, Carol Baker, Shona Jackson, Celia de Villiers, Les Brauer, Lavinia Ellis and Christine Hawson. They are a delightful happy and chatty bunch.

She meets as often as possible with Jennifer Brimble, for a coffee and do a lot of catching up!

Won't talk about health! At our age may take a day to tell you!

COBLEY (LIEBERMANN), GILL (1961) can share some good news, that in the last twelve months she has been able to bring about a major improvement in the life of her daughter, Sarah.

Sarah has a cognitive disability. She can care for herself and holds a housekeeping job in a local retirement home. But she needs continuing financial, practical, and emotional support. This year they were able to buy a small, one-bedroom apartment for her in a brand-new, energy-efficient condominium located within walking distance to her place of work. She moved into the apartment together with her two beloved cats. She loves it there and seems to be much happier and increasingly independent as a result. They have planned for Sarah's long-term assistance, with a trust to take care of her when Gill and family no longer can. It's been a huge relief.

It's getting to be hibernation time in Canada! Five months of sub-zero temperatures lie ahead. At these times she rather wishes they still lived in the Southern Hemisphere.

DUFF, PAMELA (Past Head 1986 – 1997) celebrated her 90th birthday this year with not one, but two birthday parties.

Her beloved daughters, Fiona (who taught Biology at Herschel), and Shelagh, made sure that it was a stylish celebration. Shelagh flew in from KwaZulu Natal to join the festivities. Fiona liaised with Helen Botha (Phys.Ed teacher) to invite over twenty of Mrs Duff's former Herschel colleagues to meet at Moyos Restaurant in Kirstenbosch to celebrate with a birth-



Bridget Cochrane (granddaughter and Herschelian), Shelagh Clouston (daughter), Pamela Duff, Fiona Cochrane (daughter and former Herschel biology teacher)

day breakfast. It was very special to see so many who made the effort to be there, including June Kurtz (English teacher) who came from Port Alfred, and Linda Mallon (formerly Crutchley). It was also wonderful to see Bruce Probyn (former Head) and Bob Commins (Chaplain). And, a quick visit by Andrew Scott took Pamela by surprise.

Rosie Taylor (former Herschel teacher) sang a tribute in her inimitable way, and Rev. Bob Commins read a poem he had specially written for the occasion. There was much laughter and happy reminiscing as well as two birthday cakes!

News from Herschel Alumnae



Bruce Probyn, Pamela Duff

Then on the 7th (her actual birthday) they celebrated at Bridgewater Manor in Somerset West, with twenty-one of her good friends. Her daughters made the occasion extra special: Fiona put together a slide show of her life, and Shelagh read an accompanying explanation. And, there were two more birthday cakes!

She feels truly blessed to have such wonderful former colleagues, friends, and especially to have two such special daughters. Time does fly

by - life is precious – enjoy every moment.

DU PREEZ, NATALIE (2000) and Paul Tselentis were delighted to welcome their son, Theodore Pierre Tselentis, on 12 September 2024. "Teddy" arrived at 8:22am at St Mary's Hospital, London, weighing in at 3.6kg. Big sister Izzy and brother Benji were equally thrilled about the news, and the whole family is enjoying the beautiful chaos of three under 4.



EVERETT (THOMPSON), MARGIE (1961) has had a bad year in some ways as she had a bad fall in Canada when she was visiting her son and cracked one of her vertebrae! When she got home, she had an op, though she can still feel a lot of pain at times. But she can go to gym 3 times a week and her personal trainer's programme helps a lot. She still lives in her lovely home in Durbanville, which gives her much pleasure.



FERGUSON, PAMELA (1961) has had a busy 2024 with both ups and downs. She and her spouse Bernadette ("Doogle"), continue their ongoing activism both local and upholding the Palestinian cause globally.

She donated her teaching archives to the Stark Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus - a monumental task but deeply gratifying. She is completing book number 12, an anthology on PTSD/PTSS/PTSI that she is co-editing. After that she will continue to tackle book number 13, her memoir.

Pam and Bernadette are blessed with mainly good health, but recent sciatica has meant she's now a "little old lady" with a stick, walking a third of her usual daily mileage. Bernadette was in a road accident this year but thankfully she wasn't seriously injured, though their car was totalled.

The ups outdo the downs. It's been a good year.



FISHER (WARES), LESLEY (1961) is still very much enjoying living in the Deep South – in Simonstown. The views of the sea and the mountains are fabulous and are always different. Having most amenities on their doorstep is such a bonus.

At last she got together with Phillipa Harvey (Ward) in July 2023, for lunch at Phillipa's apartment. Phillipa came to meet her at Wimbledon station to ensure she did not get lost. She was an excellent cook and had gone to a lot of trouble for lunch, making a starter, a delicious hot chicken dish with vegetables, and a decadent desert. And, of course, a sherry to start followed by a glass of wine.

Lesley admired Phillipa's determination to keep as fit as possible, walking everyday although she was in pain. They had planned their next get together to be July 2024. Sadly, their date for July 2024 will not happen, as Phillipa passed away, but Lesley is so grateful for that special lunch together with lots of laughter and happiness.

HANSEN (SIMPSON), HILARY (1961) is starting to look for a retirement place to move to after living in her home for nearly 60 years. She's had a few health issues, with melanoma and Covid being the major ones. After having Covid vaccines 3 weeks ago, she now has Covid!

They had plans to go on their annual cruise up the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta, to anchor off an island. It's a beautiful area, with nature all around. Sadly, these plans were cancelled this year. Hopefully, next year they'll be able to go back there.

Elections are coming soon, and Hilary is waiting with trepidation for the outcome. Not just for the outcome, but also for the process. She prays it will be calm.

They went to UK for 3 and a half months to stay near family in Surrey. There were several trips around the country, including a week in Edinburgh where she met up with friends and family. She has settled back into life in Simonstown with family, friends, golf, Pilates, swimming in the sea and walking on the beach.

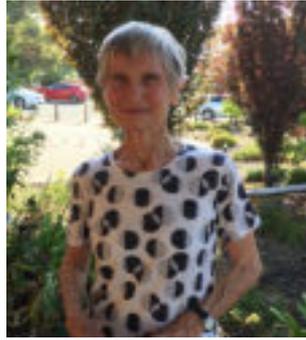
NOBLE, FIONA (1961) feels 2024 has raced away, although as usual it has been a busy year. She visited the UK in May and June last year, to do some walking in Cornwall, and in Scotland, and also had 3 days visiting Phillipa Harvey (Ward) in Wimbledon. It was so good to talk face to face again, after a gap of four years, mostly because of Covid. She was her usual gracious self, but little did we know it was our last time together.

Various activities keep her busy – watching two of her grandchildren play netball and water polo; bike riding with a 12 year old who is now faster than her, or going out for a meal with one of the older ones – they had Yum Cha which was delicious. These precious school years will disappear all too quickly, as their ages range from 12 to 17. Fiona goes to an active gym class, and gets out on her bike, so she can just about manage to keep up with the younger ones!



News from Herschel Alumnae

Years ago, she started playing hymns at school, for those daily assemblies we had in the gym. The habit stuck and she still plays them today, on the piano, for an older congregation. Although now they prefer to sing at a lower pitch, so Fiona transposes the music. Something learnt at school more than 60 years ago!



Apart from a couple of interruptions, Covid being one of them, it's been an okay year. She hopes to keep it that way into the new year.

ROBERTS (CULLEY), VERONICA (1961) went to India last December to join a group of 10,000 meditators for 2 weeks.



Afterwards on the way to the airport to start a tour of southern India she sat near a woman coughing her head off. The tour worked out very well, although Veronica caught the cough. It lasted about 100 days! She saw loads of overcrowded temples with their miles of queues, and finally relaxed in a beautiful Ayurvedic resort in Kerala at the end of the tour.

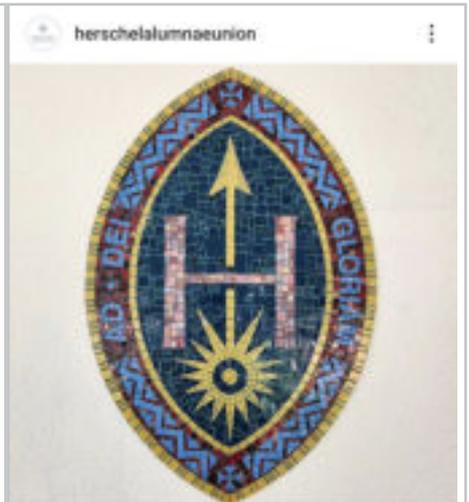
She's also been to France and Denmark a couple of times this year where she continues with her Vedic studies, dancing, and dance rehearsals. She's had fun performing with youngsters in their early 20s and didn't feel the age difference!

From HAU's Social Media

We hope to increase our reach and engagement on our social media pages in order to keep our alumnae up to date with news and events and to connect everyone by sharing Herschel's history. We would also love to showcase our alumnae's successes, achievements and businesses. If you would like to share any notable news of your own (awards, achievements, being featured on TV or radio etc.), share and advertise your business, or if you would like to nominate a fellow alumnae, please click on [this Google Form link](#). It can also be found in our Instagram and Facebook Bios.



herschelalumnaeunion
Liked by honeyqueen_13 and others
herschelalumnaeunion Happy Women's Day to all our Herschel Alumnae dating back to the first day of school on 16 February 1922!!



herschelalumnaeunion
Liked by pipermozley and others
herschelalumnaeunion The Herschel Badge: the school badge appeared for the first time in 1934 on the hatband and the new blazer. Miss Robinson, the second headmistress requested permission from Sir Herschel's grandson to include part of their family crest in the badge. It includes the Herschel H and the symbol for Uranus, which is on the family coat of arms as designed by Mr Groves of the Michaelis Art School.
This mosaic was gifted to the school by the Grade 7's of 2022 and is situated at the entrance to the old school hall.
#herschelgirlschoobadge #herschelgirlschoo #schoolbadge
13 September



herschelalumnaeunion
Liked by lovelylifesa and others
herschelalumnaeunion The HAU celebrated a lovely 102nd Founder's Day with a St Saviour's service, arch ceremony for new students and staff, the school song around the fountain and concluded with a lunch for alumnae in the Mary Jagger.
Despite the Founder's Day procedures being held at the school in Cape Town, international alumnae didn't let that stop them and found a way to celebrate together!
20 February



herschelalumnaeunion
Liked by 12
herschelalumnaeunion Herschel as it looked at the beginning of 1922. Previously a single story house, the building had to be enlarged to become a practical venue for a school and was converted into a double story with five bedrooms on the upper level and eleven rooms on the lower level.

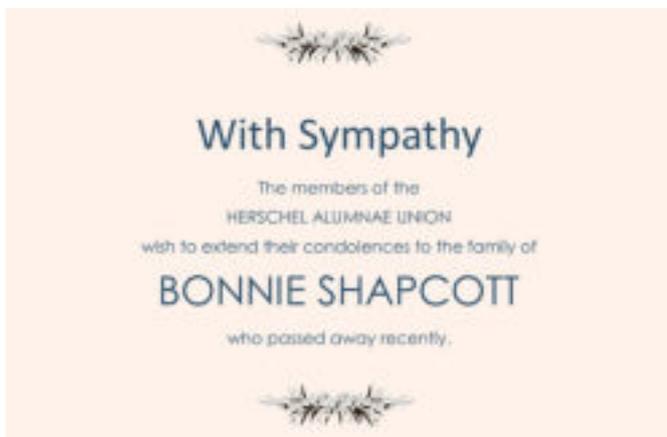
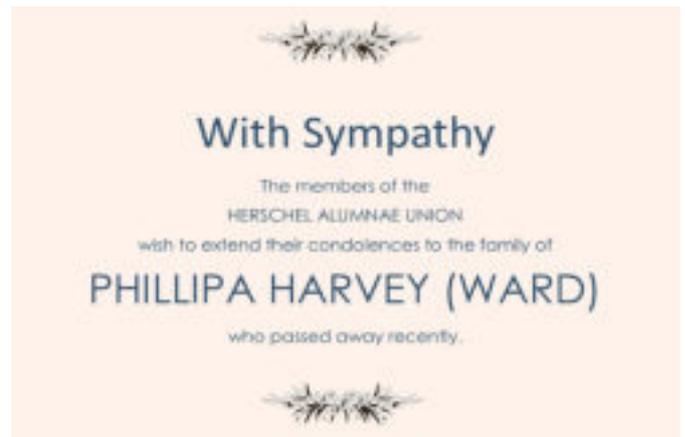
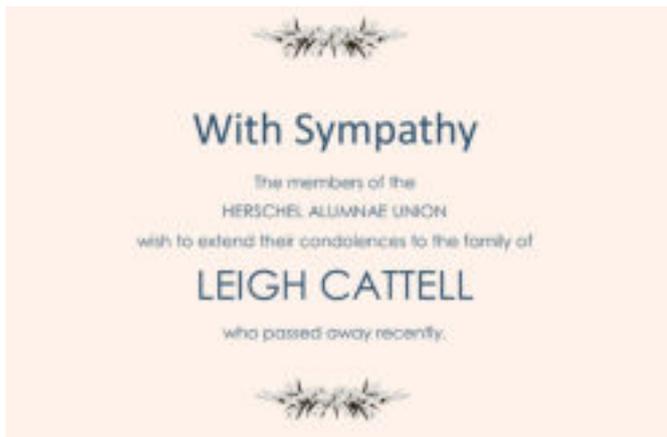


[Herschel Alumnae Union](#)

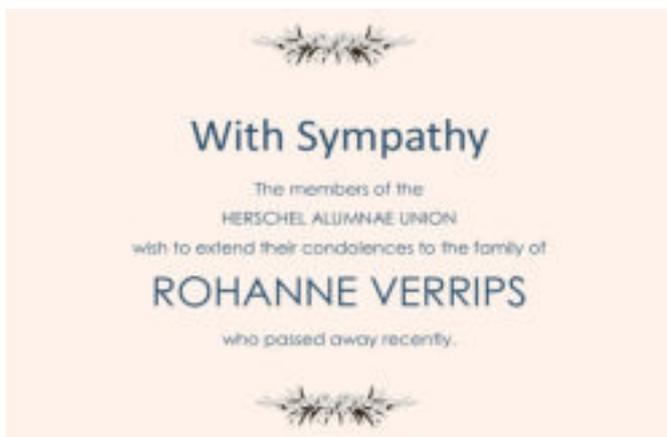


<https://www.instagram.com/herschelalumnaeunion>

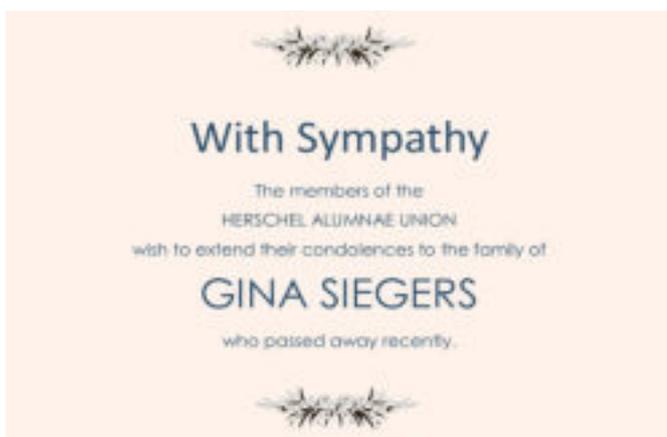
In Memory Of



Phillipa Harvey (Ward) (1960 & 1961)
21.08.1943 - 10.02.2024



We lost our beloved "Pills" (1960 and 1961) a few short days after hospitalization in London earlier this year. Phillippa enjoyed an eclectic life - she moved to London in 1966 and completed a Cordon Bleu Course, then moved to Hong Kong with her husband, Peter Harvey, for a few years before returning to London in 1974. Later, she moved to Johannesburg where, in her own words, she tied on her apron and, "cooked madly to put two daughters through university," before they all returned to the UK. She retired in Wimbledon to be close to her daughters and grandchildren. She kept in close touch with several of us in the classes of 1960 and 1961 and will be greatly missed. (Fergie recalls endless games of tennis with her best buddy "Pills" and Saturday afternoon movie outings in Cape Town).



In Memory Of

Leigh Cattell (Duffett, 2000)
12.08.1982 – 23.11.2023



The world lost one of its most beautiful souls, and heaven certainly gained an angel. Leigh, or Duffy as she was known by so many, was taken far too soon and has left a gaping hole in so many lives. She was a woman who was always the first to say yes, loved an adventure, focused every day on love, kindness, laughter and fun! She had the ability to light up a room with her effortlessly cool style, trademark bright colours and warmth, and yet never wanted to be the centre of attention. She loved everyone around her passionately, her family meant the world to her, her friends were a priority - she had the ability to make you feel like you were the most important person, gave you her time, energy and love and always wanted to help – and this she did to so many.

Leigh lived a very full life, even if far too short. Her amazing creativity, artistic and sporting talents were clear right from school days as so many of us witnessed. She continued to Stellenbosch University and then ventured to London where she immersed herself in all that the city had to offer. London always had a very special place in her heart, but Cape Town was where she belonged, it was home, and it was the perfect location for the beautiful outdoor lifestyle she craved. On her return to South Africa, she kicked off her career at Woolworths where she was instrumental in driving the success of their JT-One brand. More recently, she was known for her successful entrepreneurial ventures and really found her calling in interior design. Combining her love for children and her amazing style, she built an incredible business called Simply Home, which transformed so many spaces into something vibrant, fun and bold, and safe, fun and happy places for kids. Her style will live on in so many of our homes and will continue to be a reminder of the talented vital force behind those designs.

Leigh had a work ethic that nobody could rival, her organisational skills were her super-power and she believed in her decisions without wavering. Because of all of this, in her 41 years on this earth, she accomplished more than most people do by the time they reach double that age. She knew how to make everything special, and how to make everyone feel special. This was a great gift which so many of us benefited from. Leigh left an incredible legacy behind by taking on a project to revamp the teenage boys' dormitory and living areas at Marsh Memorial Children's Home. She transformed their space into something that they could be proud of, and a space which they wanted to spend time in. Her aspiration was to continue this project, and, in her absence, her family and friends are ensuring the amazing work she started continues.

More than anything, Leigh was the most incredible mother and wife – her 2 daughters, Sophie (Grade 4) and Ella (Grade R), were the centre of her world and she so loved watching them both embark on their journeys at Herschel, reconnecting with so many Old Herschelians as fellow parents of the prep school. Andrew was her soul mate, a match made in heaven, and together they lived a beautiful life - they were always leading the pack towards the next fun activity, always out and about on family adventures and always laughing (or cackling) together. They maintained this ability to laugh together right to the end and it is something that we will forever admire. Leigh had this amazing approach to life thanks to her wonderful upbringing – her parents, Jonathan and Diane, always taught her and her beloved brother, Simon, to live life to the full – and she loved how close they were as a family unit for all her life and how much they could laugh, love and share together.

Our darling Duffy, our Leigh – not a day goes by where you aren't in our thoughts. There are reminders of you everywhere; a million moments we want to share with you; situations where we know you would have been the first to call; and most of all, moments with your beautiful family that we know you would have given anything to have shared. You were one of a kind and a quiet but powerful force of nature. We miss you so much. We are eternally grateful for how much you enriched our lives.

We can only promise to always try and be more like you. Thank you for making each of us a better version of ourselves because of your love and all we have learnt from you. Thank you for covering us in sunshine. We promise to always be there for Sophie and Ella and to share the memories of the beautiful mum they have... and to cover them in sunshine forever. We love you Duffy, xxx

Sam Risely (See) & Sue Wessels (Hacker) on behalf of all those Herschel Alumnae who were touched by our beautiful friend.





The whole school singing the school song on Founder's Day.

The Grade 1s in their birthday crowns.



**Thank you to all Herschel Alumnae 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 HAU Secretary,
Nikki Turner - hau@herschel.org.za**