

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 94<sup>th</sup> OLD HERSCHELIAN ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS AT 17:30 ON WEDNESDAY ON 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**1. WELCOME**

Ms K Miller welcomed all members present.

Apologies were received from: Patsy Louw, Kate Carkeek, Brendalyn Stempel, Luanna Shonfeld, Phillipa Harvey, Sally Silberbauer, Gorry Bowes-Taylor, Joy Howes, Lucy Bailey, Bridget Cockburn, Lucinda Suckling.

A special welcome to the reunion years we are welcoming to the Cocktail Party and Founder's Day events are as follows:

1961, 1971, 1991, 2001, 2006 which are reunion years from 2021.

1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 which are the current reunion years.

We will be welcoming Old Herschelians who are able to attend the Carnival next week on Friday and Saturday. The OHA suggested to Herschel that they delay their year-end carnival until February so that we could extend the Centenary Founder's Day celebrations to include the Carnival. We are pleased that OHs have been included in the invitation to attend this exciting event.

**2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Unconfirmed Minutes of the AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were emailed to Old Herschelians by the OHA secretary on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Acceptance of the Minutes were proposed by: Ms B Vintcent, and seconded by: Mrs J Goldschmidt.

**3. MATRIC RESULTS, STUDENT AWARDS AND NEW OHA MEMBERS**

Congratulations to the 2022 Matrics on their exceptional results. The NSC results were sent out by the school to all in the OHA database so I won't repeat them here. Details of the distinctions achieved by the Matrics, etc were included in the letter.

Special mention must be made that, at the WCED Matric Awards ceremony at the premier's residence on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022, Herschel received the award for first place in the NSC examinations for the WCED.

Jessica Prevost also received an award for top achiever in mathematics (shared) and excellent pupil achievement in WCED. Congratulations to Jessica and her mother, Tamlyn who, until recently, was a member of the OHA Committee.

**3.1 Recipients of special awards:**

The Old Herschelian Award for Service, Loyalty and Leadership: Shannon Pitman – one of the Head Girls in 2021 - in recognition of her commitment and devotion to Herschel.

Details of all other awards are listed on page 94 of the 2021 Herschelian magazine which can be accessed via <http://www.herschel.org.za/senior/publications/>

Congratulations to the above recipients.

**3.2 New OHA Members in 2022**

Every year we welcome new members to the Old Herschelians' Association and we hope they will enjoy their membership and the work the association does on the behalf of all OHs.

All 99 Matric students were invited to join the Association. This year, 6 students opted out of membership.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our newest members, Olivia Sieff, who lost her life in a tragic accident earlier this year. A memorial service was held at Herschel the day following the accident. Olivia will be remembered during the Founder's Day events.

#### **4. OHA MATTERS**

##### **4.1 OHA Bursary Fund Donations**

The committee of the OHA has, during the past years, focussed on the establishment of the digital archives, inventory, the Herschel Heritage Centre and working towards the archival archive goes live for the Centenary celebrations.

The OHA 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 2021, due to the costs of digitisation, etc we were not in a financial position to do so and so there is no report back on this.

##### **4.2 Caroline Herschel Award**

Caroline Herschel Award – awarded to Susan Sonnenberg who will receive her award on Friday morning at the Senior School assembly. Please read more about Susan on <https://www.diemersfontein.co.za/show-your-support-with-myschool/>.

##### **4.3 2021 OHA Newsletter**

The newsletter is sent out electronically and can be accessed via the Herschel website on this link: <http://www.herschel.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/OHNewsletter-2020-Nov-v7.pdf>

Ms K Miller thanked Mrs J Goldschmidt for designing this publication.

The Herschelian Magazine is also available via this link:

<http://www.herschel.org.za/senior/publications/>

Hardcopies of the magazine and newsletter can be printed at a cost if so required. Old Herschelians are reminded to send in their personal news to [hau@herschel.org.za](mailto:hau@herschel.org.za) in September and October for inclusion in the end of year OHA Newsletter. A reminder email will be sent out so please respond by sending in your news to make the newsletter more interesting.

##### **4.4 OHA Archives and Heritage Centre**

We have spent the previous 5 years working hard to digitise the archive material which was previously housed in the Head's house which posed as a mini museum. The material has now all been moved to a classroom in what was previously the Art block. Great trouble has been taken to make this venue a welcoming place to visit. All Old Herschelians are invited to visit and enjoy browsing through the photographs and more treasured items we have on display.

I wish to thank our Doctor of Museology, Kathy Wheeler (Caradoc-Davies) Class of 1973, for her work on inventorying all the historical artifacts in the Herschel archive. Dr Wheeler helps on an ongoing basis with the Heritage work and the archiving process.

##### **4.5 OHA Communication**

Additionally, the OHA are advised via Facebook of all school events at which they are welcome, which include but are not limited to:

- The Gala Dinner – this year on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- The annual exhibition of Matric art

- School plays and productions

Please join the Old Herschel Facebook Page to receive notifications of these events and ensure your email addresses are up to date with the Secretary to receive the newsletters and mailers.

#### **4.6 OHA Database and keeping in contact**

We have been working hard to make the Old Herschel section on the new Herschel website as informative as possible and easy to navigate. Please always ensure that you notify the OHA secretary should there be a change to your email address by emailing: [hau@herschel.org.za](mailto:hau@herschel.org.za). Please watch out for notices informing OHs of events and celebrations in August 2022 – which is Women’s month – and will involve Old Herschelians, their careers, women’s rights, empowerment, gender-based violence, etc. It is important that we are able to reach you when we invite OHs to participate in these celebrations.

The Lady Margaret Herschel Cocktail Club has a Facebook page which is administered by Mrs Daphne Beames who is a cornerstone of Herschel. Old Herschelians and friends are invited to join events organised several times a year at venues around Cape Town. Please contact Daphne on [gilespie@iafrica.com](mailto:gilespie@iafrica.com) to be added to her database.

#### **4.7 OH Funding and Donations**

The OHA relies on membership fees and donations for its funding. At present we receive most of our financial support from the school, so all additional support is highly appreciated and invaluable in allowing us to continue with our Heritage work.

In line with inflation, the costs to attend certain OHA events will increase each year. We are, however, committed to keeping these costs as low as possible. Accordingly, OHA membership fees will increase by a nominal percentage each year.

Should you wish to make a donation to the Old Herschelian Association, you may wish to specify: OH (for Old Herschelian) or BF (for Bursary Fund) as a reference. Eg: **BF Joan Bloggs**

Please note that donations can be made through the school account which the school passes on to us. This means that the school can issue the donor with a Section 16A Tax Exempt certificate.

### **5. OTHER**

#### **5.1 Cocktail party**

We are pleased to announce that we will host over 130 Old Herschelians at the Cocktail Party tomorrow night, which is a very impressive turnout. This year, the event will take place at the Prep School so as to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the family picnic which is being held on the Astro. We will also be selling the OH Centenary commemorative items at the cocktail party.

Ms K Miller thanked Mrs J Goldschmidt for all her efforts in organising the Founder’s Day events.

### **6. TREASURER REPORT**

Ms B Vintcent to give us a brief overview of the OHA accounts for 2021. Attached, please find the Treasurer’s Report. We thank our Treasurer, Ms B Vintcent, for administering our financial affairs during the past year. This has been a very busy year given the Centenary and Digital Archive work.

### **7. THANK YOUS**

- Ms B Vintcent for her management of the OHA accounts during the past busy year.
- The Herschel IT department and Digital Marketing department for working with the OHA so closely. Ms H Morusi has liaised with us to design the new OHA page on the Herschel

website. We hope this website will go live in the next couple of weeks. Mr S Levey and his IT team have assisted us tirelessly. They recently agreed to film our Recollection speeches at the Founder's Day lunches – so we will be able to share this recording with you.

- The Centenary Committee for procuring the memorabilia which is available for sale on [www.oha100.co.za](http://www.oha100.co.za)
- Mrs J Goldschmidt – for being the heart of the OHA.

Ms K Miller invited questions and comments.

Mrs J Goldschmidt brought to the attention of the OHA the huge amount of work that Ms Miller does in the running of the OHA, the digitisation of the archives, the planning of the Centenary events, etc.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 18:00.



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KRISTINA MILLER  
CHAIR – HERSCHEL ALUMNA UNION

22 February 2022

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PROPOSED BY

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SECONDED BY