

# Report from the Chairman of the OHA

By Kristina Miller



This year brought with it a year of firsts. We were forced to cancel Founder's Day celebrations and award Joan Smith the Caroline Herschel Award virtually via a MS Teams call! A sad 'first' this year was the cancellation of the annual Winter Dinner in the 3rd term, but a fantastic first we can all celebrate is the realisation of years of hard work by the OH Centenary Committee and the launch of the OHA100 website!

For the first time the OHA boasts its own website, albeit a temporary one, stocked with wonderful items in celebration of the Centenary in 2022. One final wonderful first was the virtual OHA fundraiser launched in July in support of our Archives Digitalisation project which reached its R55 000 target within three months, all thanks to generous Old Herschelians around the world – truly heart-warming.

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

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

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

Please visit this link to view the recording of assembly.

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



Joan Smith (Waring) - Class of 1966

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

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

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

The Committee of the OHA would like to thank

DIANA BURNS (DICEY)

for her enormous contribution to the OHA.

Di served on the committee as secretary from 1978 to 2010 and, thereafter, as treasurer until 2019 when her daughter, Lucy, took over. Di resigns from the committee after 40 years of service. We are all deeply grateful to you, Di, for your incredible contribution to the OHA.

Enjoy your retirement!



The Committee of the OHA would like to thank

TAMLYN PREVOST (NEE MCKEAG)

for serving on the Committee since 2013.

Tammy will continue to be the Circle Secretary for the Class of 1992 who are due to celebrate their 30-year reunion next year, during the centenary celebrations.

Thank you, Tammy, for your contribution to the OHA.



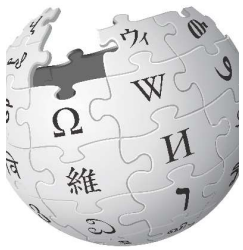
For those of you who aren't aware, we have had a Herschel Archives project on the go for about four years. This has involved an immense amount of work by many individuals and included our relocation of the archive collection to our new home in the old music block, which has proudly been named the Herschel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

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

The school is about to launch their revamped website and, as part of this, the OHA has prepared a new look and feel web area. This will also ensure that all relevant and necessary information that the OHA members need from time to time is available on an ongoing basis. The Digital Archive will also be

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

We are looking for volunteers to support the OHA on the "Wikipedia Project". This work will involve creating the content and links to everything Herschel and OHA-related so that when a Google or Wikipedia search is done on the internet, all interesting and relevant information can be found easily. Please contact Kris Miller should you have any Wikipedia experience and be willing to volunteer a few hours a month to support us with this work.



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

Membership not only ensures you receive all news and updates from both the school and the Old Herschelians' Association, but also ensures you are included in our database, that you receive invitations to all events – including attendance at all Founder's Day lunches free of charge. Non-members are welcome at all events but would be required to pay a visitor's fee to attend lunch on Founder's Day.

You can read more about the Centenary Celebrations in this

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

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

The OHA Committee has worked hard this year on the various projects and workstreams mentioned above and special thanks need to go to Joyce Goldschmidt who has brought her passion and perfectionism to the role of Secretary in the past two and half years – I honestly don't know what I, or the Old Herschelians, would do without her. Joyce innovates and problem-solves in ways that make us all better, and when not using her amazing skills to design and collate this newsletter and many other pieces of media, she has been known to roll up her sleeves and get gardening the HHC courtyard garden. One day when I die and go to heaven (I hope!), I will know I am in the right place because Joyce will be there with a cup of tea and our favourite heart-shaped biscuits.

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

Ad Dei Gloriam.

Kristina Miller  
OHA Chair



*Matric Art Exhibition 2021*