



## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30 No. 3  
August 2019

*This newsletter is published  
four times a year*

### OSALL

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## EDITORIAL

From the Chair:

The AGM has come and gone, for those that managed to join us, thank you. Special thanks to Lexis Nexis, Amanda Franken and her Team and to PWC for allowing us into their beautiful building. It is always a challenge to get a place to host our events and we welcome all invitations. We are glad to welcome 2 additional members to our committee: Patricia Makhoba (NRFSA) and Yani Gaba (ENSAFRICA). They will assist the current Exco with the workload to ensure that we try by all means to meet our members expectations.

Reports were presented at the AGM and are available on our website <https://www.osall.org.za/>. Patrick Bracher from Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa, has been awarded an Honorary Membership Certificate for working tirelessly on our constitution in ensuring that the document is in line with OSALL'S mission statement. An electronic copy will be sent out soon affording all paid up members to make comments, please do so.

In this edition, we have a tribute to our retired Law Librarian – we wish them an enjoyable retirement.

Let's keep in touch: [chair@osall.org.za](mailto:chair@osall.org.za)

Karabo

It is with much sadness that we say good bye to Marina Rubridge as our Secretary; we wish her all the best!



## News

### Paying tribute to retired Law Librarians

**DIANA SHIELD**

**CHIEF LIBRARIAN, JOHANNESBURG BAR LIBRARY**

*by Lydia Craemer*

Diana started off her library career as an indexer for the Johannesburg Public Library. She then transferred to the Library serving the Johannesburg Municipality, which is situated in the Civic Centre in Braamfontein. This was her first sojourn in a law library. She resigned from the City of Johannesburg's employ in 1999, with a view to taking "early retirement". She was then involved in a number of freelance projects. She was at Edward Nathan Sonnenberg on contract for a short while and was then approached on two occasions by the Johannesburg Bar Library for assistance.

Her first project at the Bar Library was to move the bulk of the Johannesburg Bar Library infrastructure and stock to the new premises in The Chambers Building in Sandton, from Schreiner Chambers in the Johannesburg CBD. Her second stint at the Bar Library involved filling the role of Deputy Bar Librarian when Joan Laithwaite took ill and was unable to fulfil her responsibilities. In 2003, the post of Chief Librarian became vacant and Diana was approached to fill the post. She took up the post, and was the Chief Librarian of the Bar for 16 years until her retirement at the end of July 2019.

Diana is emigrating to the UK, to be with her children and grandchildren. She is looking forward to becoming a lady of leisure, twenty years after initially wishing to do so!

**OLWYN GARRATT**

**RETIRED LIBRARIANS DON'T ACTUALLY RETIRE:**

*by Selma Savitz*

I have been asked to write an article on the theme of retired librarians, starting with Olwyn Garratt. In fact, most librarians do not actually retire, but go on to do something else or carry on as before.

Olwyn Garratt is no exception. When I asked her for information about herself, she sent me her bio. It is so well written, and so interesting, I felt it would make a better article than anything I could say.

This is what she told me:

I was born in Kimberley but I did all my schooling and under-graduate studying in Johannesburg. I trained as a high school teacher by way of a UED at the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal but even then I was drawn to library work and I began studying for Unisa's Higher Diploma in Library Science

while working as a teacher-librarian at Parktown Girls High. I married, moved to KZN and took off a few years when our two children were pre-schoolers. During this time I undertook a few locum jobs at public libraries in Uvongo and Pinetown but when I was ready to get into the job market again I found work as a teacher-librarian at Marist Brothers, St Henry's College, Durban, where I remained for 12 years.

The family moved to Cape Town and I undertook a voluntary audit of library and information resources at the Two Oceans Aquarium. I decided not to go back into schools' work and through a contact at the Aquarium I found and joined the Western Cape's Special Libraries Interest Group (SLIG), where I was introduced to the world of business and commerce. I found locum work with Arthur Anderson and was introduced to the law firm which is now Fairbridges Wertheim Becker. When a position came up at Fairbridges I was taken on in a full-time capacity and remained there for 11 years. It was during this time that I was introduced to OSALL and a professional community from whom I learnt so much.

Cape Town special and law librarians used to meet fairly regularly, which is how I came to know Daphne Burger, Diana Riley and Tanya Hubbard.

My marriage collapsed and I realised I needed to upskill myself. I registered for the Post-Graduate Diploma in Information Management from RAU (now UJ), which in 1999 was the only university offering such an online course. On the basis of my results I was awarded a bursary by the university to continue my studies. I was awarded a Masters degree in Information Science *cum laude* for my thesis 'Accountability and demonstration of the value of information services in South African law firms'. The raw material for my research came from generous OSALL librarians in Johannesburg's leading law firms, assistance for which I will always be grateful.

On the back of newly developed skills and the resulting publications I was awarded an IALL bursary to attend a conference held at Yale and Harvard in 2002. In 2003 Daphne and I were on the local organizing committee for the 2003 IALL Conference in Cape Town. My main contribution to that conference was arranging for Ahmed Kathrada to personally take the 80 or so delegates on a guided tour of Robben Island. It was an unforgettable experience as Mr K regaled the mostly foreign delegates with stories of how he, the designated librarian of the political prisoners in section B found ways and means to obtain study material and pass messages to each other in those stringent security conditions.

I loved Cape Town and was a regular hiker up Smuts' Path, Skeleton Gorge, Nursery Ravine and the contour path above Kirstenbosch. When, however, a job opportunity came up as knowledge manager for Bell Dewar & Hall – later trading as Fasken - I packed my bags and headed back to Johannesburg, where I remained for 13 years. During the last three years of my

tenancy I began to organize the firm's archival records and I updated and expanded the manuscript relating to the history of the firm.

Prior to formal retirement I began to tackle volunteer work for the Transnet Heritage Library. My first project was to catalogue the Heritage Library's collection of photographs taken on the British Royal Family Tour of 1947 to South Africa. This was a fascinating project and it confirmed my deep interest in heritage and archival records. When I left Fasken it was a logical step to continue volunteering at Transnet and when I'm in Johannesburg I join other volunteers who work up the Heritage Library records.

When I retired in early 2019 I headed to Mooi River to attend a conference held by the Forum for School Libraries & Archives. I remained in the area for a couple of weeks to start organizing the Treverton School archives on a volunteer basis. I have been back a few times to work on site but cataloguing an archive that is increasingly digitized is something that can be managed remotely so I am still based in Johannesburg.

I view 2019 – my retirement year – as a year of intense learning to prepare for a new career, one that is driven by records management within the digital space, and hopefully one that embraces museums and heritage work.

The attached photo is however, decidedly not one of records management, heritage or other. Here I am making snowballs on top of the Jungfrau in Switzerland with my granddaughter. On top of the world with my immediate family.



**SHIRLEY GILMORE**  
**AN ANECDOTAL REFLECTION**  
**ON A NOTABLE CAREER**

*by Ruth Ward*

In August 1999, Shirley was appointed as head of the Law Library. A position she held for very close to 20 years, until the end of June 2019.

It may be a surprise to some to know that Shirley's first qualification was in the sciences, followed by librarianship studies and later a legal degree. But her clear and systematic thinking shows all the signs of scientific training. Shirley is definitely someone who rolls up her sleeves and gets 'stuck in' once she has decided to do something. From all accounts, this was true when she managed the laborious move of the collection from the main university library building to the new OR Tambo Law Library in 2004. It is equally true for the dedication and work that she put into the training of law students, or maintaining and building the excellent library collection, which has been specifically commended by the eminent Prof John Dugard.

Shirley has been an energetic, dedicated and very active Law Librarian. Once a need or gap was detected, she set about filling that need, whether it was providing links to primary African materials, preparing the [PULP Guide to finding legal information in South Africa](#) (now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, and still free to all) or something much larger. Actually, if you look further, one does find there is more, lots more! Shirley was indeed a driving force behind PULP becoming an open access online publisher. And beyond that, there is also all the historical content on [UPSpace Institutional repository for Early South African Legal Sources](#).

A key element of an academic Law Librarian's mandate is to serve the needs of the faculty members. Building a good working relationship with the academic staff is essential in order to support their teaching and research needs, and fundamental to building a collection which can meet these evolving needs. When I did a little background checking on the Internet, it was noticeable how often Shirley's personal assistance is acknowledged in publications written by academics. Gratifying to be so publically and generously acknowledged, I'm sure.

Shirley has certainly made a major contribution not only to the Law Faculty, its staff and all the thousands of law students have been through her training programs in the library, but to the South African public and beyond, by producing the consolidated [Laws of South Africa](#), for free public access. After realising that the general public did not have access to reliable, up-to-date legislation, she set about investigating and considering various options for how to fill this gap. Shirley boldly took on the huge task of planning, fund-raising and getting the project off the ground. With a small dedicated team, the project was

successfully launched in 2014, and has continued to grow each year ever since.

The compilation of legislation from scratch had the benefit of resulting in historical versions (point-in-time legislation) as each new Act was consolidated. The retention of each of these versions provides a unique source of historical legislation, which anyone who has been asked to find historical versions of sections or whole acts really appreciates! The Laws of South Africa project has also been included by Law Library of Congress in their historic collection of internet materials related to the Laws of African Jurisdictions Web Archive. But good librarians are also really focussed on people. Being prepared to take each enquirer through whatever need they have, is really fundamental to being a superb librarian. I'm sure many of us who have relied on her very able assistance over the years can attest to this. This note is not by any means a full catalogue of her achievements as a law librarian, but a selection that shows some of what it takes to be a really accomplished academic law librarian. Shirley has certainly left a very tangible legacy reaching far beyond the university and the Law Library, and we wish her good health and happiness in this new chapter of her life.

Shirley, you will be missed.

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### **2018/2019 OSALL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

By Karabo Moleya

#### 2018-2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Karabo Moleya  
 Vice Chair: Amanda Franken  
 Secretary: Marina Rubidge  
 Treasurer: Hesma van Tonder  
 Newsletter Editor: Tanya Hubbard  
 PR & Liaison: Helen Demetriou  
 Website Administrator: Danielle Botha  
 Listserv Administrator: Joyce Khakhu  
 Membership: Audrey Lenoge

#### **MEMBERSHIP/FINANCES**

OSALL is once again financially stable – Thanks you for your continued support in renewing your membership on time and to suppliers for advertising on our website. We have purchased QuickBooks software to enable our treasurer to generate invoices quickly and efficiently. Signatories at the bank have also been updated. We are grateful to Academic Market Service, for their generous sponsor to enable me to attend BIALL Conference and 50th Birthday celebrations.

OSALL is in the process of registering as a Non-profit Organisation with National Treasury, once the process is completed, hopefully by the end of the year we will be able to recruit members in the public sector and existing

members will be able to renew their membership. This will generate income and boost our coffers.

#### **MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

##### 2018 AGM

The 2018 AGM was held at Werksmans Attorneys, Sandton on 3 August 2018 and was sponsored by LexisNexis. Neil Kirby was our Keynote Speaker and presented a talk on “Legal Implications of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare”.

##### YEAR-END FUNCTIONS

Thank you to Juta for sponsoring 2 lavish year-end functions for our members in Gauteng and Cape Town, as always the 2 events were a success and we had ample time socialise and network.

##### 2019 OSALL MEETINGS

Our meetings started later than usual with Sabinet hosting and sponsoring the networking breakfast. I was told it was an excellent conversation with Brent.

BIALL Conference 2019 and 50th Birthday Celebrations. AMS made it possible for me to attend the event. It has been a while since a delegate was sent to attend. I was well received and London was too kind. The conference was a huge success with relevant content to law librarians. Conversation with overseas colleagues made my made me realise that we face the same challenges with our colleagues across the world. We are not alone. Please be on the lookout for my detailed report in the next issue of the newsletter.

#### **WEBSITE AND LISTSERV**

Danielle and Joyce will give you a full update on the Website and Listserv. We are forever grateful to MACC Computing for keeping the crooks away from our platform.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

Tanya will let you in on the struggles of getting contributions for the Newsletter. On that note I would therefore like to encourage everyone to share those daily experiences with us your story will improve someone else's point of view.

### **2018/2019 OSALL LISTSERV REPORT**

by Joyce Khakhu

With regards to the listserv performance this year, I am happy to report that everything went well. However someone tried to hack Osall's chair email but that did not go down well because I was able to identify the email as phishing email and alerted committee members.

Because listserv communication and exchange is going well I would kindly remind members to inform the listserv administrator if they have changed their email address or are experiencing any problems in sending or receiving

emails. A word of caution to some members...please refrain from indirect advertising, we strongly discourage it and if you are not sure please ask the committee before you send. The following is the OSALL advertising policy which members can find on the OSALL website.

Advertising on the OSALL listserv is subject to the following conditions:

**1. Listserv members or students**

Any listserv member or student who is looking for a position in the library/information science field may advertise his/her CV free of charge in a once-off posting on the listserv, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**2. Part-time/temporary positions**

Any organisation that wishes to advertise a part-time/temporary position of up to 6 months in the Library/information science field may do so free of charge for a once-off posting on the listserv, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**3. Permanent positions in commercial organisations**

Commercial organisations that wish to advertise a full-time position in the library/information science field may do so at a charge of R600.00 for a once-off posting on the listserv, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**4. Permanent positions in Universities, government and/or non-profit organisations**

Universities, government and/or non-profit organisations that wish to advertise a full-time position may do so free of charge for a once-off posting on the listserv, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**5. Conferences organised by Library organisations, universities, government and not-for-profit Organisations**

Library organisations, universities, government and not-for-profit organisations may post their law- or library related conferences, seminars and workshops free of charge on the listserv, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**6. Commercial organisations: Conferences and products**

Commercial organisations may post their law- or library-related conferences, seminars, workshops or products on the listserv at a charge of R600.00 for a once-off posting, subject to the approval of the Chair in consultation with the Committee.

**7. Commercial organisations sponsoring OSALL**

The OSALL Chair may waive the above-mentioned fee (limited to ten advertisements in a financial year) if the commercial organisation sponsors an OSALL meeting or an OSALL member to attend meetings or conferences in the current financial year.

8. Please contact the OSALL Chair if you wish to advertise on the listserv. The decision of the Chair is final in all matters regarding advertising.

**2018/2019 OSALL NEWSLETTER REPORT**

by Tanya Hubbard

Each year I stand before you and wax eloquent on the joy and wonder I feel every time I put together one of OSALL's newsletters; and spoiler alert...this year is no different. I also, every year, subtly remind each and every one of you how thrilling it is to have your very own by-line and it is my not very subtle wish that many of you will take me up on this offer for the next term.

There have been some fantastic submissions; November 2018 had a write up by Helen Demetriou on artificial intelligence in the library: bot basics. I had a rather fascinating experience when I had to query my Netflix subscription and being over charged; the interaction was online and I soon realised I was in fact communicating with a bot; very cleverly done and I'm happy to say the bot and I agreed I should be refunded.

In February 2019 we read about Marina Rubridge's thoughts on being balanced between two worlds where she discussed several challenges she faced when her firm made the change to a "paperless, hot desk, think pod, mobile working" environment. Something many of us may face in the not too distant future. In the same issue Professor WG Schulze very kindly gave us permission to reprint his fascinating article on the history of our South African legal periodicals.

May 2019 saw us congratulating Mariya Bedeva-Bright on being the recipient of the 2019 FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians; a fantastic achievement. In the same issue Lydia Craemer wrote about the workshop on Laws.Africa she and many of our members attended, hosted by Mariya, Greg Kempe and Edith Viljoen. To quote Lydia "The general consensus amongst those attending the workshop was that Laws.Africa is making great strides into making African legislation available to all, and we're excited". I'd like to echo that sentiment. I'm sure many of us spend far too many hours trawling the internet in search of African legislation. Helen Demetriou again contributed a thought provoking article this time on indexing systems in law libraries – a user perspective. The issue ended off with an interesting musing by Marina Rubridge on how much information we may lose, or not, as we start to discard the traditional hard copy for electronic resources.

Pieter du Plessis from the Stellenbosch University Law Library has once again supplied us with a list of Publications Noted in the November 2018 and May 2019 editions; a very useful resource to refer to. Thank you, Pieter, for your continued contributions.

If you have missed an issue or just want to go back and re-read one (who wouldn't?) the entire archive of newsletters is available on the OSALL website under Newsletter Archive.

I wish again to thank those that contributed to our newsletter; and look forward to receiving many more in the new term.

**2018/2019 OSALL WEBSITE REPORT**  
by Danielle Botha

I am happy to report that this year was an incident-free year concerning the website. Our visitor and read numbers are looking well and are set out below.

Our total number of visitors is 172,952, since the inception of the current website.

Visitors Per Month	
Month	Count
2019-07	1978
2019-06	1860
2019-05	2046
2019-04	2196
2019-03	2177
2019-02	2394
2019-01	2572
2018-12	2583
2018-11	2523
2018-10	2614
2018-09	2258
2018-08	2607
2018-07	3007
2018-06	3199

Reads Per Month	
Month	Count
2019-07	2629
2019-06	2401
2019-05	2561
2019-04	3077
2019-03	2780
2019-02	3038
2019-01	3304
2018-12	3578
2018-11	3562
2018-10	3815
2018-09	3104

2018-08	3615
2018-07	3756
2018-06	3938

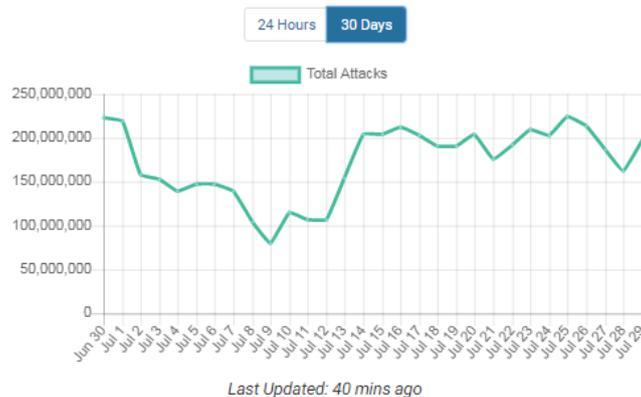
Summary of security related activity for the period June 30, 2019 to July 29, 2019.

Firewall Summary: Attacks Blocked for www.osall.org.za

Block Type	Complex	Brute Force	Total
Today	114	12	133
Week	565	61	635
Month	2,890	308	3,231

Worldwide site attacks in July 2019.

Total Attacks Blocked: Wordfence Network



Top IPs attacking OSALL website.

Top IPs Blocked

IP	Country	Block Count
51.68.204.149	United Kingdom	526
50.62.35.81	United States	225
132.148.19.69	United States	170
157.97.36.219	Germany	81
207.46.13.126	United States	80
213.186.202.190	Ukraine	76
207.46.13.5	United States	68
207.46.13.131	United States	61
207.46.13.191	United States	54
5.188.62.5	Russian Federation	51

Top countries attacking OSALL website.

Top Countries by Number of Attacks - Last 7 Days

Country		Block Count
United States		824
Turkey		19
Ukraine		8
France		6
Germany		5
Canada		2
Russian Federation		2
Netherlands		2
United Kingdom		1
Bulgaria		1

As always, I would like to thank Michael Botha for his daily surveillance of the website as well as his ongoing support with building in new features and upgrades. Finally, we would like to thank our amazing suppliers, LexisNexis, Sabinet and Juta for their generous support throughout this term.

**2018/2019 OSALL TREASURER’S REPORT**  
by Hesma van Tonder

**Organisation of South African Law Libraries**  
Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**

	Note(s)	2019	2018
<b>Revenue</b>			
Advertising, Sponsorship and Subscriptions		100 234	38 380
<b>Other income</b>			
Interest received		2 428	1 618
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Accounting fees		-	(5 700)
Bank charges		(5 558)	(1 868)
Computer expenses		(6 057)	-
Conferences		(88 605)	-
Functions and meetings		(7 000)	(618)
Gifts		-	(43 069)
Travel - local		(10 543)	(370)
		<b>(97 763)</b>	<b>(51 623)</b>
<b>Profit (loss) for the year</b>		<b>4 897</b>	<b>(13 645)</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year</b>		<b>4 897</b>	<b>(13 645)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to:</b>			
Owners of the parent		4 897	(13 645)

**OSALL NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
by Amanda Franken

Many have the power to inspire. Many have the ability to use social media for good. Few are able to combine the two, whilst remaining true to themselves.

Brent is a young South African that, due to an undying belief in the power of positivity, and a fair amount of luck has succeeded in achieving great things, in a small

amount of time. His decision, to turn a frivolous internet drinking game nomination, into a Random Act of Kindness, literally Changed Everything.

Brent Lindeque pioneered the #ChangeOneThing movement which went viral internationally Using the simple premise that YOU have the power to change everything.

His story is both inspiring, accessible and relevant.

Read more about it him here -  
<https://www.brentlindeque.com/about-me/>  
<https://www.goodthingsguy.com/>  
or follow him on Face book and Instagram

Thank you to Sabinet for sponsoring this session.



**POETRY SUBMISSION**

By Gail Dendy

**Cleaning Bookshelves**

I found it in the library,  
the little insect's corpse  
that had lived a definite  
but unwritten history  
behind a large shelf  
of unread tomes.

Chafed, brittle, it fell  
to dust when I moved its  
sad casing,  
dropped all of its legs,  
disintegrated  
almost as I breathed.

I have tried  
to hold my breath  
when cleaning bookshelves,  
not wanting  
to obliterate  
the one true  
library user,

but rather  
giving it back  
its legs,  
and adding wings.

**The Poetry Party**

That wasn't a good year for a Poetry Party:  
Beauty had slipped and cracked her ankle;  
Elegance had only arrived  
after the doors were locked,  
poked around awhile and then got lost.  
Profundity had gone swimming, his body  
small and puny when compared to his shadow.  
Balance had come down with vertigo  
and so stayed in bed;  
Rhyme was simply too shy  
to make an appearance.

In order to save the Party,  
Rhythm grabbed Fantasy by the waist,  
turned up the music, and waltzed  
all the way down the polished corridor.  
Out on to the veranda they went,  
and as the moon fell they argued  
as to whether this event was allegorical,  
or symbolic, or just mere cant.

Then came the crashing of glass.  
If it hadn't been for the sagging body  
on the outside of the window,  
no one would've known

that Rhythm believed she could fly  
without even a running start,  
or that Fantasy had deliberately,  
although without intentional malice,  
tricked her into leaping.

A few photos from the AGM  
held at Price Waterhouse Cooper





From the editor:

A little bit of light relief (much needed these days); courtesy of Danielle Botha (blame her not me if they're not funny ☺):

Medieval Helpdesk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQHx-SjgQvQ>

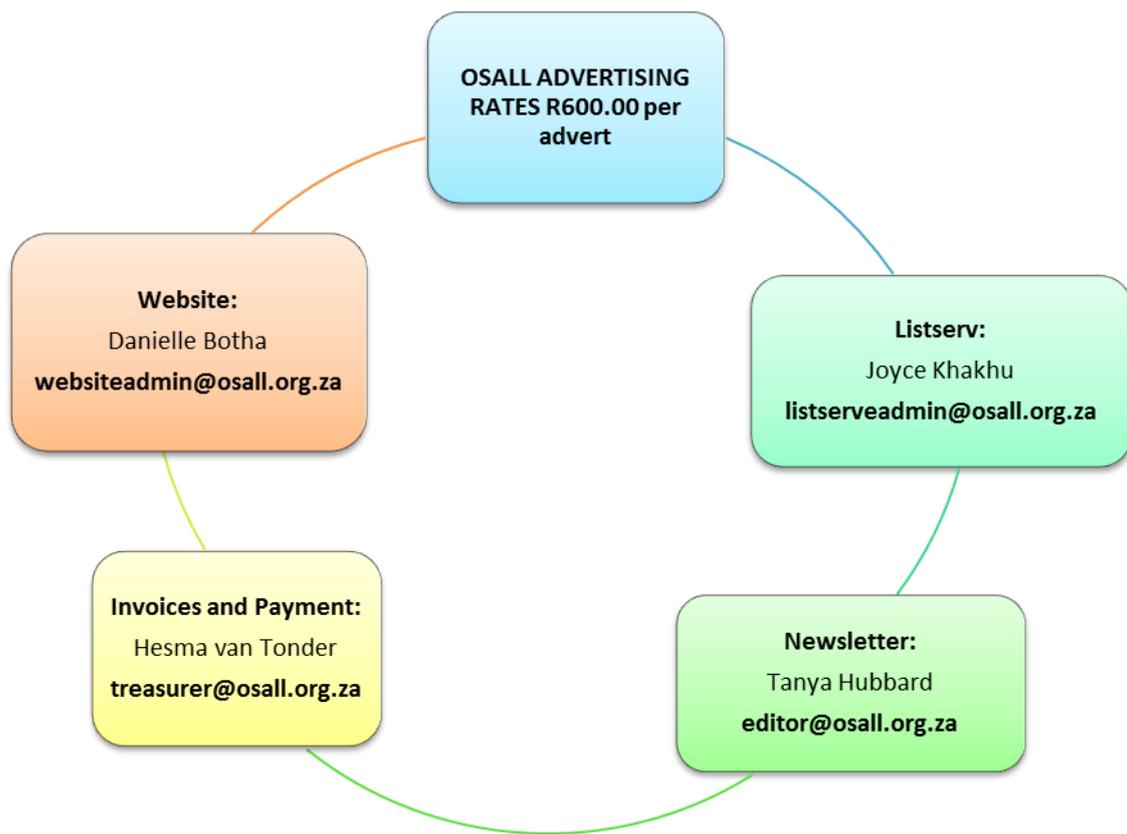
Mercedes Benz blonde in library:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqxbx9HoGUw>

Blonde drives into library:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13bG9xnoMSQ>





**Please note:**

- Proof of payment must be submitted prior to publishing and or posting of adverts.
- Adverts must be submitted in JPEG format.