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Van de Voorzitter - Joost de Bruin



The year 2018 has started with beautiful weather all around the country and I hope that everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy this to the fullest. De beste wensen voor 2018, dat het maar een mooi jaar mag worden!

I am pleased to announce that our new website, titled Dutch Communities NZ (the same name as the Facebook page we launched last year) has now gone live. The most important feature of the website is an interactive map with an exhaustive overview of Dutch initiatives in New Zealand. Have a look at www.dutchcommunities.co.nz and see what you can find! The website also has a news and events section, an overview of the history of Dutch migration to Aotearoa/New Zealand, newsletters from different clubs and contact details of the clubs and trusts that affiliate with the Federation.

The new website is the result of a collaboration with the Netherlands Embassy in Wellington and I am grateful to the Ambassador and our patron Rob Zaagman for his support. The launch of the new website means that the Federation's previous website, www.netherlands-societies.co.nz, will be taken offline. I want to thank Reina Vijselaar for all the work that she has done on this website over the years and I am delighted that she has agreed to continue to edit De Schakel for us.

An important objective for the Federation this year is to get more active around fundraising. The main source of income for both the Federation and our clubs is membership fees. As far as I know, we do not generate a lot of income from advertising or cultural subsidy. I would like to propose two ideas. Firstly, we could try to acquire a grant and sponsorship for our ANCM, which will take place in Te Awahou/Foxton this year at the newly opened Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom facility. Until now, the ANCM has been funded through affiliation fees and I think it would be good to ask other parties to support this event. This means that we may need to do a little bit more than just organise a meeting, we could have a larger cultural event that our ANCM is part of. Secondly, our clubs and trusts could share more information on how they have generated additional income on top of membership fees. One important objective of the Federation is to circulate information among our clubs and trusts and it seems to me that we can do this to a greater extent.

We are all connected and I would like to ask everyone to email the executive committee about their experiences with fundraising, sponsorship, advertising and acquiring grants so we can share this information with all affiliated members.

Times are changing and it has become evident the last years that we can't rely on the traditional structures of clubs with paid membership to tie Dutch people in New Zealand together. That's why we need to reach out through media such as Facebook and our new website to get people involved. We also need to reach out to other parties outside our own circles to ask for financial support for the work that we do. Other migrant communities do it too, so I don't see why we shouldn't!



de Erasmusbrug in Rotterdam kleurt Oranje met Koningsdag

Van de NZ Netherlands Society (Waikato) Inc.

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that one of our committee members, Hennie van Kooten, has passed away peacefully after a short but hard battle at St Joans Hospital, aged 71 years.

Hennie was the much loved wife of the late Marinus, loved, respected and admired by her 3 daughters and grandchildren.

Both Hennie and the Marinus were well respected members of the Waikato Dutch Choir.

A celebration of Hennie's life was held on Thursday 18th January in Hamilton.



We welcome Wendy van den Berg, the newest member of the committee of the NZ Netherlands Society (Waikato) Inc. Wendy will be editing the Waikato Newsletter; the Koetjes and Kalfjes from March onwards.

Sinterklaas and Christmas was a busy time for the society, with a Christmas Celebration being held at Netherville. Songs such as "de Herdertjes lagen bij nachte", "Nu zijt wellecome" "Komt allen tesamen." were enjoyed and sang along with.

Sinterklaas came to visit on the 3rd of December, and he brought excellent weather with him, as well as zwarte Pieten and of course presents for all the children. The Kiwi Kinder Club did an excellent job of setting up and organizing of the event, along with Wies van den Berg.

The NZ Netherlands Society (Waikato) Inc. also met with the affiliated clubs of,
Kaatclubs,
Kiwi Kinderclub,
Friendly Support Network,
Bingo and the
Tulip Festival Trust in November for an update and support.

Regards,

Wendy van den Berg

Van de Redactie - Reina Vijselaar



Het einde van de website nznetherlands-societies.co.nz zoals we hem jaren hebben gekend. Tijd voor vernieuwing en verandering "nothing lasts forever". De nieuwe website heeft een nieuwe opzet, een meer hedendaagse "look" en sluit beter aan op de federatie's facebook.

Dank je wel voor je lovende woorden Joost en ja, de Schakel zal ik nog graag in elkaar zetten, hopelijk met wat meer copy dan deze keer.



Auckland Harbour Bridge in prachtige kleuren