



ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society
Christchurch (Inc)



**MARCH
2018**



TUI (*PROSTHEMADERA NOVAESEELANDIAE*)

Early colonists used to call the Tui 'parsonbird' or 'mockingbird'

Photographer: [www.pbase.com/Klaas Lukas](http://www.pbase.com/KlaasLukas)

Netherlands Society Christchurch

(Est. March 20th, 1965)



EDITOR'S REPORT

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Dear Readers,

Since there have been a few 'heart scares', during club sessions at the Everglades, the committee has decided to invest in an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). The AED device shall be installed above the sound system cupboard, left as one enters the main hall.

What is an AED?

An AED is a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heart beat (arrhythmia) and allows a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. If not treated within minutes, it quickly leads to death.

An AED makes it possible for more people to respond to a medical emergency where a defibrillator is required. Because an AED is portable, it can be used by non-medical people.



With this in mind the committee members are going to follow a training course with the Heart Save NZ Ltd.

And, yes, the AED is also available for the use of the Golf Club Members.

As you can see the Netherlands Society Christchurch keeps the members' wellbeing, may it be socially or medically, close at heart!

Yoka Saris

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A month goes by so quickly. Especially when you finally get some time off work and have a holiday. Mind you, this holiday was rather forced on me. The reason for this holiday was that we needed to renew our Dutch passports. And as many of you might know this needs to be done in Wellington. Which is fine and dandy....if you live in Wellington. For us here in Christchurch (or for that matter anywhere in the South Island) it means another approximately \$450 for a trip on the ferry on top of the NZ\$222 for the renewal of the passport itself. Other costs involved for us were overnight

accommodation; petrol and taking days off.

Ofcourse you could also take the plane and a taxi to and from the Embassy. The airfare would set you back between \$200 to \$500 per person. Unless you are lucky enough to get those \$39 flights however, those tickets never seem to line up with my plans.

There is a survey (in Dutch) set up by NIHB regarding passport renewal. It will only be available for a short period of time but if it is still there it might be worth thinking about.

Have a look at www.nihb.nl

So because of the costs involved we decided to make it a small trip around the southern part of the North Island.

We went up to Rotorua via Palmerston North and down again via Wanganui. On the way back we visited the new Museum "Oranjehof" in Foxton together with the Dutch Connection Centre in "Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom" next to the Windmill. And a beautiful windmill it is together with the Dutch Shop. The Museum is worth to have a look at. One of the more remarkable things was the display of tiles with the names of all who donated money towards making the museum possible. Other things that make the visit worthwhile are the many Dutch items on display and the feeling of the many influences left in New Zealand by the Dutch migrants in the past century.

With this touristic advice I'll close my report for this month.

Hope to see you at any of the events which are being organised by the NSC Entertainment Team.

Groeten

Ron

THE FUTURE OF THE NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH

Because of the 'melting pot' syndrome amongst the Dutch in New Zealand, with a second and third generation of children born in New Zealand it seems that interest in the Dutch Club is slowly fading.

The NSC committee tries its hardest to organise events to fire up interest amongst the members. However, there are not many things that seem to stir the members to attend lately.

Therefore, we, the committee, are looking for ways to promote the interest of our members. Please, take some time to give us some feedback what we can do to keep our Society alive.

Talk this over with your children and grandchildren, you be surprised how often they come up with valid suggestions.

The committee is working on 'modernising' the clubrooms. Perhaps you have ideas we could incorporate in these alterations.

What can we do to attract the younger generation to join the club and thereby perhaps give the Society a 'facelift' and at the same time keep the Dutch culture alive. Many other European clubs throughout New Zealand seemed to be able to keep going and they have much less to offer their members (i.e. own clubrooms) than the NSC.

Help us to not slowly fade away into nothingness!

WAKE UP now and help our heritage to survive!!! Young people are our future!!!

Jan Hollestelle



Theo Boekel

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**For advertising
get in touch with
Maarten Hollestelle
Phone 0221702904**

FriendlySupportNetwork (FSN)

We are a group of volunteers who give help and support to people of Dutch decent in situations of need and stress.

We visit sick people, walk with people and talk (Dutch or English) with people.

Help or support is generally of a moral rather than of a financial nature.

If you want to help as a volunteer or know of someone we can help, please contact:

Heleen van den Brink Tel 359 5517
Trudi van Nobelen Tel 383 1111

NSC NOTICE BOARD

There are still some 'old' chairs available for those interested feree of charge.

Please ring Ron van Santen
at 027 489 8369

Any toys no longer wanted by your children can be donated to the club.

Please contact Desiree,
Secretary.nsc@gmail.com

The Committee is often told that young parents find it hard to attend our events as they need babysitters.

Who amongst us would like to babysit now and then.

Please ring Yoka, at 384 9570 for further information



LARGEST BANK ROBBERY EVER IN THE NETHERLANDS

Last month I met a visitor to New Zealand from Almelo in the Netherlands, **Ans Oude Wesselink**, who told me an amazing story which is not very well known here or in the Netherlands.

A book was written by Hans Holtman and a musical and a movie were produced about a bank robbery, which took place in Almelo in 1944.

This robbery of 46,1 million guilders took place in Almelo, Overijssel, towards the end of WWII on 15 November 1944.

The Austrian nazi Reichkommissar Seys-Inquart had ordered the money to be transported from the bank in Arnhem to Almelo. The reason for this was to get it quickly into Germany as the war was coming to an end. The manager of the Almelo Bank in those days was a member of the NSB. (the Dutch fascist movement)

The money, stashed in 13 specially designed money cases, was the largest amount ever to have been stolen in the Netherlands.

Derk Smoes, worked at the bank in 1944 and it was this man who took the initiative to rob the Bank. Among ten people involved were Hendrik Frielink and Henk Bosch, all active in the Dutch Resistance.

To stage the robbery was an official written order from the Dutch Government in London. The money was to be used to finance the planned '1944 Railway Strike'.

On the night of the robbery a get-away truck was parked outside the Bank. After the money was loaded on the truck one of the men was cutting the telephone wire but by mistake also cut the wire activating the alarm. So with the alarm screaming some of the men scrambled to get in the truck and others ran on foot to get away from the bank as soon as possible.

The money was hastily dumped in the haystack of farmer Kerkdijk in Daarle.

However, the action ended in tragedie for seven of those involved. Before the end of the year the money was back in German hands, nine people were arrested and seven were sent to Neuengamme; Wobbelin and Reihershorst concentration camps. Six of them lost their lives there, only Hendrik Frielink returned to Almelo.

The money has never been found although stories go that lots of Dutch money was in circulation in Westfalen shortly after the war ended. A year later the Dutch notes were changed so this might also be the reason that part of the money was never seen again.

After more than seventy years this incredible story has come to light through the book and musical '**Het Verzet Kraakt**' and the film '**De Kraak**'.

Yoka Saris

COMING EVENTS IN MARCH 2018

EASTER EGG HUNT AND MARKET

Sunday, 25 March, from 11 am until 2 pm at the Everglades

(Charge for children of non-members \$5.00)

Come and enjoy meeting the Easter Bunny; take part in the Easter Egg Hunt; do a spot egg painting; enter the coloring-In Competition; play traditional Dutch children's games.

AJ Van Dam will be there to sell traditional Dutch delicacies. The by now famous, 'Poffertjes' from 'Millie & Ronnie's Kraampje' will be baked by the thousands and there will be authentic 'Aardappel Slaatjes' prepared according to Oma's recipe.

Have you got anything to sell: Book a table, ring Annie, 383 1594; (non-members \$35.00)



EASTER COLOURING-IN COMPETITION

CHILDREN FROM 3 - 12 YEARS

Bring the finished picture with you to the Easter Market and hand it to one of the ladies in charge of the Children's Games when you arrive at 11 o'clock.

After the Easter Egg Hunt the Easter Bunny will pick the winner of the best coloured-in picture!

YOUR NAME:

YOUR AGE:



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Contact? Shauna 389-0219 or email shauna@deltatrust.org.nz

*******Starts back Friday, 2nd February, 2018*******



TOEN WAS MOEDER'S WIL NOG WET...

door Yoka Saris

Het jaar was 1954, mijn oudste broer Joop kwam op visite bij ons thuis (hij woonde al jaren op zich zelf) en vertelde dood leuk aan mijn Moeder dat hij die morgen getrouwd was met Maartje. Joop en Maartje hadden intussen hun 12 en half jarige verloving gevierd.

Dit is geen grapje, Joop, die nu 31 was, had gedurende de oorlog bij zijn meisje Maartje op zolder ondergedoken gezeten. In die nare tijd hadden zij zich verloofd maar van trouwen was het nooit gekomen. Na de bevrijding was Joop weer gewoon thuis komen wonen en Maartje bleef in haar ouderlijk huis wonen zoals dat in die tijd betaamde.

Toen Joop 25 was had hij schoon genoeg om nog langer achter Moeder's pappot te zitten en huurde hij een apartementje ergens in Blijdorp. Moeder was daar niet erg blij mee geweest. Maar ja....die jeugd van tegenwoordig he?

Dus nu stond hij daar te vertellen dat hij zomaar, zonder dit met Moeder te bespreken, getrouwd was. "Dat kan niet," riep mijn Moeder "daar had je toestemming bij ons voor moeten vragen." "Nee, Moeder," probeerde Joop nogal rustig uit te leggen. "Ik heb nu een leeftijd bereikt dat ik geen toestemming meer nodig heb om te trouwen."

Om het nog al op z'n plat Rotterdams te zeggen, hierna brak de pest los! Mamma was des duivels en Joop vond het na een kwartier luidkeels mopperen wel genoeg en ging terug naar zijn bruidje in Blijdorp.

Mamma huilde tranen met tuiten weken lang en bleef iedereen vragen aan wie of wat ze dit toch wel te danken had. Eerst had ik nog al medelijde met haar, maarja, ik was toen ook intussen 16 jaar geworden en vond dit na een tijd echt wel welletjes. Dus stopte ik mijn vingers in mijn oren en las rustig verder in mijn boek.

Een jaar later kwam ik op een middag thuis van school en vond mijn Moeder en mijn jongste broer Anton (25) beiden aan tafel zittend in een gesprek gewikkeld dat nogal geaggiteerd overkwam. Nog voordat ik tijd had om mijn jas uit te trekken en aan de kapstok te hangen liep mijn broer mij bijna ondersteboven in de gang. Hij opende de deur en sloeg die met een harde klap achter zich dicht.

Toen ik de huiskamer binnen kwam gooide mijn Moeder net haar theekopje op de grond en stormde naar haar slaapkamer, mij intussen toeroepend: "Anton heeft me net verteld dat Mary en hij trouwplannen hebben. Over vier weken willen ze in het huwelijksbootje stappen!"

En toen gebeurde het: Gierende uithalen van snikken bracht mijn kleine Moeder voort. Ik vloog haar kamer binnen en vond haar zittend op bed, het kussen stompnd en de dekens van het bed trappend. Ik vroeg haar wat er aan de hand was. "Ik zei het toch al, je broer vertelt me net over zijn trouwplannen....!" Ik stond als met stomheid geslagen en na een minuut of zo vroeg ik voorzichtig: "Maar u had zo'n verdriet toen Joop zomaar ineens zonders iets te zeggen getrouwd was. En nu komt Anton het u vertellen en nu is het ook niet goed. Wat wilt u nu eigenlijk?"

Doodse stilte volgde en toen kwam er een kreet die ik nooit meer zal vergeten...."Ja, maar zij **MOETEN** trouwen!!!!!!"

Eerst drong het nog niet eens tot me door maar toen tuimelde het kwartje: In die dagen was dat een bijna niet te overkomen schande. Wat ging mijn deftig Mamaatje haar vriendinnen en familie vertellen?

Ik denk dat men het al begrijpt: Weken lang weer huil en woede uitbarstingen over 'ondankbare kinderen'. Zo had ze ze toch niet opgevoed? Hoe kon ze ooit weer de mensen recht in de ogen kijken, enz, enz.

Het verdriet stopte abrupt toen mijn neefje geboren werd, wat was Omaatje trots op haar kleinzoon, die natuurlijk het mooiste; het bijdehandste en het meest bijzondere kindje dat ooit het daglicht had aanschouwd.

Alweer een jaar later verkondigde ik aan mijn Moeder dat ik wilde emigreren. Schamper lachend zei mijn kleine Moeder: "Dan zal je toch eerst getrouwd moeten zijn. Zo niet dan ga jij echt nergens naar toe."

"O," dacht ik bij mijzelf "Dat zal ik dan wel eens even fixen!"

Ik vond de vriend van mijn neef nog al een aardige vent en hij wilde toevallig ook graag emigreren.

Dus ik fluisterde hem zo het een en ander in zijn oor en om een lang verhaal kort te maken waren we drie maanden later verloofd!

Mijn vriend vroeg, zoals het hoort, toestemming aan mijn Moeder (omdat mijn Vader op zee zat) en hij kreeg zomaar zonder enige moeite die toestemming. Ook al had ze enige moeite met het feit dat hij 'aangenaaide oren' had. "Ja, dat kon wel eens erfelijk zijn," was haar commentaar. Ja, in de ogen van mijn Moeder waren dat belangrijke feiten. (Gelukkig zijn mijn zonen allemaal geboren met aardige oorlelletjes)

In ieder geval hing een week voor de bruiloft mijn witte jurk in Moeder's slaapkamer, zodat zij er 's-nachts ook nog van kon genieten. Ze had een mooi wit bont cape-je gekocht omdat het december was en ze niet wilde dat haar dochter met een rode neus van de kou rond zou rijden en dat dit dan door de hele meute gezien zou worden. Het koetsje was gehuurd en zo ook het jacquet en de grijze hoge hoed voor mijn aanstaande. Ja, dit zou de mooiste dag van mijn Moeder's leven worden.

Mijn Vader zou thuis zijn voor het gebeuren en had van de kapitein een paar extra vrije dagen gekregen.

Het was ongeveer drie dagen voor de trouwdatum toen ik het opeens Spaans benauwd kreeg. Ik viel mijn Vader huilend in de armen en vertelde hem dat ik helemaal niet trouwen wilde. Konden we het alsjeblieft afzeggen?

Mijn Vader en ik waren zagezegd twee handen op een buik. Van hem mocht ik alles, kreeg ik alles gedaan: In een woord samengevoegd ik werd stront verwend door hem!

Hij droogde mijn tranen, hield me stevig vast en zei toen....."Meisje, het spijt me, maar dat kan je je Moeder niet aandoen. Ze heeft alles georganiseerd; ze loopt al maanden aan iedereen te vertellen over deze belangrijke en uiterst geweldige trouwpartij! Als ik je nu zou helpen kan ik wel mijn koffers pakken en hoef ik echt nooit meer terug te komen. Ja, en ik moet bekennen dat ik toch heel gek ben op dat eigenwijze, kleine Moedertje van jou. Dus....?"

Dus....ik trouwde, dit jaar alweer 60 geleden, omdat Moeder's wil nu eenmaal wet is!!!



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IMPORTANT NOTICE
from the
ROYAL NETHERLANDS CONSULATE IN CHRISTCHURCH

The Royal Netherlands Consulate has been moved to
Unit 2, B-18 Studios
18 Bernard Street
Addington
Christchurch 8544
Tel: **03 335 3272**, Email: ***nl.consulate.chch@gmail.com***

The Consulate will move in April 2018 to the
BNZ Building, Cashel Street, Christchurch
More information will be published closer to
this date.

KLAVERJAS CLUB 'ONS GENOEGEN'

De klaverjas club draait weer op volle toeren en ik ben heel blij dat ik ook weer mee kan doen. We hebben een van aangeschaft met rolstoel uitrusting. We kunnen het huis weer uit!

Vanaf 23 januari j.l zijn we dus weer begonnen. De winnaars op die dag waren:

1) Arda Hogendoorn, 5679 punten; 2) Dora Nieste, 5583 punten; 3) Wim Nelis, 5377 punten.

Op 30 januari waren de uitslagen:

1) Arda Hogendoorn, 5008 punten; 2) Bep van Polanen, 4972 punten; 3) Wim Slot, 4967 punten.

13 februari was het resultaat als volgt:

1) Hermien van Lieshout, 5666 punten; 2) Dora Nieste, 5337 punten; 3) Kees Baars, 5045 punten.

Op 13 maart wordt het Easter Tournament georganiseerd. Hierbij nodigt Ons Genoegen alle klaverjas spelers uit om van de partij te zijn. Bel mij even vlug op 352 5317.

Er wordt geregeld gezegd en we weten het allemaal ook wel: "De kaartclub is zachtjes aan het vergrijzen." Maar we mogen dankbaar zijn dat we nog deel kunnen nemen dus laten we genieten van iedere gelegenheid die wij krijgen om de 'kaart-strijd' met elkaar aan te gaan! Waar of niet?

Hierbij worden de winnaars weer gefeliciteerd en wie weet, volgende keer zou het zomaar jouw beurt kunnen zijn om als winnaar uit de bus te komen!

Lieve mensen, dit is het weer dus tot de volgende maand. Ik wens iedereen een goede gezondheid toe en vergeet het niet: Geniet van het spel van het leven!

Wim



YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

Hello Everyone,

It is so lovely to see you back at the Club on Friday mornings again. Lots of catching up to do after the long Christmas break. Talking about breaks: Lillian van Elk leaves on the 28th of this month for the Netherlands and will be away for about 3 months. She will surely be missed but we wish her the very best for a wonderful trip.

I am taking my granddaughter to Wellington this month to renew her passport. I rang the Embassy to make an appointment and was told that I could not do it via telephone but must go 'on line'. This could be difficult for people like me, who do not use the internet. But I have now my appointment and application forms, thank goodness.

I know I am early with this message but I want to let you know that we will be still having a Y.O.Y meeting on Good Friday, 30 March.

There are several of our past Y.O.Y members who are now living in retirement villages or homes. I know that they would really appreciate a visit now and then. I have the names of several of these members so give me a call on 03 313 5305 for further information.

Till next time: All the best

Leona

“Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations”

THE NETHERLANDS REMEMBERS THE DEVASTATING FLOODS OF 1953

(DutchNews.nl)



In February the Netherlands remembered the devastating flood of 1953, in which 1,836 people died as sea dykes in the south of the country broke and large parts of Zeeland, Zuid-Holland and western Brabant were flooded.

Over 70,000 people were evacuated in the disaster, which was caused by a combination of strong winds and high tides. Some 500 buildings were destroyed and many more were damaged. Almost 200,000 hectares of farmland were devastated by the salt water and 30,000 farm animals drowned. On the first of February there was a special ceremony of remembrance at the 'Watersnood' (Flood Disaster) Museum in Ouwkerk, attended by Princess Margriet and Infrastructure Minister Cora Nieuwenhuizen. Other ceremonies and events took place across the areas worst hit by the floods. The Dutch newspapers and national television also gave widespread coverage to the tragedy, which led to the development of the Delta Works Flood Prevention Scheme, a massive complex of dykes and sluice gates along much of the southern coastline.

A fascinating reconstruction of the events leading up to the floods by public broadcaster N.O.S. started the day before when hurricane force winds were raging over Scotland and making their way to the Dutch coast, funneling the water through the narrow passage of the southern North Sea. Already perilously high, a spring tide increased the force of the water even more.

Local authorities in the province of Zeeland and Zuid-Holland, afraid to act because they wanted to avoid a panic, realised at midnight that the situation was becoming critical. There was no disaster plan or warning system to alert the people asleep in their beds.

By three in the morning the weaker dykes gave way. Chiming church bells and people running from door to door to wake people up were the only ways to warn the people but for many help came too late.

Local broadcaster Omroep Zeeland estimates there are around 40,000 people alive in the province who were five around the time of the disaster and could tell the tale. How many of them actually witnessed the event is not clear. There are, of course, many accounts of survivors at the time.

"It was like we were seeing the end of the world," one witness said.

"Then our raft broke and we fell into the water. I heard our neighbour say goodbye to his family. I felt myself sink in between the bits of wood and other stuff. "I thought: We are all going to drown and in a little while we see each other again in heaven," said another.

Many people were buried without being identified, like Nada Verhelst's aunt Naatje, who was a housekeeper in Nieuwerkerk and about to be married.

Thanks to a large-scale DNA project, which was started in 2013 a match was found between Verhelst's DNA and that of her aunt. Some 80 people have now given DNA samples in the hope of identifying members of their family who perished in the flood.

NEERLANDIA CHOIR CHRISTCHURCH INCORPORATED

The Neerlandia Choir has also started on a new year and a new repertoire.

After a successful Christmas Concert in the St Ninian's Church in Riccarton the members enjoyed a welcome break.

Because of the work schedule of our Accompanist, Michael Zon, Neerlandia had to change its rehearsal night, after many years, from Tuesday to Wednesday night.

The Choir practises at the Everglades, the Netherlands Society's Clubrooms, from 7.00 o'clock until 9.00pm every Wednesday.

The members enjoy a short 'tea' break halfway through the evening, served with a beautiful homemade cookie from "Rinie van der Plas' Patisserie".

Although we have lost one member we also gained a new member and even have a couple waiting in the wings to join the Choir in a few months.

However, we could do with many more. We are a very varied group of people but all with the same passion: To sing!!!!

Interested? Ring me soon at 383 1594.

Annie van der Dussen, President

THE QUIZ

After worrying all week if we would have to cancel this event, because of lack of numbers, Annie decided we should go ahead. And to our surprise in the end we had 6 teams of four people.

It turned out to be great fun!

First of all the committee likes to thank Danielle de Bes ('Fluffy') for assisting us with presenting the quiz on powerpoint. Fluffy helped with putting together the questions for the categories "Sport"; "Geography" and "Food & Drink". Together with these 3 we also presented "Dutch Trivia"; "NZ Trivia" and "TV and Film"

But it would not have been a Dutch quiz if there weren't a few disturbances afterwards about the results.

So I feel, for this time, I should clear these up:

First of all: Indeed Jamie Oliver went bankrupt in February 2018. Our question was outdated. Oops!

Secondly: Hair and nails may appear longer after death, but not because they are still growing.

A person's fingernails and hair may appear longer because the skin around it does retract, according to the Dermatology Clinic at UAMS.

So it is false that hair and nails grow after death.

Thirdly there are five inhabited wadden islands in the Netherlands: Texel; Vlieland; Terschelling; Ameland and Schiermonnikoog. The other islands are uninhabited.

In the end the winners were:

- 1) Team "**Twentse Ross**", 41 points;
- 2) Team "**Do You Like My Dutch Oven? Een Klein Beetje!**", 34 points.
- 3) Team "**The Black Tulips**", 33 points.

Team players did seem to have enjoyed themselves very much as they asked for a repeat during winter time!

Yoka Saris

Just to inform you the 2nd winning team had also picked another name incase there would be two the same: "Three Croquettes and One Frikandel" What an amazing imagination!



Van Dam's Cafe & Shop

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480 Selwyn Street Christchurch | 03 366 3384 | www.lea.co.nz | info@lea.co.nz



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Are you or a friend considering becoming a member of the Society?

For more info contact the membership secretary, ph: 027 4898369 or email secretary.nsc@gmail.com

Application form:



Name: _____ Telephone: _____
 Address: _____
 Suburb: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Email Address: _____

Age Group: *(Please add in the number applicable to each category)*

0-16 yrs _____ 17-29 yrs _____ 30-49 yrs _____ 50 yrs + _____

Please circle appropriate membership:

Family membership \$36.00
(includes children up to 16yrs of age)

Single membership \$24.00

Post Application to: Ron van Santen
 PO Box 1211, Christchurch 8140 or
 email application to: secretary.nsc@gmail.com

Membership fees can be paid **after** receiving the
 confirmation letter from the treasurer.
 Subscription year starts 1st April

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH NZ

Committee Members

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dutchcommunities.co.nz**

Echo Material for the next issue of the Echo has to be in by the 20th of each month.

Although handwritten material is acceptable if clearly readable,
the editor will be very happy with typewritten articles.
You would, however, really make my day with your contributions as
an attachment to email or with an email.

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