



# ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society  
Christchurch (Inc)



**JULY  
2018**



**HAND IN HAND: OUD EN NIEUW ROTTERDAM**



Photo Klaas Lukas

*Toen wij uit Rotterdam vertrokken  
op de 'Edam', een ouwe schuit,  
met kakkerlakken in de midscheeps  
en rattennesten in 't vooruit  
Toen hadden wij een kleine jongen  
als ketelbink bij ons aan boord,  
die voor de eerste keer naar zee ging  
en nooit van haaien had gehoord.*

# Netherlands Society Christchurch

( Est. March 20th, 1965 )



## EDITOR'S REPORT

Dear Readers,

From 28 July - 21 September 2018 ,  
in the Airforce Museum, Christchurch,

### **'Let Me Be Myself'**

### **The life Story of Anne Frank**

will be exhibited. This is the successor of the  
acclaimed exhibition

### **'Anne Frank - A History for Today'.**

This new exhibition and its accompanying  
educational programme aims to inform young people  
about Anne Frank and the Holocaust and challenge  
them to explore subjects like identity, prejudice and  
discrimination.

Special suited for children from 11 to 13 year old.  
The opening hours of the Air Force Museum are from  
10 am until 5 pm. Admission is free.



Group bookings are advised.  
[info@airforcemuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@airforcemuseum.co.nz).

Another exciting exhibition from the Netherlands will come to  
Christchurch soon. More information will be  
published in the August issue of the Echo.

I like to thank the members who have produced  
articles for publication this month.

Here is hoping it may inspire others to do the same.

**Yoka Saris**

#### **Clubrooms**

**Netherlands Society Christchurch**  
637 Marshlands Road  
Christchurch 8083  
Phone: (03) 323 8641  
[www.nsc.org.nz](http://www.nsc.org.nz)

#### **Postal address:**

**P O Box 1211, Christchurch 8140**

#### **President:**

**Ron van Santen**, Phone: 027 4898369  
Email: [president.nsc@gmail.com](mailto:president.nsc@gmail.com)

#### **Vice-President:**

**Yoka Saris**, Phone 384 9570  
Mobile 027 6956914

#### **Treasurer and Advertising:**

**Maarten Hollestelle**  
Phone: 022 17002904  
Email: [nsc.treasurer.nsc@gmail.com](mailto:nsc.treasurer.nsc@gmail.com)

#### **Secretary:**

**Desiree Ellery**  
Phone: 021 02373176  
Email: [secretary.nsc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nsc@gmail.com)

#### **Membership and Website:**

**Ron van Santen**  
Phone: 027 4898369  
Email: [membership.nsc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.nsc@gmail.com)

#### **Affiliated Clubs Liaison:**

#### **Yoka Saris**

**Phone: 384 9570**

#### **Editor Echo:**

**Yoka Saris**  
4 Highbank Lane, Christchurch 8081  
Phone: (03) 384 9570  
Email: [yokasaris@gmail.com](mailto:yokasaris@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Ah....the sweet smell of sausages on the barbie! This was a very good suggestion from our youngest committee member Samuel van Hout to end the AGM. It sure worked out well as people now stayed longer to have a chat afterwards.

And talking about this AGM: I can say it went well. As most people by now know that I am not someone who likes to be the centre of attention. And maybe I was a bit too casual in my presentation and the navigation through the agenda. Ah well, that's me!

The amount of people who attended was only just enough to have the minimum of 20% of the total membership. We discussed society matters and how they all went over this last year.

Sadly the outside sign was not up as yet. This was because there was an issue with the power lines being too close to the sign for the installing team. But they will get it done shortly.

The replacement of some windows and doors, as discussed at the previous AGM, will be installed before the spring hits us again.

Maarten Hollestelle, the Treasurer, explained everything so well that the membership did not have any questions after his presentation of the financial report.

After the reports of the president; treasurer; entertainment officer and the editor it was time for the election of officers. Leo van 't Veen took the chair while the committee stepped down only to see that the executive was re-elected.

All committee members remained except for Isabel van den Berg and James Frapwell (Joop Stokvis had already resigned during this last year because of work commitment). All three were thanked for their dedication. Two new members were elected Martine D'hondt and Storm Crause.

One of the remarks at the AGM was "Who are you?" A question I've been asked as well while attending events at the club, especially those organised by affiliated clubs. This is why I like to put up a board with the pictures of the committee members somewhere in the hall. So the members can familiarise themselves with who the committee members are. So many times you hear: "Just approach someone on the committee", which is hard if you don't know who those people are.

Another subject which came up during discussions after the meeting was why we did not organise day trips anymore. A suggestion worth while following up. I suggest a wine tour!!! Have you got an idea, let us know.

Kindest regards,

**Ron**

### ms "Sibajak" 7 January 1959

**'Toen wij uit Rotterdam vertrokken'**

**In January 2019 it will be 60 years ago since we left the Netherlands to come to New Zealand. We thought this date might be a great opportunity to get together and celebrate that amazing journey into the land 'down under'.**

**If you are interested to get together on the 7th of January 2019 to help us celebrate this with us, please, give us a ring or email us.**

John Kuipers 03 332 7927; email gjmkuipers@xtra.co.nz  
Corrie Vermey 03 383 6114; email cvermey@slingshot.co.nz

**We are looking forward to hear from you, regards,**

**Corrie and John**



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## **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  
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To: The Editor of the Echo.

*“What we need is a great big melting pot  
Big enough to take the world and all its got  
And keep it stirring for a hundred years or more  
And turn out coffee coloured people by the score”.*

You may remember this song from the 60's by Blue Mink. (you can find it on You Tube).

I enjoyed this month's article on the possible (probable) disappearance of the Dutch language in a future melting pot.

Not that I want to see our language disappear, but as we know, a common language has many positive sides. We, here in New Zealand, are able to communicate with people of many backgrounds and beliefs. People who can't speak or write English are disadvantaged and will be isolated.

Our daughter Anneke with her family has moved to the Netherlands 8 years ago to work in a scientific and educational work environment. Her husband, who is from Sydney, works for a multinational company. For both English is the language at home and at work. The children, therefore, learn English at a very young age and, at age 5, have already an advantage over their school friends.

Language carries the culture of a people. Language unifies people within in a group. It also isolates people and forms a barrier to outsiders.

The picture below was taken in Brussels where the European Parliament meets. Would it not make life easier if we all used the same language?

I have no doubt that Dutch will continue to be spoken for many years to come, but I also expect English to gradually and naturally take over (unless we all will have to learn Mandarin!)

For emotional and nostalgic reasons (and also because Dutch is still my first language) I wish Dutch to continue for a long time, but otherwise I agree with the sentiments expressed in the Blue Mink song. Good communication is essential to make a community thrive.

Rudi van den Brink



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# COMING EVENTS IN JULY 2018:

## “EUROPEAN CLUBS UNITE”

After a huge success last year we have decided to repeat the special European luncheon again this year.

On Sunday, 22 July at 12 pm you are invited to come and socialise with the members of other European club members in Christchurch.

Dutch traditional mid-winter dishes will be served. The menu will comprise of the following:

**Soups: Snert of Tomaten**

**Mains: Zuurkool of Boerenkool**

**Geserveerd met Draadjes Vlees of Rookworst**

**Dessert: Appelgebak met Vla en/of Slagroom**

Early bookings are advised (before 12 July) as we expect many guests from other clubs and the seating is limited.

We are sorry but we will definitely not admit people unless with a prior booking. So please do not embarrass us and yourself by coming without a firm booking.

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**Charges \$15.00 per person**

**Bar will open: Do not forget your membership card!**



## THE WHEEL HAS NOW TURNED FULL CIRCLE

It feels so good to have finally taken the plunge, joined and now been welcomed so warmly by the 'Dutch Club' here in Christchurch.

I have wonderful memories, as a child, of activities associated with the Club and if I recall correctly my late Father, Albert van Zoggel, for a time wrote a monthly article in the Echo for children. He used the pen name 'Uncle Bart' or perhaps 'Ome Bart' - I'm talking early 1960's - over 50 years ago - ouch!



However the memory that I most warmly connect to the Netherlands Society is associated with the Teenage Dance ticket above.

I was 17 years old at the time when my Mother, Jo van Zoggel, asked me to 'chaperone' my sister to the dance. I was happy enough to do this as these type of events, generally speaking, even then were still few and far between.

I'm sure that it was the 'credibility' of the Dutch Club that convinced my Mother it would be okay for Maria to go.

Well, we got there and the first thrill was seeing 'Flood', the Van Bussel boys, on the stage, belting out the music of the day. They were good!

But it was what followed that changed my life forever! I bumped into this young beautiful woman, Helena van Hulten, and that was that - I offered no resistance - (grin).

In 1974 we married and now have two wonderful children, who in turn have given us six beautiful grandchildren. Some weeks ago was our 44th wedding anniversary.

So, thanks to that little orange ticket, that saw Helena and I first meet, matters have finally gone full circle, we are members and things are indeed complete.

So, a big thank-you, guys!

**Peter van Zoggel**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Frans van den Broek**

### **19 July 1951 - 18 June 2018**

Many of Frans' family and friends gathered last week at the Christchurch Golf Club to celebrate this lovely man's life.

The sun shone, after being absent for days, seemingly as a special tribute to Frans. I might sound a bit lyrical but that is how I feel about Frans and this celebration.

I got to know Frans when I had to go and ask him to destroy the paper administration of the history of the Dutch immigrants, who had settled in the South Island, over the last 40 years and now being no longer of use as the Netherlands Migration Office had become defunct in 1993.

He met me with a big smile and asked me if I should not secretly hang on to these papers and perhaps blackmail some of the Dutchies later in life.-

He threw his head back and laughed out loud. I must have looked a bit shocked for he quickly said: "Only 'yoking' , Yoka"

Until very recently Frans still met us with this same half cheeky but such sincere grin.

During Friday's gathering the family and very close friends (unofficially known as the members of 'the YOUNG Dutch Business Men's Club) talked about the interesting life of their father and friend.

I, personally, was touched by Hanneke and her sister Coby's tribute.

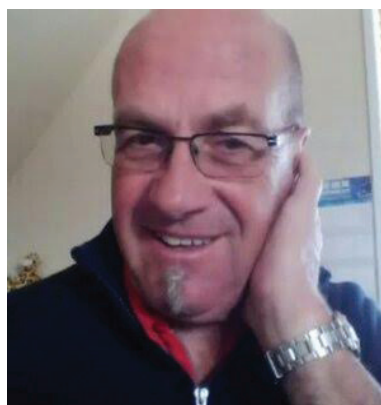
Coby, who came from the Netherlands to stay with Hanneke to take care of Frans's needs during his sickness and to be a companion for Hanneke through, what must have been sometimes, tough times.

But most of all I was touched - and many with me, I am sure - by the musical tribute: the 1947 song of George McGrew and made famous by Nat King Cole "Nature Boy" beautiful sung by Naomi and accompanied by Alex van den Broek.

Days later I still find myself humming "There was a boy..." and at the same time I think of this very special 'gentle' man.

**We shall not easily forget you, Frans!**

**Yoka Saris**





# DE GESTIPPELDE DIESELTREINWORM

door Ko van Vaardegem

Mijn vrouw is erg sportief en dat brengt voor mij het nodige met zich mee. Veel plussen, maar toch ook wat lastige puntjes. Als verjaardagscadeau had ze van de kinderen een 'waddentocht' gekregen. De aanhang mocht ook mee. Ik zag er wel wat tegenop, maar van mijn ego moest ik mee. Dus gingen wij, zes man/vrouw sterk, een goede week geleden naar het hoge Noorden, naar Holwerd aan de Friese waddenkust.

Mee gingen: korte broek, schoenen die niet eenzaam in de modder achterblijven, pet voor de zon en een rugzak met allerlei noodzakelijke spullen, zoals: twee warme truien, regenbroek, regenjas, eten en drinken en droge kleren voor de terugreis.

Onze gids Annie stond ons op te wachten: ook zo'n sportieve vrouw van zekere leeftijd die er, zoals later bleek, een moordend tempo op na hield. Na een korte inleiding over niet achterblijven, als groep bij elkaar blijven en de schoonheid van het Wad, gingen we op weg naar Ameland. De tocht zou zo'n vier uur duren: de eerste twee uren door de modder zou het zwaarst zijn, de laatste twee over het harde zand meer een gewone strandwandeling. Bij dat tweede deel moesten nog wel wat stroomgeulen worden overgestoken. De geulen bleken later aardig diep te zijn, met natte billen als gevolg.

De eerste twee uren waren inderdaad pittig: de veters moesten aangetrokken worden zodat de schoenen niet in dertig cm diepe slik achter zouden blijven, de blik op oneindig en de tanden stevig op elkaar. Na vijf minuten zag ik alleen mijn schoenen en de meter modder voor me. Zo nu en dan stopte Annie even om de achterblijvers weer te laten aansluiten en even uit te blazen. Geen koffie, geen terrasje, maar heerlijk zo'n korte pauze. Dan opende zich het Wad en werd ik de wijde verte ingetrokken

En daar ging gids Annie al weer alsof de modder op haar geen zuigende, remmende uitwerking had. 'Goed je voet afwikkelen,' zei ze, 'niet te grote passen.' Tja, ja...

Een verademing was het om op het harde zand te lopen. Daar bleef gids Annie regelmatig stilstaan om ons te wijzen op de veelheid aan schelpen, wormen, kwallen en visjes. Zo heb ik kennis gemaakt met de 'gestippelde dieseltreinworm'. Het is een borstelworm uit de familie Phyllodoceidae. Ik heb het maar even voor u opgezocht. Hij is zo genoemd, vertelde Annie, omdat de worm lijkt op een dieseltrein. Dat zag ik niet een, twee, drie, maar het is in ieder geval wel een leuk woord voor op het scrabblebord. Veel punten!



We hebben het gehaald, mijn ego en ik. Mijn sportieve vrouw en kinderen ook trouwens. Die hadden ook nog wel terug willen lopen. Gelukkig had de Noordzee ondertussen de Wad al stevig gevuld en was dat uitgesloten. We namen de boot terug naar het vasteland. Zonder mijn sportieve vrouw had ik waarschijnlijk nooit geweten dat op het Wad de gestippelde dieseltreinworm bestaat. Mooi meegenomen toch?

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**Rebecca Pierce & Tom Fitzgerald**  
**Peter & Helena van Zoggel**  
**Marjon Hofmans**  
**Storm Crause**

## KLAVERJAS CLUB 'ONS GENOEGEN'

Wij, Tinie en ik, waren op de laatste kaart morgen te laat 'vanwege het laat komen'! Ook al had ik me niet verslapen door naar het voetballen te kijken, want dat was echt al lang voorbij. Nee, ik ben verantwoordelijk om voor de melk te zorgen en ook al drinken de meeste mensen hun koffie zwart ik voelde me toch verplicht om te komen.

In ieder geval was intussen de beslissing genomen om de geld prijs te verlagen door de lage opkomst van de spelers. Er was gestemd en het voorstel was aangenomen. Maar ik mocht toch, op het laatste nippertje, nog wel mee spelen. Er waren 16 spelers dus genoeg voor 4 tafels. Ik werd zozegzegd het vijfde wiel aan de wagen van een tafel. Maar het werd toch nog gezellig!

De uitslagen van de afgelopen maand zijn als volgt:

22 mei:

1) Lenie Nelis, 5605 punten; 2) Kees Baars, 5249 punten; 3) Dora Niesten, 5078 punten

5 juni:

1) Koos van Nieuwkerk, 5152 punten; 2) Lilly Willemsen, 5120 punten

19 juni:

1) Emmie Nederpelt, 5143 punten; 2) Gerard van Kuppevelt, 5121 punten

Alle prijswinnaars weer gefeliciteerd en alle anderen: Volgende keer beter, dan zijn jullie aan de beurt om als winnaar uit de bus te komen.

Mensen, blijf gezond en heel veel plezier met het spel van het leven!

**Wim**



## YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

Hello Everyone,

Well, we are halfway through the year already and winter is with us, such grey cold days but as I write this, the sun is streaming through the window and I have just brought in the washing, all lovely and dry, so I am happy!

A few less people on Fridays at the moment, we are down to two tables of bridge and the other card players are not always there. Why don't you ring around and make sure you have enough players to make up a table so nobody is left out and has to go home.

Wim Slot and his wife are away overseas until September, we wish them both the very best for a safe and happy trip.

Friday, 6 July, is soup day, no cost to the regulars but if you only come occasionally it will cost you \$5.00. No need to bring your lunch.

A request: Has anyone got a "Sjoelbak" (shuffleboard) or who knows of one for sale, please, contact Roelie Lubbers on 03 - 352 7932.

Bye for now,

**Leona**

**'Gentle words, quiet words are, after all the most powerful words'**

The following story of one of the many unknown heroes of the WWII came to my attention because of a chat with our friend Bob van den Berg. I followed up his story and contacted Priscilla Kluge McMullen, the co-founder of the Indo Project in the USA who gave me permission to publish the article written by Bianca Dias-Halpert. ([www.theindoproject.org](http://www.theindoproject.org))

## ‘DOC’ HEKKING

Heroes are lost in the annals of history. Doc Hekking and the incredible bond with his fellow POW's is an inspirational story that awaits rediscovery in the Indo community and beyond.

### The Boys From America

Overshadowed by America's presence in the Phillipines and Japan, the role of the Americans in the Dutch East Indies and the greater Pacific is often overlooked. Doc Hekking's story is testimony of the fact that Americans were Japanese POW's. How did they get there?

### The Battle of the Java Sea

In the Sunda Strait, which connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean, the Japanese torpedoed the USS Houston, an American heavy cruiser. It was February 1942. She was part of the ABDA (American-British-Dutch-Australian naval force). As their ship went down, the surviving men swam ashore only to be captured by the Japanese.

The men from Texas later came under Doc Hekking's care in a Japanese labour camp. In October 1942 they were transferred to Burma to work on the Burma-Siam Railway. The Houston crew were later termed the 'Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast'.

### The Jungle Doctor

*'I was drawn to the American prisoners because they joked a lot in spite of their situation'* said Doc Hekking many years later during a reunion with the former American POW's. He was often referred to as the Jungle Doctor because of his knowledge of medical plants and their application. His unit had zero loss of limbs and also the lowest death rate, this compared to other units.

The men suffered from tropical ulcers, malaria, dysentery and beriberi. Festering tropical ulcers often ended up in amputation of the limb. To remove dead skin and stimulate new skin growth he lanced ulcers with a sharpened teaspoon or sometimes used maggots. He created remedies using herbs, fat and sometimes arsenic to treat painful diseases.

### Early Life

A product of the former Dutch East Indies, Henri H. Hekking was born 13 February 1903 in Soerabaja on Java. At the tender age of 4, young Hekking was sent to his grandmother's house when he contracted malaria. This grandmother came to the Indies from Zeeland, a province of the Netherlands, where her interest in healing plants originated. She lived in Lawang near the edge of the woods and had a large nursery of plants, vegetables and herbs. She was a master herbalist. Twice a week she would tend to the sick in the native kampongs. Under her guidance, the young Hekking learned about medicinal plants and their application for all kind of diseases. In this environment, he decided early on that he wanted to be a doctor.

Later in life, he obtained his medical degree from the University of Leiden on a government grant in exchange for 10 years of service in the medical corps with the KNIL, the Royal Dutch Army. The first 6 months of service on Java was an intensive course of tropical diseases. With this combined knowledge, he later was able to save the lives and limbs of his fellow prisoners of war.



A typical POW camp on Thailand -Burma Railway, (photo courtesy of the Lost Battalion Association)

## A Beacon of Hope

Besides his skills as a physician under the worst conditions, Doc Hekking had a great sense of humility and humanitarianism. He knew that his patients needed hope, something to live for, otherwise they simply gave up. In the depths of hell, he kept their spirits up and recognised the significance of psychology in the healing process. When the men praised and thanked him, he turned it around and praised them. Doc Hekking stated that it was their friendship that kept him going and made him feel worthy. Anyone who has been in the trenches of war together understands the depth of this kind of brotherhood. This bond lasted a lifetime.

## A Hero

In the Congressional Record, 18 November 1983, a tribute was made to Dr Han Hekking for his heroic efforts in saving the lives of American prisoners of the Burma-Thai Railway. He is hailed by Americans as a hero, **yet little is known of him in the Netherlands**. His name is in the official U.S. Congressional Record, Proceedings and Debates of the 98th Congress, First Session, Vol.129. In this record one of his patients, Otto Schwartz is quoted, *"....he is not a mere physician. His practice of medicine, under the worst conditions was not restricted to the attempt to heal the physical body; it also brought out his ability as a psychologist, to somehow treat the mind, spirit and soul of those prisoners of war who had little or no reason to be confident about the future."*

Since 1956, the 'boys' from Texas have held reunions with fellow ex POW's. Each time, they passed the hat around to make it possible for Doc Hekking to come from Holland with his wife. Each time, they embraced wholeheartedly at the airport as they saw 'Doc'!

On 28 January 1994 Dr Henri H. Hekking passed away in Holland after a long battle with cancer. His 'boys' were at a loss of words of how much he meant to them. He was an expert jungle doctor who saved their lives and became an endearing father figure and great friend.

**We salute you, Doc Hekking and we honour your memory.**



Doc Hekking during the arrival of the 1957 reunion with the former POW's in Texas.  
(Photo courtesy of the Lost Battallion Association)



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## 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](mailto:secretary.nsc@gmail.com)

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President	Ron van Santen	027 4898369	President.nsc@gmail.com
Vice-president	Yoka Saris	384 9570	Vice.President.nsc@gmail.com
Secretary	Desiree Ellery	021 02373176	Secretary.nsc@gmail.com
Treasurer/Advertising	Maarten Hollestelle	022 1702904	nsc.treasurer.nsc@gmail.com
Entertainment Manager	Annie van der Dussen	383 1594	Entertainment.nsc@gmail.com
Membership	Ron van Santen	027 4898369	Membership.nsc@gmail.com
Property Manager	Martin de Rouw	389 9373	Property.manager.nsc@gmail.com
Editor Echo Newsletter	Yoka Saris	384 9570	<b><u>yokasaris@gmail.com</u></b>
Committee members	Ron van der Lem	354 0459	
	Lilian van Elk	381 0218	
	Marjon Stegehuis	352 8581	
	Jose Nijstad	337 6151	
	Martine D'hondt	0226208942	
	Gerard van Kuppevelt	03 312 6966	
	Storm Crause		
	Jan Hollestelle	022 6775024	
	Samuel van Hout	022 6747830	
Website	Ron van Santen	027 4898369	Webmaster@nsc.org.nz
Affiliated Clubs	Yoka Saris	384 9570	Committee.nsc@gmail.com
Distributor Echo Newsletter	Yoka Saris	„	<b><u>yokasaris@gmail.com</u></b>

## Affiliated and other clubs

Bridge club	Riet Willems	358 2783	
Costume and Hall hire	Annie van der Dussen	383 1594	
Friendly Support Network	Heleen van den Brink	359 5517	
Klaverjas Club Ons Genoegen	Wim de Winter	352 5317	
Neerlandia Choir Christchurch	Yoka Saris, secretary	384 9570	
Petanque Club	Pieter Wever	260 0812	
Toenail Culture Ale	Annie van der Dussen	383 1594	
Walking Club 'De Landlopers'	<b><i>Non operational, anyone keen to start this group again? Ring/email us!</i></b>		
Youth of Yesterday	Leona Smid	03 313 5305	
Radio With Pictures (Echo)	Theo Boekel	03 318 1191	
	email radio@echo.org.nz		

**FEDERATION OF NEW  
ZEALAND NETHERLANDS  
SOCIETIES:  
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.

**Please send to: yokasaris@gmail.com or  
Yoka Saris, 4 Highbank Lane, Mt Pleasant, Christchurch 8081.**

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We reserve the right to reject, abridge or edit letters for linguistic, spelling, style and other literary errors.