



# ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society  
Christchurch (Inc)



**OCTOBER  
2018**



Saskia van Uylenburgh as the goddess 'Flora',  
by Rembrandt van Rijn in 1634

# Netherlands Society Christchurch

( Est. March 20th, 1965 )



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**behind Michael Hill Jewellers)**  
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## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

Dear Readers,

The weary traveller has returned. Only a severe headcold laid me down for a fortnight, but it was all worth it! We were spoiled rotten: Breakfast in bed each morning! Martin has promised me if he wins the football pool we are going again.

Anyway back on deck from now on until Christmas, a few events to get organised such as St Nicolaas and Christmas.

I have been told that not many people have supplied us with their email address so we can forward the Echo to them digitally. If you prefer receiving the Echo this way, please, email Ron van Santen at president.nsc@gmail.com

Heard an amazing little tale from Arda Hogendoorn about the Echo. As you all know the magazine together with the other Dutch clubs newsletters nationwide can be found on the website dutchcommunities.co.nz.

Arda's name and telephone number was printed in the last Echo to advertise the dramagroup's upcoming play. A cousin who Arda last saw 50 years ago in the Netherlands came upon the Echo while surfing the net and decided to ring her here in Christchurch. Such stories tuck at the heart-strings!



It is a pity but there does not seem to be much enthusiasm amongst the members to start a Carnaval celebration in November.

I remember nights with lots of dancing and singing; Dans Mariekes, Prins Carnaval and the year where I wore 'Worstjes op mijn borstjes en preitjes op mijn dijties', etc. Those were the days and, yes, it was nearly 40 years ago!

Any of you have good stories of those days: Let me know!

**Yoka Saris**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi All,

Just when you thought winter was over and summer had started early, even before spring had arrived, you get a reminder that "It is not summer yet, sonny!" Some nasty cold days and nights we have had in Oxford.

Your committee is full on into revamping of the clubrooms and now concentrating on the outdoors, which we like to see finished before summer starts in earnest. This will not be easy but we are certain that we will finish it in plenty of time to still enjoy the nice new doors opening onto the outside. We have created special sub-committees for in- and outside up to speed up our plans.

"Now, what about the road sign, you have been raving about for months?" you will ask yourselves. Well.....(sigh) Last time the new sign was going to be put up it did have to be cancelled due to the fact that it had to be installed from the top, which resulted in the Orion safety officer rejecting the operation (and rightly so of course!) So because of this problem we have changed the plan. We are now going to turn the sign away from the mainroad, so in future we will not have to obtain a permit to do maintenance (replace bulbs, etc.) We will unbolt it at the bottom, turn it around 180 degrees and re-attach. Sounds simple? Sadly there are still those pesty power lines that make it necessary to involve different people (permits!) who all need to come together at the same time to oversee the job. So that is where the problem lies at the moment. Yes, I know, gone are the days of "yeah, get on with it!" or "she'll be right, mate!"

Now we are entering the busy months for the entertainment committee with St Nicholas; Christmas and New Year events coming up.

Last week we had the Casino Night, which was fabulous. A fantastic singer who made the night a really glamorous event. Some pictures will show the ones who did not attend what they missed out on!

By the time you receive this Echo many amongst you will have attended the Rembrandt Remastered Exhibition in the Great Hall at the Arts Centre. And were introduced by our Consul, Gerald van Looy, to the new Netherlands Ambassador, Mrs Mira Woldberg. Only 20% of our membership booked for this special event. I really thought that free entry and food would attract more people to attend this chance to enjoy such an occasion. Perhaps Rembrandt is not your cup of tea?

In a few weeks the Society's delegates will be attending the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies Annual National Council Meeting. I know I have asked it before but I will ask it again is there anything you would like to be discussed. The Federation is the umbrella organisation of the Netherlands societies in New Zealand so any matters on a national level regarding the Dutch in New Zealand can be discussed. Just let Yoka or Martine know or write a general email to the committee.

I do hope you all will be able to enjoy the start of spring!

**Ron**





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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
Trudi van Nobelen	Tel 383 1111



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**A VERY IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY FOR  
THE 'MOTHER' OF THE NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH:  
ANNIE vand der DUSSEN reaches the big 70!!!**



(Photo: Desiree Ellery)

About 65 people gathered at the NSC Clubrooms on Saturday, 7 September to celebrate the 70th birthday of Annie van der Dussen. This event had been lovingly organised by Annie and Adrie's children. The hall was bathed in soft lighting and streamers and balloons festooned the walls. And hundreds of photographs of Annie's life, displayed in a large figure 70, were attached to the red curtains.

During the night Desiree; Veronique; Angela and Peter together dedicated a long poem about Annie's life, which started with her birth in a small Brabant village. This poem showed very clearly what a dedicated family unit Annie (and Adrie) have created but also that this dedication did not stop there for Annie. No, she collected many friends on life's highway, who she is always there for in good and bad times. Many years Annie has now been the 'heart' of the Netherlands Society in Christchurch as President and up to date as Entertainment Manager. It is never too early or too late for Annie to be called on for assistance.

Annie and Adrie's home has always been known as " 't Huisje van Zoete Inval" (**Free translation: A home were one is always welcome**), whether it is for a cup of coffee and a chat, a meal or a bed for the night.

People looking for a peaceful break during their world travels; new migrants with some home-sickness issues or other troubles, have never called in vain on Annie's hospitality. Some years ago Karen Bloemen, the famous Dutch actress and singer made a stop over in Christchurch and was lovingly entertained at the Van der Dussen's residence! For all this we did got together and remembered the day 70 years ago this amazing lady entered the world and we all wish her to live for many years in good health and happiness together with her family and us, the Dutch in Canterbury!

**Yoka Saris**

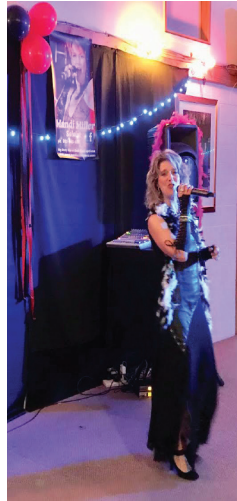
# CASINO NIGHT

Even though not as many members attended as the organising team had expected it still became a great night. Millions of dollars were easily lost and won; the food (prepared by a small number of the committee) was plentiful and delicious and the lovely singer, **Mandy Miller**, was the star of the evening. What a versatile entertainer! While people milled around the game tables Mandy kept us all spellbound with her songs, golden oldies and the latest toppers were performed.

Most members had gone out of their 'comfort zones' to dress up for the night. (I even spotted a couple of men wearing some very fancy Neerlandia Choir neck attire)

The prize for the best dressed couple went to **Carol and Henk Stoffers** and the audience voted unanimous for Mandy Miller as the best dressed female of the evening.

*Fantastic fun night: Hope to see you there next year!*



**Photos: Ron van Santen**

# COMING EVENTS

## OCTOBER

**Traditional: Leiden's Ontzet**  
**Saturday afternoon, 6 October, 12 o'clock**  
**Stampot; Haring & Wittebrood;**  
**Annie's famous Apple Crumble**  
**\$15 pp, non members \$20 pp**

**Only a few vacancies left!!!! Ring Annie NOW, 383 1594**

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**Toenail Culture Ale**  
**The drama group's annual performance**  
**Friday, Saturday and Sunday**  
**12, 13 and 14 October**  
**Tickets Arda Hogendoorn 3322057 or 027 431 4131**

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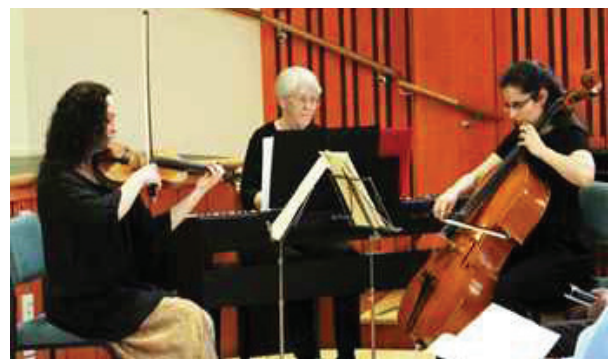
### NEERLANDIA CHOIR 36TH ANNUAL CONCERT

On Sunday, 16 September, the Neerlandia Choir Christchurch performed together with three talented guest artists, calling themselves 'The Three Generations' for obvious reasons: **Veronica van der Knaap (piano); Cornelia Didenco (violin) and Rebecca Bendre (cello)**. Seventy five people attended the concert of Neerlandia, which performed with only 13 singers, the least amount they have ever staged this annual event with. However with the professional leadership of **Teresa Jones, the musical director and accompanist Mike van Zon**, the Choir still managed to keep the audience pleasantly entertained.

Neerlandia is urgently looking for singers for the grand Christmas performance. So if you feel like joining in, even for a few months until Christmas, to sing all the well known Christmas carols (Dutch and English) please ring us: Annie 383 1594 or Yoka 384 9570.

**Yoka Saris**

**Photos: Venetia Stoffers**



# DEMENT

Door verpleegkundige Hugo van der Wedden

Ze noemde me altijd Johan, ze dacht dat ik die leuke buurjongen was op wie ze ooit, als meisje van 18, een beetje verliefd was geweest. Als ik andere vrouwen aandacht gaf, werd ze jaloers. We konden het goed met elkaar vinden, ze had iets wat me aansprak. De randen van haar geheugen waren flink afgebrokkeld, in haar beleving was ze weer een jonge meid. Dat moet een fijne, levendige tijd voor haar zijn geweest en dat straalde ze ook uit. We dansten over de afdeling op de muziek van Manke Nelis, we aten samen advocaatjes.

Ze kreeg weinig bezoek. Alleen haar kinderen kwamen af en toe langs, verder zat ze veel alleen. Nadat ze was gevallen en een heup had gebroken, overleed ze.

Met mijn collega's uit het verpleeghuis ging ik naar haar begrafenis.

Tot mijn verbazing zat de kathedraal tot de nok toe vol. Ik keek om me heen en dacht: "Waar waren jullie al die jaren?" Behalve haar kinderen had niemand in de kerk haar ooit bezocht.

Sprekers haalden herinneringen op, een voor een omschreven ze haar laatste levensfase in het verpleeghuis als uiterst verdrietig. Dus de tijd die ik met haar had meegeemaakt, werd weggezet als een betreurigswaardige periode. Dat was pijnlijk. Natuurlijk was ze in haar laatste jaren soms ook verdrietig, maar dat zat hem vooral in haar eenzaamheid. In de kathedraal kreeg het verdriet een gezicht: allemaal mensen die zo lang waren weggebleven en nu opeens wel naar haar begrafenis kwamen.

Die volle kerk heeft me nooit losgelaten. Aanvankelijk was ik boos, maar toen ik later sociologie ging studeren, leerde ik andere kanten van het verhaal kennen. Dat die mensen nooit naar het verpleeghuis waren gekomen, lag waarschijnlijk ook aan de cultuur van de instelling. Als je wilt dat de buitenwereld naar binnen komt, zorg er dan voor dat het verpleeghuis ook voor naasten als een thuis voelt.

De zorgsector is nog steeds erg op het individu gericht, er bestaat een soort onmacht om de kring rond een bewoner of een patient er echt bij te betrekken.

Verpleeghuizen waren lange tijd een bijna ondoordringbaar fort, met vaste bezoek tijden en familie die op afstand werd gehouden.

De deuren zijn al decennialang geopend, maar kennelijk is de drempel van een instelling voor velen nog te hoog. Dat kan veranderen, mogelijkheden genoeg.

Ik besepte ook dat achter al die kerkgangers een eigen kleine tragedie schuilging in relatie tot de vrouw. Ze moeten allemaal op een zeker moment, om persoonlijke redenen, zijn weggebleven.



Als mensen dementie krijgen, worden ze onvoorspelbaar en dan neemt de omgeving vaak afstand.

Vrienden en bekenden weten zich geen houding te geven, het is allemaal zo confronterend. Zo komen mensen met dementie steeds meer alleen te staan. En ze voelen dat, daar ben ik van overtuigd, ze beseffen dat de familie en vrienden zich langzaam terugtrekken.

Bij deze vrouw drong heel af en toe door dat ze in een verpleeghuis zat. Dan werd ze verdrietig en probeerden we haar te troosten. Ik vermoed dat er in de jaren voor haar opname veel stuk is gegaan. Alle mensen uit de kerk zijn langzaam weggevallen, dat moet heel pijnlijk voor haar zijn geweest.

Daar zit het grote verdriet van dementie, in hoe wij als samenleving met de ziekte omgaan. Mensen worden niet meer voor vol aangezien en dat hebben ze goed in de gaten.

Misschien was het een vorm van compensatie dat de kerk zo vol zat en hadden al die vrienden en bekenden die waren afgehaakt een zeker schuldgevoel.



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**Sinterklaas (bestel nu)**  
**hebben we iets niet, dan bestellen we het!**

## KLAVERJAS CLUB 'ONS GENOEGEN'

De reizende klaverjassers zijn terug van vakantie en we zijn blij dat ze weer veilig in het land van de 'Long White Cloud' aangekomen zijn! Dus er zijn weer heel veel mensen aanwezig en daardoor is het weer dubbel zo gezellig!

Jammer genoeg hebben we weer een speler verloren, deze keer niet door 'Magere Hein' maar door de 'tand des tijds'.

Gerard van Wijngaarden is opgenomen in de een rusthuis in Kaiapoi. We konden hem de laatste tijd al niet meer volgen; hij liep weg halverwege het spel want dan moest hij ergens anders zijn.

Ja, jammergenoeg komt de ouderdom met gebreken.

We hebben besloten hem eens op te gaan zoeken maar Gerard moet eerst even aan zijn nieuwe omgeving wennen.

Het jaarlijkse roster laat nog niet echt uitschieters zien, dus als iedereen haar/zijn sokken ophaalt en ook nog eens goeie kaarten krijgt, is er nog van alles mogelijk.

De winnaars in de afgelopen maand waren als volgt:

### **28 Augustus:**

1) Arda Hogendoorn, 5624 punten; 2) Bep van Polanen, 5293 punten

### **11 September:**

1) Leni Nelis, 5278 punten; 2) Hermien van Lieshout, 5126 punten.

Wel, mensen, geniet van de zon want het wordt al lekker zomers weer en, natuurlijk, zorg goed voor je zelf en vooral heel veel plezier met het spel van het leven!

**Wim**



## YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

Nearly forgot to get these few words into the editor on time this month as I have had such a busy time with visitors and the time got away with me.

Spring is here and gardens and parks are looking beautiful as you pass by. Not my vegetable patch though. Everytime I look out the window I say to myself "I must get out there tomorrow and do some weeding!" Well, the day has come and out I'll go as soon as I get this away to Yoka.

Welcome back to the card players. It is so lovely to have you back after all your traveling, which, I am sure, you have enjoyed.

Sad to say that we are missing the Bridge Club members as some of the players are suffering health issues.

The Youth Of Yesterday wishes you all a speedy recovery and here is hoping you will be soon back on Friday to play your favourite game again.

This is it, for now

Kind regards

**Leona**

**IF YOU ARE PATIENT IN A MOMENT OF ANGER  
YOU WILL ESCAPE A HUNDRED DAYS OF SORROW  
(Chinese proverb)**

## “HAS ANYONE SEEN MY ELEPHANT?”



An Ommen resident had a very unexpected visitor a couple of weeks ago. An elephant wandered into his garden and started to eat his peartree. The man called the police and after convincing them that he was not joking police officers responded to the scene.

“On the way to the address - in the outskirts of Ommen - we wondered how in heavens name we were supposed to catch an elephant. This was a first one for us!” the Ommen police officer said.

At the scene the police found a huge pile of pooh in the driveway but no elephant. The resident told them that the beast’s owner came to collect it and left towards a forest path. “After following the path several hundred metres we found the elephant in company of its owner.”

The owner turned out to be a circus employee, who walked the elephant in the forest several times a day. During an inattentive moment the elephant saw its chance to snack on a peartree and wandered off.

The owner felt horrible about what happened and returned to the Ommen residence with the police officers, where he cleaned up the pooh and financially compensated the man for the damages done, the police said.

“To top it all off, we, the police, were allowed to take a picture of the culprit.” We immediately took advantage of this, if only to prevent no one believing us!”

## “DE BALLENTENT”



As I already told you in the last Echo, to escape a certain birthday we decided to flee Christchurch and booked a European cruise. We saw many wonderful places but our favourite stop over was Rotterdam, my place of birth many years ago!

As soon as we embarked our dear friends **Nel & Klaas Lukas** were there to show us the city.

Our first stop was at the ‘**Hotel New York**’ (Holland America Line) for a much needed good cup of coffee!

Then we wandered through Katendrecht, many years ago a suburb, were only sailors; Chinese and ladies of ill repute seemed to gather.

Now it is THE place for the young, rich and trendy people to own a small but very neat apartments.

After that we boarded the **Splash Bus**, an unique amphibian bus, which toured us over land and around the choppy waters of the Maas river.

A “ras-echte Rotterdam” guide had us in fit of giggles as he described the most interesting places around the harbour.

And then, as the cherry on the cake, so to speak, we sat down in ‘**De Ballentent**’, on the Parkkade.

It used to be called Cafe Maaszicht but very soon the Rotterdammers referred to it as ‘de ballentent’. Its clientele was mainly the people who worked in the harbour, the office workers in the neighbourhood and seamen looking for a drink and something substantial to eat. Now it is world famous for its meatballs as they are a legendary fare. Just like Mother used to make them: tasty, juicy and BIG!

We really enjoyed the meal, the company (Unbeknown to us Martin’s eldest son, daughter in law, two grandsons plus partners and two great grandsons arrived all the way from het Gooi to spend some lovely hours with us.

The Ballentent staff could not have been more helpful in seating us all around one table, with highchairs for babies. Our special waitress, the gorgeous **Sandy Dam**, ran after us to make us all at home and was extra loving to the little ones. What a woman! We shall not easily forget this afternoon and all those people, who went out of their way to make us feel at home!

So if you are ever in Rotterdam you should visit De Ballentent for some great food and lovely staff and the rest of the company was not bad either!

**Yoka Saris**



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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)

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

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

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH NZ

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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  
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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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