



ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society
Christchurch (Inc)



**DECEMBER
2018**



May all your wishes come true....

**The Netherlands Society Christchurch
wishes all its members and their
families a very peaceful Christmas
and a happy and healthy 2019!**

Netherlands Society Christchurch

(Est. March 20th, 1965)



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EDITOR'S REPORT

Dear Readers,

Here is hoping you can find some time to relax and read this last Echo of the year. I know, it is hard to find a spare minute in your day to unwind from this 'crazy' business that the Christmas season seems to expect from us all.

I find my pleasure these hectic days in the conversations I have with my **great**granddaughters. (5 and 3 years old!!!)

Mila, 5: "Omie, have you talked to Santa Claus yet?" while taking in my denial: "Please, don't leave it too long, he is a very busy man, you know!"

Kendall, 3: "We are very lucky girls!" **Omie:** "Why is that?"

Kendall: "Because we also have Sintynikkelos!" **Mila:** "Oh, she means the other guy who is Dutch and comes around before Christmas! They both bring presents though!" **Omie:** "Who do you girls like best?" **Mila:** "It is hard to tell, we have only met up with them a few times yet!"

I do treasure these lovely and above all fun moments with my little ones.



**No, this was NOT done by Mila or Kendall!!!
(Looks more like Opie than me, anyway!)**

SCHUILEN IN VENETIE

*For those who can't get enough of
the last play by Toenail Culture Ale
here is a video-link to enjoy a little
of the performance once more.*

<https://vimeo.com/295509462>

Video by Guido Faes, email guy.faes@xtra.co.nz

Yoka Saris

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

It was sad that the St Nicholas Picnic in Spencer Park had to be cancelled because of bad weather. But what a fantastic day it turned out to be when the festivities were held at the Everglades. Many old fashioned children's games took place in the Golf Club lounge and stalls were set up and doing great business.

Poffertjes and croquettes were favourites. It was good to see that Hedwig and Gregory Dunbar (Villa 23) joined us selling all kind off Dutch delicacies.

Before I forget I like to thank Henk Stoffers for picking up St Nicholas and 2 Black Pieters to direct them to the Dutch Club!

Unbelievable how many people turned up to be part of St Nick's birthday party.

I like to wish everyone a peacefull holiday period and above all: A happy 2019. See you all again next year!

Ron



Photos: 'Adoring Parents'



NSC LAST EVENT OF 2018

**Do not not miss out on this marvelous nostalgic happening!
CHRISTMAS BBQ LUNCHEON**

Saturday, 22 December, 12 pm, at the Everglades

You will be welcomed with coffee/tea and a Dutch traditional delicacy.

In the true atmosphere of Christmas young children will perform the nativity scene

The members of the Neerlandia Choir will lead us into singing Christmas carols

The BBQ luncheon will be served, cooked to perfection by Arie & Janice Geerlofs

Members \$15 pp; non-members \$20 pp; children under 12 free of charge

First alcoholic drink free

To book ring Annie: 383 1594 before 15 December





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We spreken ook Nederlands, eerste consultatie is gratis!

NEERLANDIA CHOIR ANNUAL MYSTERY TOUR

For many years the Choir committee has organised a mystery tour as a gesture of thanks towards the members. Years ago a bus was hired but now, as the number of members has dwindled somewhat, we travel with just a few cars.

This year we gathered at Annie and Adrie van der Dussen's residence for a special afternoon tea. The plan was to admire Adrie's magnificent designed 'Holland Park'. However, the weather was not favourable so we just indulged in the beautiful cakes and each others company.

After a while we travelled to the Christchurch International Airport Rescue Fire Service, where we enjoyed a guided tour by the handsome 'fire fighters' themselves.

This fire service responds to approximately 500 calls per year, comprising primarily of aircraft, medical, general fire and hazardous substance emergencies.

The Airport Fire Service employs 46 staff and operates 24/7, 365 days a year, with a minimum of 9 firefighters on duty at any one time.

The airport's fire station is strategically located to enable full emergency response to any airside location within 3 minutes of an alarm.

It left us all very impressed with the modern technique and those dedicated men, who look after the safety of people and the environment.

This exciting day ended with a lovely meal at the Casino, where we chatted until late. Thank you, Annie, for organising this unforgettable eventful day.

Yoka Saris



Photo:
Tjeerd Kikstra

WIJ VIJREN FEEST: TIEN JAAR IN NIEUW-ZEELAND!

Ondertussen hebben de lezers al eerder kennis gemaakt met de verslagen van dit , voor mij zeker, meest enthousiaste stel emigranten, die ik in mijn 'carriere' heb mogen meemaken: Erika en Marco! Leden van de NSC, ook al wonen zij al meer dan 2 jaar in Tauranga. Hier volgt hun laatste maandelijks verslag:

JUBILEUM EDITIE!!!

Beste Allemaal,

Deze maand is het precies tien jaar geleden dat we naar NZ verhuisden. Herinneren jullie het je nog? De wereldwijde financiële crisis was net begonnen. Mijn aanstaande werkgever moest mensen ontslaan en mijn beloofde baan bij de uitgeverij/drukkerij in Nieuw-Zeeland verviel.

Onze verblijfsvergunning ging op het laatste moment niet door.

Veel onzekerheid volgde. Marco bemachtigde een tijdelijke baan bij een hoveniersbedrijf, ik vond vrijwilligerswerk in een dierentuin en later parttime werk in een tuincentrum. Ondertussen werd het verkoopcontract van ons huis in Breda geannuleerd.

Een jaar, kilo's formulieren en vele duizenden euro's later hadden we dan toch onze blauwe sticker in het paspoort: de verblijfsvergunning.

De spullen kwamen over uit Nederland. Wie had gedacht dat we elf maanden later wakker werden geschud door de eerste van een paar duizend, meer of minder zware, aardbevingen, die we zouden meemaken in Christchurch.

We vertrokken uit Christchurch en reisden rond over Noorder- en Zuidereiland, verbleven bij gastgezinnen waar we werkten in ruil voor kost en inwoning. We pasten op huizen en huisdieren (de twintig goudvissen in Napier waren een makkie!). Er was werk met een bomen-team, bij een geitenkaasmaakster; was verkoopster in bloemenkraam; buschauffeur, reisleidster en WWOOFers.

Zorgen in Breda over advocaten, herroepen koopcontracten en krakers in ons huis, speelden steeds een hoofdrol op de achtergrond.

En nu? Sinds twee en half jaar hebben we eigen plek in de Bay of Plenty, een eigen huis met een prachtig mooi uitzicht over het water. Een bloemenweelde in de voortuin, groenten en een citroenboom in de achtertuin.

Samen doen we tuinen en bomenwerk als zelfstandige ondernemers. Ons inkomen is niet erg stabiel, maar we hebben inmiddels geleerd dat we ons er niet te druk over hoeven te maken. We hebben in tien jaar Nieuw-Zeeland elke nacht nog een dak boven ons hoofd gehad en geen dag honger geleden. Zelfs als je geen mogelijkheden meer ziet, zijn er altijd weer mensen die je verder helpen. Met een klusje of een zak avocado's of een connectie die misschien weer werk oplevert. Er is altijd hoop.

Tijd om balans op te maken. Wat is de winst na tien jaar in Nieuw-Zeeland? Marco: "Ik heb een veel relaxter leven." Erika: "Er is veel zon en zee. De mensen zijn relaxed, behulpzaam en ongelooflijk van vertrouwen. Het leven is hier veel rustiger, misschien ook omdat het nieuws van de rest van wereld maar druppelsgewijs het land in sijpelt. De aflevering "Onthaasten" van het tijdschrift Flow is aan mij niet besteed." Allebei zijn we blij dat we nu in Nieuw-Zeeland wonen.

En missen we dan niks van Nederland of Europa? Natuurlijk wel. "De sfeer van pleintjes en terrasjes, die heb je hier niet." (Marco). "De fiets zonder helm als vervoermiddel. Nichtjesweekend. Vrienden en vriendinnen om zomaar even aan te waaien." (Erika)





Okay, genoeg gefilosofeerd, terug naar het nu. Wat gebeurde er deze maand?

- * Onze gastenkamer staat op AirBnB! Zeg het voort, zeg het voort, verspreid het nieuws onder al je vrienden en bekenden!!! Dit is de link, neem een kijkje: www.airbnb.co.nz/rooms/22305844
- * Op zaterdagen help ik Dai en Marco (uit Italië) gefrituurde pizza's verkopen op de markt.
- * Daphne uit Amsterdam begon 5 oktober haar tijdelijk verblijf in NZ bij ons - ze werkt nu voor een half jaar als huisarts in Gisborne aan de oostkust.
- * We hebben een klus van een hele week gehad om van een jungle een tropisch paradijsje te maken. Huis en tuin zijn nu in de verkoop.
- * Eindelijk, eindelijk hangt de twee persoons hangmat weer! Geen boom die groot en sterk genoeg is rondom ons huis en nu hebben we een soort Vikingschip als standaard gekocht. Een groot succes. Na gedane arbeid is het nu extra goed rusten onder de geur van citroen bloesem.
- * Om ons jubileum te vieren zijn we een weekend in Raglan (ja, waar de mouwen zijn uitgevonden) wezen kamperen. Heerlijk weer en een van de mooiste watervallen zijn daar te bewonderen. Ook zijn we naar de nationale wedstrijd voor operazangers gaan kijken en luisteren. Marco was die hele avond in tranen van emotie en mijn mond viel open en is sindsdien nog steeds niet dicht geklapt bij het genieten van zoveel talent.

Trouwe lezertjes, jullie zijn onze lijn met Nederland gebleven ook al door de berichten van jullie kant van de aardbol. Met gewoon een kort regeltje dat alle verschil maakt. Of met een heel levenswerk via email. En met de keren dat we terug in NL kwamen en we superhartelijk onthaald zijn en in de watten werden gelegd. Dank, dank, DANK!

Erika & Marco

On Santa's Team

By Carol Laycock

A story to read to children who are on the verge of not believing in Santa anymore! (Editor)

My grandma taught me everything about Christmas. I was just a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her on the day my big sister dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," jeered my sister. "Even dummies know that!"

My grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth and I knew the truth always went down a lot easier when swallowed with one of her world-famous cinnamonbuns.

Grandma was home and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me.

"No Santa Claus!" she snorted. "Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been around for years and it makes me mad, plain mad. Now, put your coat on and let's go."

"Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second cinnamon bun.

"Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through the doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days.

"Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbours, the kids at school, the people who went to my church.

I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair and he sat right behind me in Mrs Pollock's grade-two class. Bobbie Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out for recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough. But all we kids knew that Bobbie Decker didn't have a cough and he didn't have a coat.

I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement. I would buy Bobbie Decker a coat. I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood on it. It looked real warm and he would like that. I didn't see the price tag, but ten dollars ought to buy anything. I put the coat and my ten-dollar bill on the counter and pushed them toward the lady behind it.

She looked at the coat, the money and me. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" she asked kindly. "Yes," I replied shyly. "It's....for Bobbie. He's in my class and he doesn't have a coat." The nice lady smiled at me. I didn't get any change but she put the coat in a bag and wished me a Merry Christmas.





That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat in Christmas paper and ribbons and write: “To Bobbie. From Santa Claus” on it.... Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy.

Then she drove me over to Bobbie Decker’s house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially one of Santa’s helpers. Grandma parked down the street from Bobbie’s house and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk.

Suddenly, Grandma gave me a nudge. “All right, Santa Claus,” she whispered, ‘get going.”

I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded the doorbell twice and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did and there stood Bobbie. He looked around, picked up his present, took it inside and closed the door.

Forty years haven’t dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my grandma, in Bobbie Decker’s bushes. That night, I realised that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: Ridiculous!

Santa was alive and well....AND WE WERE ON HIS TEAM!



Santa and some of his little helpers!

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Koffie verkeerd, Chocomel, Nellie's boterkoek, Oma's appelcake,
 kroketten, tosties, patat met, uitsmijter, broodje gezond, poffertjes,
 oliebollen, pannenkoeken en nog veel meer....en voor al uw

Nederlandse boodschappen,
 kaas, hagelslag, vlokken, koekjes, dropjes, Calvé etcetera

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

KLAVERJAS CLUB 'ONS GENOEGEN'

Het was een droevige maand. Onze goede vriendin Annie Schrader uit Upper Hutt is overleden op de rijpe leeftijd van 92 jaren. Ze woonden al lange tijd in een rusthuis, dat ze jaren geleden al geboekt had. Annie en Jaap organiseerden heel lang het klaverjassen in Wellington. Als er een nationaal tournament georganiseerd werd dan stond hun deur altijd open voor bezoekers vanuit het hele land. In de laatste jaren was het voor ons altijd een veilige haven waar we binnen konden varen. Altijd hadden we een fijne tijd en natuurlijk moest er altijd een potje gekaart worden. Ze vond het prachtig als we zomaar binnen kwamen waaien ook al brachten we de hele familie uit Holland mee. Mijn broer Bert kende Annie's broer in Nederland dus die was helemaal haar lieveling. Hij blij! Dus zie je maar, we staan allemaal op de drempel en moeten genieten van elk moment ook al is het alleen maar met klaverjassen. Tot nog toe spelen we met 21 spelers en we zijn daar tevreden mee. Wat de jaarlijkse break-up betreft dat vieren we dit jaar in de clubrooms omdat het vorig jaar allemaal een beetje tegenviel. We spelen een paar spelletjes en genieten dan van lunch en een wijntje (of wat men dan ook maar drinken wil). Daarna worden de jaarlijkse prijzen uitgereikt en dan zit het er weer op voor 2018.

Gedurende het Labour Weekend Tournament, Saturday, 20 October, speelden we met 20 spelers en de winnaars waren:

1) Emmy Nederpelt, 9352 punten; 2) Bep van Polanen, 8670 punten; 3) Agnes Stolp, 8107 punten. Het was een gezellige dag en de Chinese lunch ging er in als koek.

23 October was de uitslag als volgt:

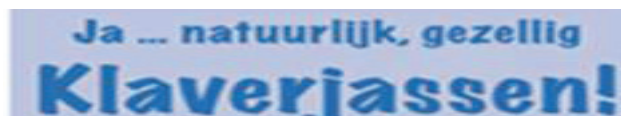
1) Wim de Winter, 5122 punten; 2) Hermien van Lieshout, 5001 punten

6 November:

1) Jean Blik, 5135 punten; 2) Ans van Vuuren, 4960 punten.

Dit is het laatste report voor dit jaar, namens alle leden wensen ik jullie een gezellig en gelukkig kerstfeest en een gezond nieuwjaar toe. Geniet van alles en veel plezier met het spel van het leven!

Wim



YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

Here I am with the last message for the Youth of Yesterday for 2018, how quickly the year has passed. Firstly I like to give you some important dates:

We break up on Friday, 14 December 2018 and return on the 1st of February 2019.

Our Christmas breakup lunch will be held on Friday, 14 December in the clubrooms at approximately 12 noon.

You must RSVP with payment to Lilian before **7 December 2018. This is for catering purposes.** Most players were given a notice with all the details but if you missed out call me on 03-313 5305 or 027-416 6883 and your name can be added to the list.

Wim de Winter brought in large tins of 'zuurkool' ex Van Dam, which we are selling for \$2 per can, \$1 of this is being donated to the YOY. Thank you so much.

I want to thank Lilian for her excellent work looking after our finances, she keeps precise records of everything. Hanna van de Wende makes excellent coffee for me every Friday morning, thank you, Hanna.

Also to all the players, without you we would not be able to gather like we do, so thank you for your support.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season and hope to see you all happy and healthy in the new year.

Leona

**KNOW THE VALUE OF TIME, SNATCH, SEIZE AND ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF IT.
(Lord Chesterfield, English Stateman, 1694 - 1773)**



KERSTMIS 2018

met het

NEERLANDIA CHOIR

Musical Director - Teresa Jones

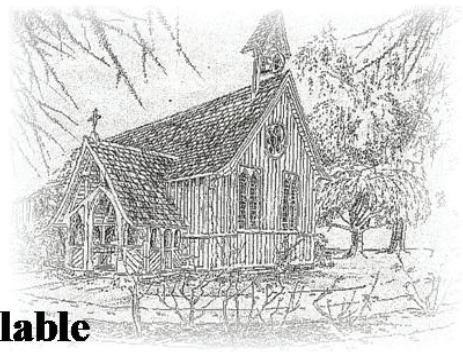
Organist - Michael Zon

Guest Artist:

Rosa Klein - Harpist

Tuesday 18th December 2018 - 7 PM

**St. Mary's Church
329 Halswell Road**



Song sheets are available

Coffee and tea will be served after the service

ADMISSION FREE

EVERYONE WELCOME

Proceeds of the Collection will be donated to ADARDS
Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders Society

Let us sing together, those songs of long ago,
It will bring back memories of times we treasure so!



VILLA 23

This article was published in the Metropol. (Editor)

A rare city treasure: Villa 23 Cafe is the bright pink, Dutch, vegetarian cafe you didn't know you needed but won't want to live without (and it's for sale!)

The secret is out about Villa 23 Cafe, New Zealand's first and only Dutch vegetarian cafe with the ambient charm of a rare city treasure. Hedwig Dunbar-Keek and family have infused creativity into this gorgeous stand-alone villa. It's now seeking a new owner, with new passions."



It's a central location, with little competition, between Blenheim and Riccarton Road. It would be perfect for any restaurant, culinary dream or a combined office space." she says.

An interior designer from Amsterdam, Hedwig wishes to move on to her next project spending precious time with her gorgeous new granddaughter while concentrating solely on her Dutch-style catering business.

The landlord let Hedwig recreate the once drab, unnoticeable villa with colourful imagination. Amazing Dutch-designed wallpapers add delightful difference to the disco-glam "Arabian nights" room, the light-filled 'colour room' and the must-see optical illusion bathroom. Husband Gregory restored its soft-pink exterior, polished floors and sturdy structure to its 1911 glory.

Her son and barista Quentin greets customers, while Hedwig conjures no-nonsense-great food from the spacious new kitchen. The cafe oasis serves Peruvian-origin coffee to the lucky customers working in the area - and many pop in for Dutch grocery items. The healthy award-winning smoothies, little Dutch poffertjes en oliebollen are delectable and specialities which are also sold at their Dutch stall at Deans Bush market on Saturdays.

Hedwig can be contacted at phone 03 343 3375 or email mandeville23a@gmail.com.

A DUTCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

When I say celebrating birthdays, I don't mean that the Dutch don't celebrate birthdays. They do. In fact, when a Dutch person is 'jarig' (meaning that that day is their birthday), you're expected to congratulate them.

That doesn't seem so weird, does it? Well until you realise that you're also expected to congratulate everyone else remotely related to them if you happen to come in contact with them. Say you show up to celebrate somebody's birthday. You will walk into the sitting room where everybody, who arrived before you, is seated around in a circle, clutching a cup of coffee.

Now here it comes: You are expected to shake hands with all present and congratulate them for the birthday of their mother/father/brother/sister or however they may be related to the person whose birthday it actually is.

FRIENDLY SUPPORT NETWORK (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:

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Application form:



Name: _____ Telephone: _____
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Membership fees can be paid **after** receiving the
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	Samuel van Hout	022 6747830	
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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'	<i>Non operational, anyone keen to start this group again? Ring/email us!</i>	
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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All contributions are proofread for style and grammar.

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