

newsletter from the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Inc.

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 3 June/July 2019



Take a moment
to sit back, relax
and drink coffee

**KOM
NAAR DE
INSTUIF**

Instuif
Every Sunday
2-5 pm

Clubhouse
Avalon House
61 Taita Drive
Avalon, Lower Hutt



PRESIDENT



FROM THE PRESIDENT - VAN DE VOORZITTER

When you read this we will have closed our 70th Anniversary year and I am proud to say that we can look back at a year full of successful events. We have managed to organise our customary events and on top of that added some new ones to. To refresh your memory, there was the Easter event, Minigolf/Hi tea, outdoor bowling, film afternoon and the puzzle-tour. Some of them proved to be so successful that members have asked to put them permanently on our schedule of events.

Now we would love to do this but, as you can image, this comes at a cost, and I don't mean money. As you are well aware, successfully organising events stands and falls with having volunteers available to put in the women-/man-power and time to prepare, execute and clean-up. And that is where the shoe pinches!

Let me explain.

With few exceptions, events are organised by committee members. Mostly with help of other volunteers, which are often also committee members, but still the organiser carries the majority of the workload. This has been, as far as I am aware, a long standing tradition of doing events in our club.

To keep things healthy there is a linear relationship between the number of events and committee members. Having a committee team of 10 members, as we had in the past year, is a luxury and was a necessity to organise the many events that we had last year.

This will change.

What will be a fact when you read this is that only half of the existing committee members will continue being part of a new committee in the next year.

Is this new?

Nope, committee composition changes almost every year. What concerns me this time round is the number of people leaving, the fact that it is dominantly the younger generation and the prospects of replacement.

If we want to continue to offer the social events that we have offered in the past,

we will need to: increase the number of committee members, change the way we do things or both.

So there you are. Challenge described in less than 300 words.

As for news on how to tackle this challenge you will have to wait until the next edition when a new committee has settled in and had a chance to ponder this.

But I can safely say that with respect to increasing the number of committee members I would like to ask each member to consider to step forward and have a chat with one of the committee members to discuss "what it's like to be a committee member". I am sure you will receive an honest answer that will help you decide if it fits your bill.

Pierre



ENJOY
thousands of tulips
and Dutch connections
September
Wellington Botanical Garden

TULIP SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 2019

HELP WANTED

Tulip Sunday is our annual big event. It is when we 'emerge' from the clubhouse onto the wider Wellington scene. It's an important event for our club. Not just for our members, but for the wider Wellington Community.

Although it is still far away, as a matter of fact the exact date is not even known yet, we would like to put out a request for helpers with our next Tulip Sunday event in September 2019.

Helpers are wanted for a variety of jobs (like selling, cooking, baking, waiting & dishwashing) so if you feel like contributing to a successful Tulip Sunday, contact Pierre (pierre.schmits@yahoo.com).

Your help is much appreciated.

SECRETARY



FROM THE SECRETARY - VAN DE SECRETARIS

I've just come home from the 70th Anniversary lunch at Angus Inn in Lower Hutt. I'm feeling good, having enjoyed excellent company, and eaten very tasty food. It was lovely seeing so many of our members there, as well as Ms Xiaoling Wu from the Dutch Embassy. Thank you, Pierre and Ann Beyk, for organising this.

By the time you read this our AGM will have been held, and I'll no longer be on the committee. I will continue to help out at the coffee mornings and with some other tasks, and hopefully someone else will have agreed to take over the secretarial duties.

I look back over the past 7 or so years I've been actively involved with the club, and ask myself: "what have I taken away from my involvement"? Before I was enticed onto the committee, I took it for granted that when I went to the club there was coffee, the clubroom was heated and clean, there was entertainment. I now know better. I've learnt that running a club successfully is all due to a lot of hard work from the committee and other volunteers.

That is, however, not all I've gained. I never met 'old' people – in my working life I worked as a school secretary, my grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles were either dead or lived back in The Netherlands, my siblings are younger than I am and my friends and acquaintances were all about my age. The greatest gift from my involvement with the club has been meeting and getting to know people who are (often a lot) older than I am. I've had interesting conversations with some of our members, by telephone or face-to-face. Through my contact with older people I've





been able to see how one can live well despite physical decline, and how to carry old age with dignity and courage. For that I want to thank you; my future may not look as scary as I thought. And the younger members, especially those I've been on the committee with, have my respect. I admire them for their energy, open-mindedness, and ability to cope with the pressures of modern life – relationships, children, careers, technology. So, I say a heartfelt Thank You to all the people I've met through being a committee member.

Happy birthday to those of you who will celebrate in the next two months – I know of Peter and Guy in June, and Pieter, Hans, Christine, Jo and Toihau in July.

Warm wishes to you all, and strenght to those of you who are suffering illness or bereavement.

Anne-Marie

GRATITUDE

The committee and members of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Inc like to thank our President Pierre Schmits for his dedication and hard work over the last 12 months to make the 70th Anniversary year a fantastic success.

A heartfelt Thank You
Pierre,
from all of us!

EASTER

For the first time since a few years we had an Easter celebration again in our Clubhouse. We deviated from the traditional Easter Egg Hunt as we thought that there was not enough enthusiasm amongst parents and kids for this type of entertainment. Instead the committee settle on extending our Social Sunday offering and making it a special event for Easter.

Our clubrooms were decorated Easter style with some banners that we found in the attic, two sets of beautiful Easter lights donated by Anna Heythuysen and a wonderful Easter art composition made by Anja Geelen.

The tables were dressed with our Easter ornaments and of course Easter goodies. With a donation of 60 Fresh Farm eggs by Phemia van Dyk, we are able to produce

a scrumptious egg salad served on Bellini's, devilled eggs and some beautifully coloured hard boiled eggs.

It wasn't easy to colour the eggs, says Anna Heythuysen, in the Netherlands we had those coloured pieces of paper that dissolved in water in which you could colour the eggs. Couldn't find them here so I resorted to food-colouring. It did the trick and nobody has died of the eggs.....as far as I know.

Next to the savoury nibbles there was also plenty of bounty on the table for those with a sweet tooth.

About 25 members enjoyed our Easter afternoon and from the positive feedback I have received I believe that this style of Easter celebration is worth repeating!

Pierre



70th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH 2019

During our last AGM, I promised the attendees then, that we would end our Anniversary year with a Bang and I think we did!

On Sunday 19 th of May, close to seventy of our members gathered together in the Angus Inn for our Anniversary closing lunch.

Ann Beyk and I had done the preliminary arrangements in talking to the venue, deciding on the type of lunch and, on the day, we were present early to dress up the hall for the event. I must say that the staff from the Angus Inn had been wonderful in setting up the room and making sure that all tables were dressed timely and in the arrangement that we asked for. Ann diligently put together the final touches of balloons and table dressing and positioned herself at the entrance to welcome our guests which began dripping in at around noon.

After a welcome glass of bubbles or orange drink, I opened the lunch with a welcome speech which I have been asked to publish in this edition of the Double Dutch. After that our honoured guest Mrs. Xiaoling Wu from the Dutch Embassy took the floor and address us.

We had a birthday girl amongst our midst and we didn't want to waste the opportunity to say cheers to Anna Heythuysen and presented her with a warm "Lang zal ze leven" to the tune of Ben's ocarina. Afterwards Anna stated that "this was the biggest birthday crowd that she ever had" and that she had thoroughly enjoyed it.

Everyone's anticipation was stretched a while longer by a more formal announcement. The committee of the Dutch Club Wellington had unanimously decided to award Dawn and Kees Dorresteijn with an Honorary Life Membership of our club in recognition of their individual contributions and commitment to the club's committee, members and events.

Well-deserved I should think!

After a short speech of both Dawn and Kees the closing of our 70 th Anniversary year was done by opening the Lunch buffet. We indulged in a variety of entrees, European style mains and a sumptuous desert and coffee closing. A true feast for both the eye and the palate.

The event at the Angus Inn wound up at around 2PM after which many of us enjoyed some more after coffee drinks at our clubrooms in Avalon.

A truly memorable close of our 70 th Anniversary year.

Pierre



"...het was een reuze gezellig gezelschap en we hadden lekker eten."

JUBILEE LUNCH



JUBILEE SPEECH

Dames en heren / ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you as members of the Dutch Club Wellington here at the close of our 70th anniversary year. And I would also like to extend a special welcome to Mrs. Xiaoling Wu who joins us here on behalf of the Dutch Embassy in Wellington.

70 Years ago, in 1948, a few people gathered together to form, what we now know as, the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Inc. or Dutch Club Wellington.

Make no mistakes, those were bold steps.

The early settlers were encouraged by both their old home country as well as their new home country to leave behind all cultural baggage and start afresh and become Kiwi's / New Zealanders.

And they did. I think it is a proven fact that not many other immigrants have assimilated abroad as well as the "Dutchies".

But what you see from the outside does not always reveal what goes on in the inside and many of them, as I do believe many of us now, found it difficult to completely shake of all old cultural feathers.

Whether it is family, language, memories of our home town, drop, jonge klare, stroopwafels, limburgse vlaai or even Sinterklaas there is always a longing deep within us that uniquely identifies us as what we are: "Nederlanders".

70 Years is a long time, almost three generations, and each generation of immigrants brought with them fresh ideas about social interaction and assimilation. It is also true that boundaries have disappeared and distances have become smaller in those 70 years. So access to our heritage and culture, which was once a long boat journey away, can now be gained, physically, in 24 hours by plane or even virtually, in as little as seconds, via the internet. Last but not least we are nowadays spoiled by a multitude of options to socialise, interact and entertain. The Saturday night dances of the past are now a Theme park, 3D movie theatre, city-trip, Mobile App or any of the other pleasures that enrich our lives.

These factors, beyond doubt, diminish the compelling need for social club structures as we had, and in a way currently still have. And survival, as a club, then calls for change.

The good news is however that things like drop, jonge klare, limburgse vlaai and even Sinterklaas are very difficult to enjoy via a mobile phone, i-pad or the internet.

So, while I think that change and adaptation to a new environment is inevitable, I am also a firm believer that we, as a Dutch club have the unique possibility and capability to keep alive the most important parts of our cultural heritage here in New Zealand.

It is therefore that I am truly convinced that we will meet again, in another 10 years from now, to celebrate our 80 th anniversary. So please make a note in your diaries for Sunday 20 th May 2029.

Pierre

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUBHOUSE

COFFEE MORNINGS

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday
from 10am-1pm (4 & 18 April, 2
& 16 May)

SUNDAY INSTUIF

Every Sunday From 2 to 5pm

KLAVERJAS

Every Tuesday from 10am to
2pm. Bring your own lunch

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE

WAIKANAЕ COFFEE GROUP

Every second Friday of the
month, 10am, Waikanae Baptist
Church

ISLAND BAY COFFEE GROUP

Every Wednesday, 10.30am,
Island Bay Community Centre

LEVIN COFFEE MORNING

Every last Thursday of the
month, 10am, Levin Bridge Club

DO YOU RECOGNISE THESE?



ACTIVITIES ORGANISERS - ACTIVITEITEN

Klaverjas, Dutch Costumes	Ann Beyk	567 8575
Children's Dancing Lessons	Carolina van Rooy	528 8434 (021 217 9849)
Wednesday Coffee Mornings	Pieter Koedijk	526 8867 (021 065 5470)
Friendly Support Network	Bill van Waas	(04) 298 4244
Website	Dagmar Bakker	022 161 9071
Waikanae Coffee morning	Henny Ekens	(04) 297 2918
Levin Coffee morning	Yoka Dekker	(022) 502 2645
Island Bay Coffee morning	Ina Kooistra	(04) 383 8449

THE COMMITTEE - HET COMMITTEE

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Secretary	tba dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Rene van Lierop dutchclubwlg.treasurer@gmail.com	977 7086 021 740 930
Assistant Treasurer	Ann Beyk	567 8575
Garden	Anna Heythuysen	563 6026
Editor Double Dutch	Anja Geelen amwgeelen@gmail.com	021 130 8036

Tuesday Klaverjas Club

Everything is going fine playing Rotterdams rules one month and the next Amsterdamrules. It is good for your brains if you have to think how to play the game a different way. And so far everyone likes it.

The results of the last 8 weeks:

Week 8	26 March	Harry v/d Gulik	5732
Week 9	2 April	Len Visser	5033
Week 10	9 April	Len Visser	5685
Week 11	16 April	Piet de Graaff	5215
Week 12	23 April	Harry v/d Gulik	5286
Week 13	30 April	Len Visser	5185
Week 14	7 May	Piet de Graaff	5348
Week 15	14 May	Ann Beyk	5238

It is nice to see all the scores over the five thousand. Keep it up and enjoy yourselves at the game. We did get a lovely lunch provided and delivered from Bob Scott retirement centre. It was lovely, enjoyed by all of us and most appreciated. Many thanks.

See you next Tuesday - Ann Beyk

OPSPORING VERZOCHT

A few weeks ago a couple visited our clubrooms and when speaking to them they revealed that they were looking for a Dutch person. Unfortunately, they had very little information about this person and even the spelling of the name was ambiguous.

The mentioned that they were looking for Tony Beinan. Or at least that was how the name sounded to them as it was verbally relayed.

Now Tony was probably the English version of what must have been Anton, Antoniun, Antwan or Ton in Dutch. And Beinan could have been Bijnan as the "ei" and the "ij" are audibly indistinguishable.

The person must be in his 80's and had been in the Navy although it is not clear if this was the Dutch or New Zealand navy.

If you have any information or hint about this person please contact Pierre (021-08272084 or pierre.schmits@yahoo.com) or any other committee member of our club.

Pierre

IN MEMORIAM

With sadness in our heart but with fond memories of the past we think back of two dedicated members of our Dutch Club.

Tilly van Dalen, who passed away on 22 April 2019, was a devoted Tuesday Klaverjas member in Avalon, an event that she enjoyed playing until her health didn't allow traveling the distance. After her move to Paraparaumu, she was a welcome help in Waikanea where she helped serving many a cup of coffee on the Friday coffee mornings.

On 1 April 2019 Marianne Iwanek, who was a true icon in our Dutch Club Wellington, passed away while on a visit in The Netherlands. Through the years Marianne served in many roles in committees and events, was custodian of the library, helped with the Tuesday klaverjas event, was "in charge" of our sandwiches during the coffee mornings in Avalon and, probably most memorable, the maker/baker of the "Oranje Taart" for our Kingsday celebration. Always mindful of and helpful to others, especially in her role in the "Friendly Support Network", Marianne will be sorely missed amongst our midst.

Pierre



EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS IN NZ

The Dutch government (Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken) has a website for Dutch nationals who live, work and travel abroad. This website will give you information about passports, visa, official documents, business, pensions, emergencies etc. For the New Zealand page, go to <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/new-zealand>. Check out the page 'latest news' for the latest updates. This is also the page to find the links to the Embassy.

Het is tijd...

De afgelopen 8 jaar heb ik met veel plezier in het comitee van de Dutch Club Wellington meegedraaid. Tijdens deze 8 jaar heb ik veel nieuwe "nederlandse ervaringen" opgedaan die ik anders waarschijnlijk niet had meegemaakt.

Ik weet nu hoe ik een Limburgse Vlaai maak, hoe ik kroketten en oliebollen frituur en ook ben ik nu een expert in hutspot maken voor minimaal 60 man!!

Via de club en de Federatie heb ik veel nieuwe contacten gelegd met gelijk gestemde nederlandse Nieuw Zeelanders en dat heeft er zeker toe bijgedragen dat ik me hier in Wellington heerlijk thuis voel.

Tijdens de koffiemiddagen heb ik genoten van de verhalen van de immigranten die na de tweede wereld oorlog in Wellington belandden. Helaas gaat het biljarten me nog steeds niet zo goed af en klaverjassen kan ik ook nog niet.

Mijn betrokkenheid bij de Dutch Club Wellington heeft er toe bijgedragen dat mijn kinderen redelijk goed nederlands spreken, dat ze weten wie Sinterklaas is en dat je geld kan verdienen met de kleedjesmarkt op Koningsdag. Allemaal belangrijke evenementen en ervaringen om hun eigen identiteit te vormen.

Het organiseren van evenementen heeft mij veel tijd en energie gevegd, maar is altijd de moeite waard geweest om de blijde gezichten te zien van jong en oud. Nu mijn kinderen wat ouder zijn en het drukker hebben met hun sport (en minder hun moeder achterna lopen) heb ik besloten om mijn betrokkenheid bij de club op een wat lager pitje te zetten.

Dat wil niet zeggen dat ik niet meer zal helpen bij evenementen want zonder vrijwilligers kunnen deze evenementen niet gehouden worden!! Dus, tot ziens!!!

En... misschien heeft u ook een paar uurtjes beschikbaar dan horen we dat graag.

Yvonne

Kingsday 2019

Kingsday celebration 2019 didn't go unnoticed for our members. On Sunday 28th April about 35 members joined for a party in honour of King Willem-Alexander's 52nd birthday. Of course the clubrooms were decorated in orange for the occasion and so were the visitors.

With the coffee a delicious "stukje Oranje Taart" was service which was skilfully prepared by Anna Heythusen. After that nibbles and drinks were served and while eating, drinking and talking the Dutch "Koningsdag" from the BVN website could be seen on the TV-screen.

Later that afternoon our Dutch ambassador in New Zealand Mira Woldberg and her partner Koen joined the party and mingled until it was time to pay a birthday tribute

by singing our national hymn and raising a toast to the King. This year the music was produced by Ben Lokum who did a wonderful rendition of the "Wilhelmus" on his Ocarina which to my knowledge (and that of Google) was a world premiere!

After the official part it was quiz time. This time round there were 10 questions of various Dutch nature and ranging in difficulty. Winners were: Pieter Koedijk, Mira Woldberg and Koen Overkamp with 8 out of 10 correct answers each. Congratulations!

With a heap of positive comments and accolades the organisers, Anna Heythusen and I, were very happy with the event that would not have been as successful without the help of the fantastic volunteers: Anja, Anne-Marie, Marina and Pieter.

Pierre

EDITOR



FROM THE EDITOR - VAN DE REDACTEUR

I am writing this while my children are packing up to travel to Amsterdam. In three days my two youngest (17 & 24 yrs) are heading off to hang out with my oldest (27 yrs). They are very excited. I am too, and not... contemplating mixed feelings. I am proud of them, they want to this and have organised their work/study around their travels to Europe for 4 weeks.

It's been tempting to buy a ticket for myself. All my family is in the Netherlands, including of course my oldest daughter who I miss dearly. I carefully raised the idea with my youngest to tag along but I got a stern "No mum, we want to travel on our own". My suggestions that I could sit in business class and they could sit in economy class got the typical teenage look! So I resigned and now I will cheer them on from the sideline and give them big hugs when I drop them off at the airport. It IS exciting. Even though for me it means they are literally flying out of the nest!

Which brings me to the kiwi in the photo of the front cover. It's peewee the Kiwi, not the most original name, but it was a name chosen by a class of 3 & 4 year olds. It was our class kiwi who would travel with anyone for a length of time. So when I went to the Netherlands a few years ago, Peewee came with me. And it was fun. Peewee helped me see Amsterdam through a whole different lens. The lens of a tourist. Which was very interesting. I am looking forward to the stories of my children upon their return. This time it will be without their folks dragging them along on family visits. The Netherlands through the eyes of a Dutch Kiwi, or is it a Kiwi Dutch, I still haven't figured that out!

Have a great couple of months, if you want some 'warmth' during these upcoming winter months join us at the Sunday Instuif or Wednesday morning coffee groups.

Anja

Next Double Dutch

Augst/September Issue nr 4, copy due: 22
July 2019 email to amwgeelen@gmail.com

Contact the secretary for advertising rates and
club room hire.



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BEYOND THE CLUBHOUSE

Social media, a dreaded word?

We hear so much about social media these days. The good, the bad and the ugly. As with so many things in life, it is what you make of it. And for many of us, it comes down to perceptions.

Here, at the Dutch Club, we are not heavily involved in the social media circus. We don't 'tweet' on Twitter, we leave that up to the birds in Avalon Park. We don't 'click' and post our photos on Instagram, we rather print them in our Double Dutch or hang them on our clubhouse walls. We don't 'like' on Facebook, we rather give someone a smile at our Sunday Instuif or Wednesday coffee morning.



That is not to say that social media does not play a role in the existence of our club. It does. We use it to bring events, activities, informal and formal information to the attention of anyone who is interested in our club and all that is 'Dutch'. We use Facebook for this.

The good thing about social media is that we can easily share information from other organisations and authorities, like the Dutch Embassy, that we think is relevant to our members. And we can do this in a quick and precisely manner. We are not asking you to 'tweet', or 'click' but you can 'like' us on our Facebook page if you want to be kept up to date with the latest 'Dutch' stuff. Even so, we still want to see you at our Instuif and coffee morning with a big 'like' smile. Visit Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dutchclubwellington/>

We thank Harbour City Funeral Home for generously printing The Double Dutch in full colour for us.

ABOUT FUNERALS

This beautifully designed booklet contains answers to all the immediate questions family and friends will want to know at the time of a funeral. Colour photographs throughout, make this an easy to read comprehensive booklet, as the perfect guide to pre-planning a funeral. Included are sections for recording personal details and funeral preferences that can be retained for future use, making funeral planning easy for your loved ones. Call us now for a **FREE** copy of this guide, while stocks are available.

Call Danny Langstraat on

570 0111

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