



## NETHERLANDS

SOCIETY ROTORUA (Inc)

GEYSER NEWS

July and August 2019

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**ATTENTION!**



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

### MARKET DAYS



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019**

The winter has arrived and it is time for a hot oliebol or a croquette. With the winter energy payment we can heat up our house and stay warm and cosy.

**Next one Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

### POTLUCK DINNER

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

Bring along your favourite dish to share with friends and fellow club members. Enjoy your evening in our warm and cosy clubrooms. Doors will be open from 6 pm and you will receive a free drink on arrival.



**AGM**  
Annual General Meeting

**THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**

### HOT OFF THE PRESS



Jill Marshall has done a profile on **Annie Heeremans**. See next page

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of the year again, to renew your membership. You are critical to the continued success of our club, so it is important that you continue to be a member and also spread the word amongst family and friends about our club.

To make it easy for you, we have enclosed a form to fill in and return with a cheque or you can pay by internet banking as indicated on the form. Please include your name in the reference details.

If you are a new member, please complete the form and post or scan it to us, as we require your postal details to send the newsletter to you.

## **Member Profile**



**We would like to introduce you to:**

**Annie Heeremans**



### **A life well lived – and shared with many**

Ninety-year-old Annie Heeremans is a foundation member of the Netherlands Society of Rotorua. Active and engaged with life, Annie still drives herself to all the regular club events including bingo, coffee mornings, market days and pot luck dinners.

From a family of seven, Annie was born in IJmuiden, north-west of Amsterdam, in February 1929. The family suffered greatly during WWII; even eating tulip bulbs and the occasional cat to survive. They were forced to move several times after the German army requisitioned their family home. It was a plus when Annie became friends with a nice boy who lived in the same street in Santpoort. Unfortunately, like all young men in Holland, Frits was required to serve two years in the military and was sent to the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) during the war. Afterwards, he felt there was nothing for him in Holland and wanted to live somewhere he and his girlfriend could have a future. Annie initially said no to leaving, but the thought of being parted from Frits for another two years convinced her otherwise.

Their options as assisted immigrants were Canada, South Africa, Australia or New Zealand. Although Annie loved New Zealand from the very first, she admits she had never heard of it beforehand.

Just a week before they were due to sail, Annie's mother decided it wasn't seemly for her to leave without being engaged. With virtually no money apart from a small inheritance from Annie's grandfather (to help towards Frits' mechanic's tools) and £10 from the Dutch army (to cover expenses on the 6-week voyage), Annie's mother brought the engagement ring and her outfit was made by her sister Hetty. In fact, she sewed several outfits that Annie recalls were all far too hot for the New Zealand summer.

Arriving in Rotorua in 1953, the pair worked at jobs organised by the Government; Frits as a mechanic at Waipa Sawmill and Annie as a chambermaid at the Princes Gate Hotel. It was a live-in position with meals provided and Annie thought she was "in heaven".

She was amazed to find New Zealanders so open and friendly. She was stunned when her workmates invited her to play tennis; only the rich played tennis in Holland. Running to St. Michael's Catholic Church for her first Sunday service, she was offered a lift in a car (and thereafter every Sunday); another big surprise as wealthy car owners didn't give poor people rides either.



Two of her three sisters, Ina and Hetty, came out to New Zealand for Annie and Frits' wedding in St. Michael's Church in February 1955, with Hetty sewing both the bride's and bridesmaids' dresses. The sisters also fell in love with New Zealand and made Rotorua their home too.

Renting a Waipa Sawmill house in their first year of marriage, the couple moved into town when Frits got a job at RM Transport as a truck mechanic. The company subsidised their rent and later, as a mark of the high regard Frits was held in, the money they'd paid in rent was gifted back providing the deposit to buy the house. Amazingly Annie still calls it home today.

The Rotorua Netherlands Society, formed in 1965, played an important role in the Heeremans' lives from its beginnings. Along with Daan Ingelse, a major force in the club's formation, the social couple got involved in organising dances at the Buffalo Hall to provide a gathering place for local Dutch immigrants. They also had film nights showing newsreels from Holland supplied through the Dutch Embassy.

Keen for a permanent venue, the group fundraised and worked hard to make that happen. Tapping into the talents of their tradesmen members as well as voluntary labour from non-tradespeople, hall construction of the "Dutch Club" began in 1982; officially opening in 1986.

The couple enjoyed 47 years of marriage "doing everything together," before 73-year-old Frits passed away in 2002. Annie has three children, Marilyn, Joanna and Frits. Joanna, better known to club members as Jo Harvey, is the only one who still lives in Rotorua.

It has been a full, happy and community-minded life for Annie. She often played the good Samaritan to those newly arrived from Holland, taught sewing on a voluntary basis at St Michael's Primary and worked part-time at a variety of jobs while the children were young. They bought Ngapuna Dairy in 1970, and Annie still gets a thrill when folk greet her as "Mrs H" as it means they are old customers from the 18 years she and Frits ran the dairy. Her generous spirit shows when she mentions that, while they didn't offer credit, "she always made sure there was food for the children".

Annie loves family life and has become adept at using her iPad to stay connected to overseas family. Apart from club activities, she also maintains her large garden, cooks, bakes, and regularly hosts mahjong.



#### WHAT'S ON IN THE CLUBROOMS EVERY MONTH

<b>Coffee Morning</b>	<b>Every 1st Tuesday at 10 am</b>
<b>Bingo</b>	<b>Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 pm</b>
<b>Art &amp; Craft</b>	<b>Every Wednesday at 10 am</b>
	<b>Phone Elly 347 7303</b>

#### BUYING A BOX OF CROQUETTES

This has to be ordered by Anneke, 357 4273, at least a month ahead of the Market Day. Anneke can put a special order in for you. To come to the Market Day and ask for a box of croquettes is not possible, but you can put in your order for the next Market Day.

SOME MEMBERS HAVE ASKED TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL. WE ARE HAPPY TO POST YOUR NEWSLETTER OUT TO YOU, BUT IF YOU PREFER TO GET IT BY EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ME ON: [hikroese1@gmail.com](mailto:hikroese1@gmail.com) or PHONE: 347 0251

### 75<sup>th</sup> COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM

This commemoration is held on 20-21-22 September in the Rotorua's Government Gardens at the Rotorua Bowling Club. The Dutch Community will be represented by Douwe Visser and Koos Brasser. All Dutch people are invited and for more details please email or phone Douwe on 3459383 or Koos on 3494412.

#### THIS IS YOUR COMMITTEE:

ANNEKE MEERKERK	PRESIDENT / CATERER	357 4273
JO HARVEY	SECRETARY	348 2280
FRANS SCHAEFFERS	TREASURER	022 647 9188
CHRIS BOS	COMMITTEE	357 2138
DORIEN VROOM BARCLAY	COMMITTEE	027 245 0287
PIET ELMIGER	COMMITTEE	343 6769
LILY PRUMMEL	COMMITTEE	021 354 598
RUDY VAN DEN ENG	COMMITTEE	022 698 9163

#### NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALIE VISSER 345 9383  
CUSTODIAN / HALL HIRE / MEMBERSHIP ADM. / NEWSLETTER DISPATCH

DOUWE VISSER / MARIUS KRUIJNIGER / TON KESSELS  
GENERAL MAINTENANCE

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#### From the Editors Desk:

Please take note of the upcoming events. Write these dates on your calendar or put the first page of this newsletter on your fridge so you can't forget the dates.

It is this time of the year that we renew our membership. Our financial year is 1 July - 30 June

We look forward to see YOU ALL at our events as we like to talk to our FRIENDS.

Our Pot-Luck dinners are always a pleasant surprise and very good and tasty.



*To those of you who have suffered the loss of a loved one in recent times, our thoughts are with you.*

*If you or your loved ones are suffering from an illness or injury, I hope you have a speedy recovery.*



Enjoy the company of your fellow Dutchies and till next time.