



# ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society  
Christchurch (Inc)



**JUNE  
2020**



(C) Klaas Lukas

Er is een tulp ontloken  
uit een barre droge grond  
hij brengt weer hoop tot leven  
voor een ieder die er stond  
te kijken in deze nare tijden  
van ziekte en van beven  
maar er is dan weer zo'n Nederlandse grapjas  
die door die klompjes neer te leggen  
laat zien dat hij ook even dapper was!

# Netherlands Society Christchurch

( Est. March 20th, 1965 )



## EDITOR'S REPORT

Dear Readers,

Thanks to all who phoned and sent emails regarding the May issue of the Echo. It nearly caused me some hotflashes. My, what nice compliments! But don't forget it was made possible because of the stories and photos which you, the readers, forwarded regarding the things which kept you occupied during the lock-down.

The sad news is that the Everglades clubrooms remain closed for large gatherings until such times as things are totally back to normal. Even the AGM will be postponed for a couple of months. I hope this delay will make the members eager to attend this annual members meeting. Some important issues will be addressed (refer to items in this Echo) One point on the agenda is very exciting, but I can't divulge any of it yet, see it as a surprise!



(C) Klaas Lukas

I like to thank our special photographer, Klaas Lukas, in the Netherlands for continuously providing us with beautiful pictures of that faraway little country, which we love so much!

**Yoka Saris**

### Clubrooms

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www.nsc.org.nz

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(Entrance off Cashel Mall and directly  
behind Michael Hill Jewellers)  
Telephone: 03 335 3272,  
Email: nl.consulate.chch@gmail.com

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

As I mentioned last month: These are uncertain times. And obviously things can sometimes change quickly. Like my remark regarding sending out the subscription renewal letters.

We managed to find a way to send out the Echo Newsletter last month, however, we had not received a new supply of envelopes yet. The only envelopes available were window envelopes. The use of the already printed renewal letters, originally meant to be sent out on the 1st of April, were now used to show the address behind the window. "Two Birds.....etc!"

My apologies if this created some confusion as in my report I mentioned we weren't going to send out these letters. Now even the Life Members received subscription reminders with the request to make a bank transfer of \$0.00. So some of the Life Members came back to us to ask how was one to make a payment of \$0.00.

Subscription fees are coming into the NSC account at a steady pace! It is good to see that some of you have now changed to online payments. This really makes the whole process of checking payments a lot easier for the Treasurer and me. To date 55% of the members have paid the 2020-2021 subscription.

As the renewal letter was sent late and the AGM will be postponed, the original final date of having to pay has been extended to 20 June 2020. Please, make sure you pay before that date so as not to miss out on receiving the July Echo and your membership having to be put on hold.

AGM: As our Government has dictated that we can't organise large number gatherings for a while yet, the committee has decided to postpone the AGM for at least two months. We will inform you about the actual date as soon as we are able to.

Until Covid-19 has settled the Clubrooms will be off limit for all affiliated clubs.

Unless you are willing to pay for professional cleaners to come after your gathering. We don't want the clubrooms to become another 'Rosewood' tragedy. With regards to updates, as mentioned in earlier reports, please, provide us with your email address so we can update you quickly of any changes.

A big thank-you must go to all those who provided us with their email addresses! Even with the Covid-19 problems, there are several projects being planned and discussed within the committee. One of them is changing the front entrance area of the Everglades such as the petanque court; container and grass area into a more useable area for events such as Easter and BBQ's, etc. We will keep you posted.

In the meantime keep yourselves safe. Don't let your guard down, keep washing those hands and, of course, keep up the social distancing, **PLEASE!!!**

Regards,

**Ron**

## KLAVERJAS CLUB 'ONS GENOEGEN'

Zo de maand mei is ook weer voorbij. En wat die virus betreft, zou ik willen zeggen "Stuur het maar weer terug waar het vandaan komt!" Helaas gaat dat niet zo makkelijk. Maar er is toch weer een beetje licht te zien aan het eind van de tunnel. We zitten al weer in level 2 en dat betekent dat wij ouwetjes weer naar buiten mogen om de vogeltjes te voeren. Iets wat ik zelf elke dag doe en ook met veel plezier naar die kleine rakkers kijk! Er is altijd wel een musje dat op me zit te wachten. En zodra ik buiten kom en naar het vogelbadje loop vliegt hij op om zijn kornuiten te waarschuwen. Elk musje krijgt zijn beurt om iets te eten maar ze moeten wel opschieten want zodra de spreeuwen het ook in de gaten krijgen wordt het een zoodje. En zo doende blijf ik genieten van de eenvoudige dingen in het leven.

Ik was heel blij dat ik weer buiten mocht komen want mijn kleinzoon was jarig in het begin van de lock-down. Hij is 24 jaar geworden en dan sturen we hem altijd een 'donatie' om dit feit te vieren, want hij woont in Dunedin. Dit moet dus via de bank en het postkantoor gebeuren. Nu, dan kom je daar binnen staat er een dame voor me die iets in een boek schrijft en daarna in haar handen staat te wrijven. Dat moest ik natuurlijk ook doen: Naam en adres in het boek en antiseptic spul in mijn handen. Het loket was met plastic afgezet maar de dame die er achter zat was erg behulpzaam dus ik dacht toen: "Dan zal ik ook maar even de rates betalen!" Maar die vlieger ging toevallig niet op. Daar moest ik weer voor naar het Papanui kantoor. Maar daar stond wel een rij van zo'n 30 mensen buiten te wachten. En dat doe ik dus niet, in de rij gaan staan als het niet nodig is! Want je kan het ook in een envelop doen en op de post gooien.

De leden van de kaart club worden ongeduldig en willen weer eens gaan kaarten. Maar, lieve mensen, dat zal nog wel even duren. Als alles weer een beetje normaal wordt dan zijn we er als de kippen bij om ook snel weer te gaan beginnen, ik beloof het!

Dus is alles wat er over is om te zeggen: Blijf lekker warm thuis, leg je voeten op de koffietafel, neem er je favoriete borreltje bij en luister naar muziek waar je van houdt en de wereld ligt aan je voeten!

Probeer gezond te blijven en heel veel plezier met het spel van het leven!

**WIM**





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## **THE COMMITTEE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE NZ HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**We like to share the contents with our members. Please, familiarise yourself with this letter as we will discuss this during the upcoming NSC AGM, date to be advised.**

*This letter was addressed to the Entertainment Manager of the Netherlands Society Christchurch.*

“You will recall that in December 2019 I commented in the media about the Black Pete issue following the Saint Nicholas event run by the Society.

While initially indicated support for the Saint Nicholas Day event, I am always open to learning new information and continuing to educate myself about historic events such as this. I have since developed my awareness of the origins of Black Pete as he has been presented since 1850 as being of origin and the negative way that he has been presented. The backdrop of this imagery is enslavement of millions of Africans over several centuries at the hands of European nations, including the Netherlands. You will be aware that in the Netherlands there is a growing awareness of the unacceptable nature of the way that Black Pete is presented and it is particularly opposed by members of the Netherlands black community, many of whom have had slurs relating to Zwarte Piet used against them. I seek to engage with the Society about how important it is to challenge the perpetuation of racial stereotypes including customs such as Black Pete and black face, which can be quite offensive to many communities.

I encourage the Society to engage further with the wider community about this tradition, particularly to engage with and to hear the voices of communities that this tradition impacts negatively. I have provided some additional information at the end of this letter for your review, consideration and discussion.

My view is that the Black Pete celebration with black face is offensive and out of date, in the diverse and inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand society we all desire. I encourage the Society to have an informed discussion as to appropriateness of him being in your Saint Nicholas Day event. As Race Relations Commissioner, I am happy to continue to dialogue with you as you navigate this issue as an organisation.

please let me know if you have any comments or feedback about this matter. I hope you will join the Human Rights Commission in its goal of building a more inclusive community.”

***Signed: Meng Foon, Race Relations Commissioner***


***The following details the history of Black Pete and black face:  
<https://bit.ly/2SXghlq>***

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**Kom gezellig langs voor de Nederlandse  
boodschappen of trakteer de (klein)kinderen  
op heerlijke traditionele poffertjes of een  
knapperig kroketje.**

**info:03 343 33 75**

## ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE PAST



***John Leenen sent this photo, which he took approximately 2007 of the Dutch Etnic Football team in Christchurch:***

This team was a colourful bunch of people. The boys had a couple of training sessions before the start of the Etnic Tournament. They were all eager to contribute to the team and to learn what the formation was going to be.

Training sessions were in the Bexley Reserve and Cuthberts Green. The coach was Cees Rietveld. The players, as far as I can remember, were from top right to left: ***Cees Rietveld; Wim Martens; Jimmy Leenen, Nicky van den Broek; Berti (de smaakmaker).***

Jimmy Leenen was the youngest of the team. Jimmy and Wim originated from Asten in Brabant and Nicky was from Gelderland.

The games were always played with much enthusiasm and in the tournament the team nearly made the finals (sounds familiar?)

I, 57 at the time, joined for one training session but although the passion and the skills were there, the fitness was not!

**John Leenen**

***Have you also something to contribute or would like to share with the readers: Don't be shy, give me a ring or send an email: 3849570 or yokasaris@gmail.com***

**Yoka Saris**





## WINDMOLENS

Als molenaars vroeger molens bouwden  
kozen ze daarvoor hun eigen plek  
zonder met buren te overleggen  
Om hun grond kwam gewoon een hek

Een molen op een plek flink in de wind  
Hoe hoger hoe liever, dat snapte elk kind  
Over lawaai of slagschaduw sprak men niet  
De molen die draaide, men protesteerde niet

Nu vindt men die oude molens geweldig mooi,  
horen in het landschap van ons kleine land  
en ik vraag me af, zal men met honderd jaar  
ook trots zijn op wat er nu wordt gepland?

De molens die nu verrijzen  
zal men ze dan ook prijzen, om hun nut  
en het landschappelijk schoon?  
Is men er aan gewend, is het dan gewoon?

Het lijken danseressen, dansend de cancan  
De benen omhoog, zo trots op hun kunsten  
Zie ze in rijen draaien, kaarsrecht in 't gelid  
We leren ze waarderen, die molens met pit.

**Rita Arends**

## THE TIME HAS COME.....

This sounds slightly dramatic but it is not what I meant to be.

However during the Netherlands Society Christchurch last committee meeting the question was asked: Who will stay on to serve on this committee?

You must be by now aware that it gets more and more difficult to get people who are willing to spend some time for the good of the Society and the Dutch community at large. Our President has mentioned this problem many times lately in his report.

Well, we are losing some good people this year and we are hoping that others will offer to replace them. Herewith I like to mention the ones who have their reasons to resign from the committee. These reasons can be very busy jobs; young and demanding family life and, yes, not easy to admit but for some of us the years are starting to be a problem too.

So here goes:

**Desiree Ellery**, our fantastic secretary and much more than that, has made the decision that she will have to spend her spare time somewhere else. Desiree has promised that we will see her during market-days and large events to give the committee a hand.

**Lillian van Elk**, this very quiet, sweet lady, who could always be found in the kitchen looking after coffee and preparing food, listening to other people's problems and giving sound advice. Lillian, too, is busy with many other things.

**Gerard van Kuppevelt**, who we got to know as our traffic warden 'extraodinaire' during the market-days. Forever with a smile on his face. And also always ready to lend a hand where needed!

**Maarten Hollestelle**, the very capable treasurer, will leave us as soon as we are sure of a replacement. Maarten has been telling us over the last couple of years that he needed more time for his lifestyle block and his very demanding job as accountant.

**Miryam Denny**: We are luckily to have this lovely lady, who has offered her services and has already spent many hours helping out with committee matters, is a nominee for the new NSC committee.

Remaining members will be **Dee Segeren**; **Annie van der Dussen** (yes, we had to blackmail her to remain!!!); **Jose Nijstad**; **Marjon Stegehuis**; **Jan Hollestelle**; **Pete Knuiman**; **Ron van Santen**; **Martin de Rouw** and I will not throw in the towel yet either.

Can I ask you to consider giving some of your spare time to come and join us. We meet once a month to discuss the running of the Society. And to help with the organising events. It is, most of the time, quite good fun....and yes....I have to be honest sometimes hard work. But as the old saying goes: Many hands make light work!

You will find a nomination form on page 12. You might know of somebody else who is interested.

**Yoka Saris**

## **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:*

**Heleen van den Brink    Tel 359 5517**  
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# NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH INC. NOMINATION FORM

I,-----

being a financial member of the Netherlands Society Christchurch Inc, nominate

Name:-----

being also a financial member of the Netherlands Society Christchurch Inc.  
for at least the period of 2020 - 2021

Signed:-----dated this day-----of-----2020

I,-----

accept the above nomination

Signed:-----dated this day-----of-----2020

This form must reach the Secretary, P.O.Box 35177 Christchurch not later  
than 20 June 2020



**Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much!**

Helen Keller

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## **MORE DUTCH SENIORS ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.** (Dutch Daily News)



Social media usage among the elderly in the Netherlands has soared in recent years. The group 65 - 74 year olds in particular have become increasingly active users.

In 2019, 76 percent of the respondents in this age category said they had used social media, up from 40 percent five years previously. An increase in social media use was also seen among people aged 75 years and over. Exchanging text messages, via WhatsApp for example, is most popular among the elderly. This is according to recent figures taken from the survey on ICT usage by households and individuals in 2019, conducted by Statistics Netherlands (CBS).

In 2019, 87 percent of the Dutch population aged 12 years and over indicated they had used social media such as WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, discussion forums or weblogs in the previous three months. This was still 74 percent five years previously.

Virtually everyone in the age group 12 - 54 years use social media (95 percent or more). The shares were 89 percent among 55 to 64 year olds and 76 percent among 65 to 74 year olds last year. In 2014, these shares amounted to 64 and 40 percent respectively.

An increase in social media use is also seen among Dutch seniors over the age of 75: in 2014, 13 percent were active while in five years this has risen to 40 percent.

## PUZZLE OF THE MONTH “THE BRIDE’S SONG”

This month a puzzle is for everyone! No language problem!  
Spot the 8 differences in this gorgeous painting of the  
Finnish artist, Gunnar Berndtson (1854 - 1895)  
Solution in next issue of the Echo



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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

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 \$42.00  
*(includes children up to 16yrs of age)*

Single membership \$30.00

Post Application to: Ron van Santen  
 PO Box 35177, Christchurch 8640  
 email application to: ronvsanten@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

## Committee Members

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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

Hall Hire	Dee Segeren	027 3566650
Bridge club	Riet Willems	358 2783
Costume Hire	Marina Wijlaars	323 4465
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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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.**

### DISCLAIMER

The views and opinions expressed within the Echo are those of the individual author or other information  
source and do not

necessarily represent the opinion of the Netherlands Society or the Editor.

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.