



ECHO

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society
Christchurch (Inc)



**APRIL
2021**



***Breathtakingly beautiful:
“Vincent van Gogh Alive”
Airforce Museum Of New Zealand
Christchurch***

Netherlands Society Christchurch

(Est. March 20th, 1965)



EDITOR'S REPORT

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Telephone: 03 335 3272,

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Dear Readers,

First of all I have to apologise to the President for enhancing her reports. From now on I shall refrain from altering her articles. Being the editor I will adhere to the disclaimer on page 16 of the Echo, however, it has not been my intention to upset people.

Yoka

Herewith an important message from our Secretary:

Paying with a cheque:

Everyone will have heard from their bank by now that the NZ banks are stopping the issue and acceptance of cheques. Many of you have paid your membership in the past by sending us a cheque. This will be the last time you can do so, but only if you send us your cheque before May. From June this year we will no longer be able to deposit cheques at our bank and thus we can no longer accept cheques as payment for your membership after May this year.

Met een cheque betalen:

Iedereen zal inmiddels van hun bank gehoord hebben dat de Nieuw-Zeelandse banken weg doen met cheques als betalingsmiddel. Velen van u hebben tot op heden uw lidmaatschap betaald met een cheque. Dit is de laatste keer dat u uw lidmaatschap kan betalen met een cheque mits u deze voor mei dit jaar instuurt. Vanaf juni dit jaar accepteert onze bank geen cheques meer, met als resultaat dat wij ook geen cheques meer kunnen accepteren na mei dit jaar.

Miryam

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

I really enjoyed the visit of Her Excellency Mrs. Mira Woldberg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, and the South Island Honorary Consul of Christchurch, Mr Gerald van Looy. Everyone really enjoyed talking to our ambassador and consul. Mrs. Mira Woldberg surprised us with yummy baked goodies, which was very much appreciated. I was disappointed that only a few of you - 19 - attended.

Even though it is still a couple of months away, our annual AGM meeting is on 27 June. So, I would like to ask you to start thinking about this meeting and what you would like to address or even put a remit in for. If you need help or want someone else to address an item on your behalf, please let us know.

This month I also want to draw your attention to some information you are perhaps not aware of: From June 2021 the banks will no longer accept cheques. Read more about this on page 2 of this Echo.

Most of our newsletters are sent out by mail and only a few through email. We - NSC - are aware that not all of our members use email or want to receive the Echo digitally, however, we do believe most of our members use email as their main way of correspondence. For that reason, I want to ask if you would like to receive the Echo digitally to please let us know. You can send an email to our secretary's email address: Secretary.nsc@gmail.com or to me: President.nsc@gmail.com. We would appreciate that and will make sure that you receive the next Echo via email.

In one of my previous reports, I gave you a brief overview about Dutch Week, the celebration of King Willem-Alexander's birthday. These plans have now changed. We received below information from our Honorary Consul Mr Gerald van Looy:

Due to the Covid situation in the Netherlands and the subsequent restrictions such as gatherings and how many people can come together in a group the Dutch Government has issued a directive that none of the Embassies in any location around the world or their staff, should host or participate in any celebrations for King's Day. Apart from the obvious risk in many countries, except New Zealand, the rationale is simply to recognise and be sympathetic to those in the Netherlands many of whom are struggling with the restrictions and will not be able to celebrate.

From a Government and Embassy perspective it is understood and respected that the community may still wish to celebrate King's Day and therefore any decisions, planning or celebrations will be managed by and be the responsibility of the community. All we ask is the acknowledgement and respect of what others back home are going through.

Of course, we will still organise our bike ride on 01 May. For more information about this event, please see page 14.

Hartelijke groet,
Dee



Kingdom of the Netherlands

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WELLINGTON.

Due to the serious impact of the COVID-pandemic and enduring restrictions in the Netherlands and around the world, the Netherlands Government has decided against physical King's Day celebrations, both at home as well as abroad. Ambassador Mira Woldberg will therefore not host a King's Day reception this year nor will the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands be able to participate in Kingsday celebrations organized by the Dutch communities.

The Dutch week will go ahead in order to celebrate the excellent bilateral relations between New Zealand and the Netherlands. Under the umbrella of the Federation, the Foundation and the DBA the communities are working together to make this a great success. In the light of the above, it is not appropriate for the Embassy to take up an active role in organising the events. However, the Embassy does appreciate all the great efforts made by all participants in celebrating the excellent relations between the Netherlands and New Zealand, and all the things Dutch such as Dutch language, food and culture during this special week.

The Embassy would like to draw your attention to the fact that several prominent buildings across NZ will light up orange during Dutch week, as an expression of our sympathy and strong connection to all those affected by COVID-19.

DATES FOR THE CONSULAR POP-UP DESK FOR 2021.

We will organise consular info evenings this year, starting in Hamilton and Christchurch. We will inform you about the latest information on nationality, loket buitenland, DigiD and passport applications and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. More information on how to register will follow soon! **In Christchurch the consular evening will take place on 13 June 2021.**



The Federation Of NZ Netherlands Societies Inc supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is excited to announce that during Dutch Week this year we will be running our first ever National Dutch Speech competition for Year 9 - 13 students (12 to 17 year olds).

The topic is "Being Dutch in New Zealand" and there are two categories one in Dutch language and the other in English language. The English category is primarily for those who have one Dutch parent or even grandparent of those who have grown up not speaking Dutch. Dutch means both the language but also the people overall.

The pre-selection stage will consist of the entrants submitting a video of their speech and if selected for the finals which will be on 30 April live on Zoom. The Ambassador will be joining us live for the Finals.

For more information contact christiaan.buijsers@hollandhouse.org.nz. We will also share information on the Face Book page <https://bit.ly/3eYltaz>.

Christiaan Buijsers, Vice President North Island, the Federation of NZ Netherlands Societies

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FRIENDLY SUPPORT NETWORK FSN

We are a group of volunteers who give help and support to people of Dutch descent in situations of need and stress.

We visit sick people, walk with people and talk (Dutch and English) with people.

We organise transport to and from the Everglades to events you might want to attend.

Help or support is generally of a moral rather than financial nature.

If you want to become a volunteer or know of someone we can help, please contact:

Heleen van den Brink

Tel 359 5517

Trudi van Nobelen

Tel 383 1111

STICHTING NEDERLANDERS BUITEN NEDERLAND

Via **www.nederlandersbuitennederland.nl** you can get answers to most of your questions and also all important news regarding those of us who live for long or short periods in other countries.

Further information regarding Dutch passports;
University studies in the Netherlands; Travel to the Netherlands in time of COVID 19; etc. contact:

Co-ordinator Elly Spillekom: ellysnbn@gmail.com



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The course is open every day except Saturday from 12noon to 4pm.

New members are very welcome. Membership details are available at clubrooms - 03 3238641 (entrance from back car park)

or from Secretary

Miles Ruddenklau
142 Riverlea Estate Drive
Stewarts Gully
Christchurch 8083
evergladescgc@xtra.co.nz

IN MEMORIAM

TRUDO WIJLAARS 09/08/1930 - 27/02/21

“Approaching life with a passion and a ‘can do’ attitude”

Trudo was born in Someren, North Brabant, the fourth child in a family of thirteen. They lived on the outskirts of the village on a mixed farm. They built up a chicken hatchery business where Trudo worked and developed his knowledge of poultry farming.

He arrived in NZ with Harry Donkers (Wilma’s brother) in 1956, full of hope and optimism. Drina and Piet Verstappen were already in NZ and welcomed them. He began working on the Canterbury Plains driving tractors and working with stock. A year later Wilma and her friend Alda Kuijpers arrived and a double wedding was organised in Darfield: Trudo & Wilma and Harry & Alda.

In 1962 Trudo and Wilma moved to Christchurch and settled in New Brighton, eventually buying a poultry farm in Bexley. Later they moved to a property on Marshland Road where the family still live. While they both worked hard they enjoyed socialising. They were a team, with a warm inviting home, children, friends, gatherings and food, music and a place for fun and laughter. They would play cards and billiards, sing and dance and many discussions were had. Real ‘goed gezelschap’!

Trudo and his friends had an amazing can-do attitude. Faced with the need to access his farm across the Kaputahi (Kaputone) Creek behind his house, he obtained the deck of a railway wagon. Trudo built the foundations and with the help of Jan van Schaijck and his crane, the wagon was placed over the creek to serve as a bridge. It is still being used today. These migrants had each other’s backs and with the support and collaboration they built their lives in New Zealand.

This attitude and energy Trudo and his friends brought to the Netherlands Society in the early 1970’s. Trudo is remembered as a ‘grote steun’ (support) to many people in the club as a committee member and as president. In the early days of the Everglades, Trudo along with several others worked tirelessly to build and maintain the club rooms and the golf course. There were bar rosters and when needed Trudo would arrive at the club rooms with a tractor and trailer to attend to the maintenance of the property.

He was also a member of the Carnival Club - The Avon Polluters. They organised dances throughout the year - The Prince’s Ball, the Boeren Ball (farmers ball) and the Carnival Dance. They contributed financially to other social activities such as the St Nicholas Picnic.

Trudo was also an active participant in the Catholic Church in Christchurch. He sang in the Cathedral Choir and the St Joseph’s Choir and was an active parishioner in St Mary’s, St Joseph’s and St Francis of Assisi parishes.

Trudo lived life with gusto, his positivity shone through these past years; always with a glass half full attitude. He was adaptable, always thinking and engaged. At Burlington, his last home, he was admired as a new friend and how he navigated his way around an iphone. This became one of his windows onto the world. He had the BVN app, You Tube for live masses, old Dutch music and Andre Rieu and most importantly Snap Chat which connected him several times a day to the lives of his grandchildren. He was a teacher, sharing his wonder and awe, his skills, thoughts and understandings. Always ‘zuinig’ (thrifty) and resourceful.

Trudo supported and loved his family and friends. In his life he participated and contributed to the wider community. The family would like to acknowledge and thank people in Trudo’s life for their love, friendship and continued support.

We remember Wilma and Liesje and know that Trudo is now back with his two great mates. He leaves a legacy that his family can celebrate - a life well lived!

Rust in Vrede!



THE DAY THE EASTER BUNNY CAME TO THE NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH



The children painted eggs and outside found plenty of chocolate eggs which had been hidden by the Easter Bunny earlier. Prizes were handed out for the lovely coloured pictures they had made. The first prize was for **Alex Sanders**, a most talented young man. Perhaps in a few hundred years time people might be going to the museum to admire Alex's work like we do the paintings of **Vincent van Gogh** today. The parents and grandparents had a relaxing time chatting with each other while the children all had a fabulous time!



Photos:
Annie van der Dussen
Miryam Denny

DUTCH MARKET WITH A VARIETY OF STALLS WILL TAKE PLACE, AS USUAL, ON SUNDAY, 11 APRIL FROM 10 AM UNTIL 12.20 PM.

Be sure not to miss out on all the special Dutch delicacies such as witlof; croquettes; poffertjes; lovely smallgoods; plants; handmade jewellery, etc.

All this while you can enjoy a good cup of coffee and a friendly chat .

Klaverjas Club “Ons Genoegen”

Als ik zo rond kijk dan mogen we niet klagen wat betreft de virus want waar ik kom zie ik geen mens met een mondkapje en afstand houden wordt er ook niet echt gedaan. Er is geen lockdown dat we vanaf 9 uur 's-avonds binnen moeten blijven. Ja, we leven in God's Own Country. En wat de Klaverjas Club aangaat, de leden kijken uit naar het eerste tournament van het jaar dat gehouden zal worden op Paas zaterdag, 3 april. We beginnen om 10 uur 30 in de morgen. Er is deze maand ook treurig nieuws.

Onze vriend een goede kaart speler, Bill Nunnink, is op 6 maart overleden en we bieden onze innige deelneming aan de familie. Ik had nog het genoegen hem een week eerder op te mogen zoeken in Windsor Home en we hebben nog even heerlijk kunnen praten. Ik was er van overtuigd hem de daarop volgende week weer te zien maar dat heeft niet zo mogen zijn. Maar het leven gaat door en ik ben er van overtuigd dat we allemaal onthaald zullen worden door hen die ons zijn voorgegaan. Het is intussen een grote Klaverjas Club geworden daar boven.

De winnaars deze maand zijn:

23 februari: 1) Gerard van Kuppevelt, 4976 punten; 2) Rein Bakker, 4966 punten

9 maart: 1) Cees Baars, 5396 punten; 2) Ans van Vuuren, 5137 punten

Alle winnaars gefeliciteerd en alle anderen: Doe je best, volgende maand zijn jullie misschien wel aan de beurt! Ik eindig met jullie allen een prettig Pasen te wensen en heel veel plezier met het spel van het leven!

WIM

Ja ... natuurlijk, gezellig
Klaverjassen!

YOUTH OF YESTERDAY

April 2021

Hallo

By the time you read this Easter will be finished. However, hope you all had a good Easter. Finding eggs for the children is always a busy time here and very welcome.



Our doors open 9.30 am every Friday morning and aim to close at 2 pm.

Small charge of \$2. A bottomless cup of coffee/tea is provided. If you know of someone who is home alone and interested to come and play rumicub or maybe a group who like to play cards or other games, encourage them to come.

We have 3 groups: cards, rumicub, colouring for adults. So, you have a choice or bring something new. The more the merrier.

☎ 381-0218 - Lilian for information

**It's easy to judge
It's more difficult to understand
Understanding requires compassion,
patience and a willingness to believe
that good hearts sometimes choose poor methods.
Through judging we separate, through understanding we grow!**

When the following letter reached me I thought about how so many of us elderly immigrants from the Netherlands are writing or thinking of writing our life stories about the ‘highs and lows’ of leaving one’s country to settle on the other side of the world many years ago. For this reason you might like to get in touch with this young woman, who is working on her Bachelor’s thesis, and tell her your tale.

Yoka

Dear readers,

I have always felt inspired by the stories my grandmother told me about her brother-in-law (Peter van der Geest) that moved to New Zealand in 1955. Even though Peter and Ans van der Geest are only distant family, it has always felt like I have a special connection to New Zealand. A couple of years ago the Kiwi part of our family visited the Netherlands and we had a splendid time together. This visit has once more confirmed my interest for the stories of Dutch migrants to New Zealand and the country itself. Hopefully, one day I get the chance to visit your beautiful country.

As I am studying History at Leiden University, I have the opportunity to put this interest to work for my Bachelor’s thesis. For this thesis, I am researching Dutch migrants to New Zealand and their experience of being Dutch. I am particularly interested in the wave of Dutch migrants to New Zealand in the years 1950-1965.

For this research I am looking for sources such as letters and cards that were sent to family and friend in the Netherlands at the time. Also, sources such as diaries and memoirs might be very useful.

I am therefore looking for people who have preserved these materials and are willing to let me take a look at it. Because of COVID-19, I am unfortunately unable to travel to New Zealand. Therefore, the material should either be in the Netherlands or be (made) digitally available.

If you or someone you know, might be able to assist me in my research please let me know on l.vander.hoorn@outlook.com. I have also included my phone number, in case you do not use facebook or email.

As said before, I am primarily interested in letters, diaries and memoirs. However, I would also love to hear your stories about migrating to New Zealand and how you experienced being Dutch in a foreign country. If you are open to me asking you some questions online or by phone, please contact me as well.

Feel free to send me a friendship request on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/lynn.vanderhoorn/> .

I am looking forward to hearing your stories,

Lynn van der Hoorn
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<https://www.facebook.com/lynn.vanderhoorn/>



PS. If you have any questions about my research, please contact me as well. I’d be more than happy to answer them.

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MYSTERY BUS TRIP

Last month two bus trips were organised for the members. We had heard about these trips, and how much fun they are, from others who did partake in the past.

Eric Stegehuis, the owner driver; tour guide; game organiser and stand-up comedian made this day a real pleasure. We got knowledgeable information of an area, which we should know a lot about as this is where we live, but hardly ever see.

We went up as far as the Sign of the Bell Bird, with its magnificent views. We had a coffee stop in Birdlings Flat, lunch in Lincoln and a petanque variety game in Prebbleton.

This is a 24-seat bus so we were not with a large crowd, however, we were able to have a chat with everyone. It felt more like a cosy family affair! In one word it was great. And I am sure all of us who joined in will all book again next time.

Yoka



Overlooking the harbour and its amazing view from across the Sign Of The Bellbird.

ALL WELCOME! ENJOY SOME DUTCH HOSPITALITY



KING'S DAY PARTY

Saturday 1 May, 7pm at
Aikmans Sports Bar
In conjunction with Dutch Week!
WEAR SOMETHING ORANGE!

Presale tickets: \$15 per person
Includes 2 FREE HOUSE DRINKS,
FREE ENTERTAINMENT and FREE NIBBLES
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Come and join in the fun of an evening with song & dance: A traditional 'ORANGE' party!

**KING'S DAY CELEBRATION ON SATURDAY, 1 MAY
FROM 10 am ONWARDS
AT THE EVERGLADES**



GAMES TOGETHER WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER AMUSEMENTS:

**Decorate your bike or scooter and be in to win a prize;
Enjoy riding your bike around the grounds;
Instead of putting the tail on the donkey:
put the crown on the King's head;
Traditional 'spijker poepen'
(ask any true Dutch person for an explanation of this game);
Then knock over as many tin cans as you possibly can;
Petanque or jeu de boules;
A trivia quiz for the adults.**

**Also a 'Vrijmarkt', a kind of children's garage sale,
today at the Dutch Club.**

**Dear children, have you got any games or books you no longer need?
Show us your salesmanship. Sell them to other children today.
Bring a blanket to sit on and display your wares. Make sure you know
beforehand how much you want to sell these items for.**

**Lunch: Annie's famous pea- and tomato soup; broodje kroket and a
tompouce (custard squares).**

Charge: \$10 per person (children under 12 free of charge)

Plenty of parking available in Dave's Paddock next to the Clubhouse.

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Are you or a friend considering becoming a member of the Society? For more info contact the secretary, ph: 022 3623411 or email secretary.nsc@gmail.com
You will receive the monthly magazine the Echo via email or post.

Application form:



Name: _____ Telephone: _____
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Suburb: _____ Postal Code: _____
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Age Group: *(Please add in the number applicable to each category)*

0-16 yrs _____ 17-29 yrs _____ 30-49 yrs _____ 50 yrs + _____

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email application to: secretary.nsc@gmail.com

Membership fees can be paid **after** receiving the confirmation letter from the treasurer.

Subscription year starts 1st April

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: NETHERLANDS SOCIETY CHRISTCHURCH NZ