

Newsletter of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 2025/1

February – March 2025



View of the Bijbels Museum from the Herengracht, Amsterdam

COMING UP: Summer Event, Spelletjes/Games

Join us for coffee mornings, Klaverjas and Sunday afternoon socials.

The committee – Het comité

Officers

Co-Presidents:	Pierre Schmits	021 0827 2084	pierre.schmits@yahoo.com
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	Saskia Knibbeler	027 222 287	s.knibbeler@gmail.com

Other responsibilities:

Bar Licence Holder: René van Lierop
Kitchen, bar & purchase manager: Anne-Marie Knibbeler
Klaverjassen: Ann Beyk
Clubroom maintenance: Pierre Schmits
Rejuvenation: Saskia Knibbeler
Facebook and Website Administration: Pierre Schmits/Saskia Knibbeler

Position outside the committee

Double Dutch Editor: Martin de Jong 021 909 688 dutchclubwgn.editor@gmail.com

Activities – Activiteiten

Klaverjas, Dutch Costumes	Ann Beyk	04 567 8575
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Anne-Marie Knibbeler	027 9515770
Library	Carolina van Rooy & Rita Langerak	(see above)
Friendly Support Network	Kees Dorresteijn	
Waikanae Coffee Morning	Mrs Henny Ekens	04 297 2918

Links

Our club's website	www.dutchclubwellington.co.nz
Our club on Facebook	www.facebook.com/dutchclubwellington/
The Federation of NZ Netherlands Societies	www.dutchcommunities.co.nz
Dutch Connections community website	https://dutchnz.nz
Netherlands Embassy, Wellington	www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/new-zealand
Email:	wel@minbuza.nl Ph: 04 471 6390

What's On

Coffee mornings: 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10-1pm.

Sunday instuif: Sundays 2pm - 5 pm.

Klaverjas: every Tuesday 10am - 2pm. Bring your own lunch.

Spelletjes/Games afternoon:

16 February; 9 March, then every 2nd Sunday of the month.

Waikanae coffee group: every 2nd Friday of the month, 10am. At the Baptist Church, 286 Te Moana Rd, Waikanae. \$6.00 per person.

Dutch Language Group – we are exploring having a small, informal Dutch language group for non-native speakers. Please see page four for more info.

The games we play!

Monthly spellejtes

Our spelletjes/games afternoon kicks off again for the year on **Sunday 16 February**, and thereafter will (normally) be on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Keep your eye on Facebook for any updates – and any other key club news. We have games out for all ages and abilities – and if the weather is fine, may go out for a bike-ride along the river.

Sjoelbak is a favourite for all generations, plus we have heaps more such as Cluedo, Rummikub, Mens erger je niet! (Ludo) and quite a swag upstairs of Dutch language games – if someone would like to spend some time translating and working things out for the English speakers! We can also set up a Klaverjas learners' table. (Read more about the Klaverjas regulars on page x.)



Amsterdam comes to Avalon!

The New Year brought us a new Dutch travel game: "Amsterdam", courtesy of first generation Dutch-Kiwi Sandra Donsen, who brought it in.

Players travel around the canals of Amsterdam to visit six places of interest determined for them at the start by random 'Souvenir Cards'. Meanwhile they are also trying to disrupt other players' travels through traffic controls so that that they return to the start first (to win). 'Hazard Cards' turned up along the way will also upset the course of play.

The rules feature an interesting potted history of Amsterdam from its beginnings in the 11th century, to its transformation to a 'liberal, commercial city' through trade in the 17th-18th century. The game is available at the Clubrooms.



From the President – Van de Voorzitter

Happy New Year everyone. I trust that you enjoyed the festive season and had (or are still having) a great break? Personally, I feel in a holiday mood now that we have sunshine and warmer daytime temperatures compared to the miserable start of summer we had!

I missed our pot-luck lunch, but I have heard that it was “erg gezellig” and a good close to the 2024 coffee mornings. In 2025 coffee mornings will start again on Wednesday 19 February and from there onwards you are welcome every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. Social Sunday will continue, uninterrupted, every Sunday. Also our team of Klaverjassers have dealt their first rounds already and meet every Tuesday.

Last year, again, we had a full house at our Christmas lunch, and you can find some photographs of the event in this edition. Also, the New Year’s Social Sunday was well attended and we enjoyed delicious oliebollen, kerst staaf and wontons. Thanks go to Ann, Ans, Ben and Julie for preparing those.

Now that the Christmas decorations are boxed up again and the clubrooms have returned to their “normal” state, I feel a bit sad because I really liked the warm atmosphere and the way it looked this year. But life goes on and the committee members are already busy organising a summer event in February of which you can find details in this edition.

That leaves me wishing you all a great 2025 with success, luck and above all good health.

“Maak er wat van!” *Pierre.*



Summer Event at Day’s Bay!

On Thursday 27th February we will be organising a lunch in Eastbourne. As a venue we have chosen the “Day’s Bay Pavilion” because of its location and the fact that some of us really enjoyed the setting and food a few years ago. Also, the restaurant offers great outdoor seating as well as sufficient indoor space if the Weather Gods do not favour us on that day!

This year we won’t be meeting at the wharf and traveling by harbour ferry. We would like to ask those of you who are attending to use your own transport and arrange a carpool with people in your neighbourhood. I am happy to coordinate carpooling from Avalon House for those of you who do not feel comfortable driving to the Eastbourne area.

Please contact me via email (pierre.schmits@yahoo.com), telephone (021-08272084) or talk to me at one of our events if you want to participate or have any questions about this event.

You will be informed about timing, transportation and cost details when closer to the date.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Pierre.

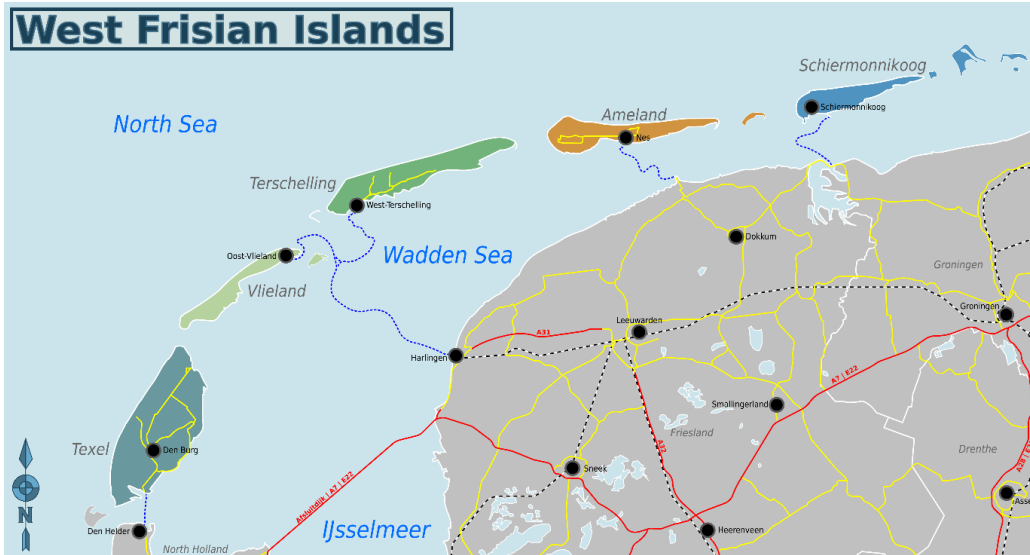
Dutch Language Group Anyone?

Over the last year, a few people have expressed interest in learning Dutch or being part of an informal ‘practice group’. We also have an offer of a native Dutch speaker who is willing to help with lessons or coaching of a conversational group, for those for whom Dutch is not their first language (like myself).

If you are interested – or know someone who is, please contact me, the Editor: Martin de Jong, kesyoung@gmail.com. Ph 021 909 688. Tot ziens!

Spotlight on the Netherlands

“Spotlight on the Netherlands” may become a regular item in this Newsletter if people like it. I’d like to highlight lesser known or less frequented parts of the Netherlands. So if there’s a place or a feature you find interesting, that you think others might enjoy or appreciate – let me know. Thanks to Sandra Donsen who pulled together this material on the West Frisian Islands, with a little editing from me. – The Editor.



For the tourist

The Wadden Sea itself is a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising the largest system of intertidal mud flats in the world. This incredibly diverse region is ruled by the tides. Roughly 50 islands are dotted throughout the shallow Wadden Sea like a strand of precious pearls, and

The West Frisian Islands (in Dutch: Waddeneilanden; in West Frisian: Waadeilannen) are a chain of islands in the North Sea off the Dutch coast, along the edge of the Wadden Sea. The Frisian Island chain continues to the east into Germany and Denmark, and even the 14 Dutch islands are split between three provinces. Five of the 14 are inhabited: Texel (North Holland), Vlieland, Terschelling, Ameland, and Schiermonnikoog (all in Friesland). Texel is the largest and most populous: home to 13,643 of the 23,822 people who live on the West Frisian Islands.

The Islands are popular as a holiday destination. Island hopping is possible by regular ferries from the mainland and by specialised tour operators. Cycling is the most favourable means of transport on most of the islands. On Vlieland and Schiermonnikoog cars are allowed, but only for regular inhabitants.

Geography

The island chain represents the remains of a glacially formed sandbank, and may have once been the former coastline of the Netherlands, before it was breached and flooded to form the Waddenzee many thousands of years ago.

14 of them lie in the Netherlands. The first of these pearls are the five (inhabited) Dutch Wadden Islands, each with its own charming ambience and character. They have something to offer for everyone, whether it’s a beach trip with the family, an active holiday or to enjoy the unique nature.

The combination of shallow water, which warms up relatively quickly, and the tides, ensures that the Wadden Sea is rich in plankton and seaweed. This means that it is teeming with countless fish and bird species and even seals. The Wadden Sea is one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the world and the perfect environment for a bit of bird watching. Nature lovers will also enjoy the many unique animals and plants.

Read up on some ‘quirky facts’ about the West Frisian Islands on page 9.

Sources:

<https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/discover-the-netherlands/visit-the-regions/wadden-islands>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Frisian_Islands

Map:

https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/West_Frisian_Islands

Fine fare at our Christmas Lunch

Our last big event of the year was our Christmas Lunch on 15 December, which was booked out. Those who attended enjoyed a fabulous feast – as the photos testify!





Len entertained as usual from his range of musical instruments. Thanks to Anna, Pierre and Carolina for the Christmas decorations; to Marina, Jakolien, Dawn and Susanne who helped serve and clean up – and to all who came along to make it gezellig!



From the Secretary – Van de Secretaresse

Hello everyone! I hope you had a good start to the year; may it continue that way.

There isn't much news yet. I've taken a good break from the Dutch club – summer is not my season. I wilt in temperatures over 22 degrees and prefer to vegetate at home and do nothing in summer. Unfortunately, we have a large and very 'wild' section, and I've had to work hard to stay on top of the weeds. When we bought the house in 1986 the garden was over-run by blackberries and Himalayan honeysuckle. I worked very hard then to get rid of those weeds, but to my dismay the blackberries have come back. It's been quite a job! I like where we live, but it's obvious that maintaining such a property is a job for young ones, or at least for people who *really* enjoy hard work!

The Christmas lunch was, again, a great success. We've now found a very good caterer and oh! That

ham! I couldn't get enough of it. We had a full house, it was very 'gezellig'. It's always good to meet up with members one doesn't often see. As always, the clubroom was beautifully decorated by Anna Heythuysen, with help from Pierre and Carolina. Thank you. Also a big thank you to Marina, Jakolien, Dawn and Susanne for helping with the setup, the serving, the dishes, and the cleanup afterwards – with such a small committee, we rely on members' help.

I apologise for writing in the previous Double Dutch that the clubroom would be closed during January. I hope you all got the message, verbally or by email, that I was wrong and that those of you who like to come to Social Sundays, have done so this month.

Best wishes to you all,

Anne-Marie

A touch of the Dutch – and a rough translation

“Kop-van-jut”: What's in a name?

I have had this little snippet of Dutch history and language floating around for ages – I think a member gave it to me, and I've finally got around to translating it (with a bit of help from Google). A bit gruesome, but it gives the origins of a Dutch expression. There is even an Amsterdam restaurant called 'Kop-van-jut'! You can read more about Jut here: https://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Jut_Hendrik - The Editor

De kop-van-jut is een kermisattractie waarbij men met een hamerslag een zwaar voorwerp omhoog slaat om een lop te raken. Als dat lukt, gaat er een bel af.

De kermisexploitant noemde in de 19e eeuw deze attractie naar Hendrik Jut, die in 1872 een rijk weduwe en haar dienstmeid vermoordde. Hij kreeg levenslang voor deze dubbele moord, maar het zeer verontwaardigde volk eiste eigenlijk de doodstraf, zijn kop dus. Die heeft trouwens na zijn dood nog een tijdje op sterk water gestaan. Nu wordt de term kop-van-jut ook wel gebruikt voor en zondebok.

The kop-van jut ('head of jut') is a fairground attraction in which a heavy object is hit with a hammer to hit a ball. If you succeed, a bell will ring.

In the 19th century, a fairground operator named this attraction after Hendrik Jut, who murdered a wealthy widow and her maid in 1872. He was given a life sentence for this double murder, but indignant people actually demanded the death penalty, that is, his head. This was, incidentally, kept in spirits for a while after his death. Now the term 'kop-van-jut' is also used for a scapegoat.*

(* the death penalty had been abolished some years earlier, but Jut died in prison in 1878)

Klaverjas Club on Tuesdays

The Klaverjas club continues to play away every Tuesday. Congratulations to our 2024 champion Ann Beyk! Who has also faithfully kept us informed of the scores over the years. However, that task now falls to Roel Ymker who supplied the overall results below for last year:

1 st	Ann Beyk	121680 points
2 nd	Mien v/d Kuit	118659 points
3 rd	Ann Bosch	114430 points
Most Pitten:	Roel Ymker	36
Least Natten:	Arif Effendi	69

If you want to join the play, come along Tuesday 10am – 2pm, and bring your own lunch.

For those unfamiliar with the game: Klaverjas is probably the most popular traditional Dutch card. In card parlance, it is part of what is called the 'jack-nine' family of card games in which the Jack and the nine of the trump suit are the highest-ranking trumps. Its origins seem to lie in an earlier two-handed game which has spawned many two and four-handed variations under a host of alternative names. However, according to a world expert on card games, David Parlett, the whole family of games originated in the Netherlands, and a two-handed version, played in the Netherlands, is referred to in 1730 as "klaverjassen".

Our current day Klaverjas is however always played by two teams of two players each, and uses a Piquet pack: Aces to 7 in each suit. It's been compared to Piquet and Euchre but with significant differences. There are regional variations – Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht rules among them.

I (the Editor) tried to learn to play many years ago when the Dutch club had Tuesday evening sessions, but did not keep it up (nor get the hang of it). Here are some online comments from some non-Dutchies:

Klaverjassen is a weird mashup of card-playing ideas that are counterintuitive due to how they don't conform to normal trick-taking hierarchies. As a traditional Dutch game, these concepts will be second nature to those who grew up playing, but learning it for the first time feels like what it must feel like for non-gamers as we spew weird inversions of rules and pretend it's all normal.

This is just the best trick-taking game I know. There's so much depth to it and the team play really makes this a special game. I think many new players don't realise yet how much is going on in this game once you get better at it.

<https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/26468/klaverjassen>

West Frisian Islands: some quirky facts

Some carry-over content about the West Frisian Islands – see main article on page 5.

- Schiermonnikoog has the widest beach in all of Europe and is almost completely a National Park.
- Texel is home to a number of tulip fields.
- Mudflat walking to or from the islands is a popular and unique experience.
- Regular events include: Oeral arts festival in June on Terschelling – one of Europe's most exceptional landscape arts festivals; Beach Food Festival on Texel, a Sailing Festival in August across four of the islands and the summertime music and arts festival "Into the Great Wide Open" on tiny Vlieland, which has only one village!



Ref: <https://www.visitingthedutchcountryside.com/wadden-islands/visit-west-frisian-islands-netherlands/>
Photo: Andrew & Katryna Snow <https://wherethesnowsgo.com>

Marklin train set for sale

One of our members, Joop Erkens, who comes to the clubrooms about once a month from his home in the Manawatu, is wanting to sell his large Marklin train set. *(This brought back memories for the Editor, who had a Marklin set and used to pore through the catalogues dreaming of all the European locomotives and wagons he would buy– helaas, niet.)*

Below are details of what the set comprises and photos. Joop can supply full details to any prospective buyers: 3 pages detailing every locomotive, wagons, rails, rail crossings and other parts, with their Marklin part numbers. Joop wishes to sell as one lot – and will consider all reasonable offers. He is not expecting full retail price, but the set is quite valuable – some of the passenger wagons would sell for NZ\$200.

Indicative inventory:

- Six locomotives
- 27 passenger and freight wagons
- Straight and curved rail tracks
- Railway crossings – both mechanically and electronically operated
- Bridges (short and long)
- Electronic controlled lights
- Various spare parts
- Railway and other buildings and a “rock formation kit”

Are you interested or know someone who is? Contact Joop Erkens, myndert@xtra.co.nz, 021 1016868.



Advertise with us!

If you want to advertise, please contact the secretary. Six issues are published each year.

Advertising rates (excl GST):

A4 (full page): \$150/year or \$45/once

A5 (half page): \$100/year or \$25/once

A6 (quarter page): \$60/year or \$15/once

Avalon House Hire

If you want to hire space at Avalon House, please contact the Club secretary.

Hire fees (excl GST):

Half-day (4 hours)	\$50
Full day (9am – 5 pm)	\$90
Evening (5-10pm)	\$60
Bond	\$100
Cleaning (if required)	\$50

Hartelijk Gefeliciteerd!

to our members celebrating upcoming birthdays, especially in February!:

February: Wim Geerts, Jakolien van Rooy, Pieter Koedijk, Ans Howe, Hakon Wright, Isabel Lokum, Kees Dorresteyn, Maria Tulp, Dawn Dorresteyn, Julie Tan, Len Visser, and Arif Effendi.

March: Ben Lokum, Willy Muller, Corrie Romijn and Anna James.

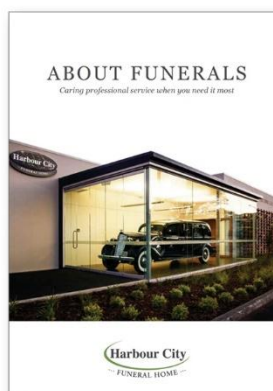


We thank Harbour City Funeral Home for generously printing The Double Dutch in full colour for us.

ABOUT FUNERALS

Informative
FREE guide

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.



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