

Newsletter of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 2025/2

April – May 2025



Koningsdag: Will you ride for your King?



COMING UP: Koningsdag + Orange Bike * Easter * AGM & SGM
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
	Carolina van Rooy	021 2179849	carolinavanrooy@gmail.com
Secretary:	Anne-Marie Knibbeler	027 9515770	dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Rita Langerak		ritalangerak68@gmail.com
Financial Advisor:	René van Lierop	04 977 7086/021 740930	dutchclubwlg.treasurer@gmail.com
General officers:	Ann Beyk	04 567 8575	
	Anna Heythuysen	027 563 6026	
	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 Dorresteyn	
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:

2nd Sunday of the month: 13 April; 11 May

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

Koningsdag + Avalon Orange Bike

My anti-royalist, non-cycling Dutch work colleague would have a fit at the headline on our cover (he's from Friesland). But my Kiwi cycling advocate friend says of our special day: "I love Orange Day. I have no Dutch relatives but I admire what the Dutch have achieved. I feel it's my spiritual second home." Well! What better endorsement for wheeling out the Avalon Orange Bike Ride as part of our Koningsdag/King's Day celebration of all things Dutch. This year our open invitation to 'Go Orange' for Koningsdag falls on **Sunday 27 April, 10am-1pm at Avalon Park & Avalon House.**

Avalon Orange Bike Ride

This family friendly, free entry event will feature:

- *Fun bike activities & competitions around the children's bike park area.
- * Orange Mystery Trail & 'Where's Willem' autograph hunt for the Dutch royal family.
- * Bike promo material and giveaways.
- * Dress yourself and your bike up in ORANGE.
- * Orange Bike Parade around the Park.

Indicative timetable:

9.30: Orange Bike registration opens (free entry)
Registration desk between Avalon Pavilion and the Lions Club railway station!

10am: Bike activities and competitions start.

11.15: Registration closes for all competitions.

11.25: Be at the Registration area for final judging for the "Best Dressed" competitions.

11.40: Orange Bike Parade – see how we roll.

12:00: Deadline for submission of **Orange Mystery Trail** answers and 'Where's Willem' signature cards (at Avalon House).

12.10pm: Short speeches, thanks and prizegiving before finishing with 'Het Wilhelmus'.

Follow updates and register intention to attend Orange Bike through the [Facebook Event page](#).

Children's Vrijmarkt

In another fine Dutch tradition, there will be a special sales table/spot for children to sell pre-loved toys, books, clothes etc. from 10am-1pm in the Avalon House grounds.

REGISTER for a spot by Sunday 20 April: message us through our website or Facebook pages below.

www.dutchclubwellington.co.nz

www.facebook.com/dutchclubwellington/

All roads lead to Avalon House!

Our Clubrooms at Avalon House will be the go-to spot for Dutch music, Dutch games, and of course lekker (nice) Dutch food and drink: kroketten (croquettes), rookworst (smoked sausage), cakes, hot and cold drinks. (Sales from 10.30am til after 1pm – for as long as people stay and the food doesn't run out! **CASH ONLY** for sales).

This is a fun family day for children of all ages! The only rule – wear at least a dash of orange!

Volunteers please!

An event like this – and all our Club events – requires a large team of volunteers to run smoothly. We'd love for more people to be around on the day to set-up, monitor events, help out with sales, and clean up afterwards. You don't need to give the whole day – just spare 2-3 hours, and then you can enjoy the rest of the festivities or the rest of the day. Many hands make light work!

For more info, or offers of help contact Martin de Jong 021 909 688 for Orange Bike; or Pierre Schmits 021 0827 2084 to help at the Clubrooms.

Thanks to our sponsors to date for Orange Bike: The Dutch Shop and Kennett Bros books, and to support from Hutt City Council and the Netherlands Embassy. Thanks to Danny at Harbour City Funeral Home for printing & promotion.

Martin de Jong – Editor.

From the President

Dear all,

Moving to April already and it feels as if the year has just started. Luckily, we are still enjoying some decent summer weather at the end of March.

One of those glorious summer days dawned for our summer event at Day's Bay. The sun was out, it was warm and we had a very high turnout, as you can see on page 5 opposite.

Looking ahead, a small team of the committee is now finalising the new constitution. We hope to get a copy of the draft document to you by 20 April. Read more about this and how you can contribute to complete our new constitution on page 7 in this Double Dutch.

Also, on the 20th of April, our Social Sunday event will be in Easter style, with some free Easter treats. The week after that we will be organising our Koningsdag event in association with the Avalon Orange Bike Ride team.

A bit further ahead in June we are planning our AGM on the 8th of June and the Solstice Lunch on the 22nd of that month. You will find more information about how to register for the latter on page 6 in this publication.

I am happy to announce that we have secured our liquor licence for another three years and I would like to thank René van Lierop for his effort to see us through the process. I would also like to thank all volunteers that have gone through the "ServeWise" training, ensuring that we are responsible hosts when serving alcohol to our members and guests.

Lastly, and on a more serious note, I would like to urge all members that are willing to join our committee to step forward now or at our AGM. We need a strong committee team if we want to continue to provide the regular and yearly events in the future.

Enjoy the tail end of summer and, as always, I look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Pierre

From the Secretary

Dear people,

It's been an eventful two months for me. On Valentine's Day, when visiting our daughter Saskia, I was surprised to see my youngest brother there. I had no idea he and Saskia had planned his visit from the Netherlands – I hadn't seen him in 13 years! It was so nice to catch up with him and to get to know him as an adult (he's nine years younger than I am, so I'd left home before he was a teenager, and I only saw him for an hour now and then on my visits to the Netherlands). We had a lovely time, did some touristy things together (loved the luge in Rotorua!) and the three weeks flew by. I've also had successful cataract surgery and many of you know what a difference that makes in quality of life!

But back to business. If you haven't received it already, you should shortly receive a copy of the promised draft of the re-written Constitution. Please read it carefully, make notes, and if you have questions, come to the clubrooms on Sunday 4 May to discuss this. We can then make amendments and, without further discussion, vote to provide final approval at the AGM. You can also send your comments or questions by email to Pierre or me. We need to have the new constitution in place before April 2026 to enable us to continue as a registered Incorporated Society.

I'm seriously thinking about not being available for re-election to the committee at the AGM. It's been interesting and I like working with the other committee members, but I don't feel as committed as I should be and would like to step back. Please, as Pierre suggests, consider if you can serve on the committee and put your name forward. (I will continue doing the Wednesday coffee mornings, and the occasional Sunday afternoon if required.)

I hope you are well. For those of you who are suffering illness or bereavement, I wish you strength. Best wishes to you all.

Anne-Marie

A simmering summer at Days Bay!

It was a beautiful summer's day when around 40 of us gathered at Days Bay near Eastbourne to enjoy good company and a filling lunch. Thanks to Rita and Pierre for organising this event and to all members that joined in. Considering the success of it, we are certainly going to repeat it again next year. Thanks to Pierre and Dawn for the photos below.



COMING UP!

Easter Social Sunday

This year Easter falls late on the 20th of April. As part of our Social Sunday event, we will be serving hot cross buns and other typical Easter treats. Even our advokaat will be topped off with an Easter egg!

No booking required for the event but if you don't want to miss out on the goodies, come early.



Solstice Lunch – 22 June

Slowly we are moving to the shortest day of the year which, in 2025 for us in New Zealand, will happen on Saturday 21st June. We will celebrate the season with our annual Solstice Lunch the following day on Sunday 22nd June.

Time to find the winter woollies again and for the committee to start planning for it to provide you with some warm hearty winter grub to fight off the cold! While we have not finalised the particulars of the event such as price, menu and entertainment, we would like to give you ample warning of the date as the event has proven to be very successful in past years and we have a strict 40-seat attendance limit.

More details about the lunch will be provided in the next issue of the Double Dutch or via a special newsletter. If you don't want to miss out on the event, book your seat now by contacting Pierre on pierre.schmits@yahoo.com or calling him on 021 08272084. (Photos from last year below)



Let's get down to business!

Special Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

As you all know by now, we are rewriting our club's constitution for two main reasons:

- a) To make sure it complies with the rules and regulations as set out in the Incorporated Societies Act 2022; and
- b) To change some of the clauses and language that still date back to the previous century.

At the time of issuing this edition we are one meeting short of having a draft of the new constitution, and we hope to send a copy of that document to all our members by 20th April.

We tossed around the idea of presenting and discussing the changes for final approval at the Annual General Meeting but decided against that. The usual agenda of the AGM already takes up quite a bit of time and we feared that discussing the new constitution after that would not be productive.

Instead, we will call a Special Meeting on **Sunday 4th May** at 14:00 hours and this meeting will replace our scheduled Social Sunday event. This will give you about two weeks to have a look at the new constitution and prepare any comments and/or questions that you might have. We expect the meeting to take about one hour and, of course, we will serve drinks and nibbles after the meeting.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday 8th of June**. Doors will open at 13:30 for coffee and the meeting will start punctually at 14:00 hours. We aim to finish up by 15:30. As is customary we will serve nibbles and drinks after the meeting too.

So once again the dates:

Sunday 4 May 2025 @ 14:00 – Special Meeting on the new Constitution

Sunday 8 June 2025 @ 13:30 – Annual General Meeting

Please note that both meetings are for **members only**.

It would be highly appreciated if you could advise Anne-Marie, at dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com or by phone 027-951 5770, about your attendance or apology for both of these meetings.

Please note both days in your calendar and I look forward to seeing you and having a productive discussion at both meetings.

Pierre.

Membership fee reminder

A reminder that it's time to renew your membership for the 2025-26 year – they are due at the end of March. The preferred option is to pay online to 03-0525-0098055-00 in the name of New Zealand Netherlands Society Wgtn Incorporated. Put your name and 'member' in the reference boxes. Alternatively, you can pay \$45 to Pierre or Anne-Marie.

Remember, you can't attend or vote at the Annual General or Special Meetings above unless paid up.

Membership cards will be handed out or posted a.s.a.p after receipt of dues. Thank you. *Anne-Marie*

Seeking 'family': who knew this couple?



New club member Sandra Donsen explains below:

These are my parents, Karel and Netty Donsen, who emigrated on the ship, the Sibajak, arriving in Wellington in February 1953. They saved very hard and were eventually able to buy a 1/4 acre section and build a house to call home in the 'new' suburb of Wainuiomata.

Karel was an electrical engineer, at first employed by William Cable and later becoming a factory manager at ASEA. Nettie was a bookkeeper but worked at Wellington Hospital on arriving and then at some time at NZ Industrial Gases in Lower Hutt.

They were members of the Dutch Club and Karel played Klaverjassen. The photo was taken in 1987. Mum passed in 1995 and Dad passed in 1998.

I have recently joined the Club and am curious to know if anyone still remembers them. While we didn't have many true relatives in NZ, we had a lot of Tantes, Oomen and surrogate 'verwanten'. I remember some family names:

- van Dalen, Jacob and Til
- De Grauw, Nico and Yoke
- Knoef, Wim and Ria
- Oversluizen, Fritz and Hans (?)
- Feenstra, Cor and Leone
- van Wissen, Chris and Loes

Or maybe their children, the cousins, are out there somewhere?

I do hear of the van Dalen clan occasionally and I believe that Yoke De Grauw is a member of the Dutch Club. I hope to meet her soon.

I would really appreciate any recollections or information that you might have.

Please email me at sandradonsen@gmail.com; or post me at 2 Kedge Lane, Whitby, Porirua; or leave a message for me at the Dutch Club.

I try to drop in on a Sunday every few weeks and I have joined the new Dutch Language Group that Martin de Jong has established.

Hartelijk dank, Sandra

'De Leerlingen' – Dutch Language Group

Our Dutch language group has kicked off with about a dozen members consisting of first, second and third generations of Dutch Kiwis, spouses or partners of Dutch speakers/Dutch Kiwis, and our tutors. We are at various levels of speaking and understanding Dutch, but just want a relaxed friendly group to learn and practice with.

While still getting our wings (do Dutch Kiwis fly?), we are looking at weekly or fortnightly online sessions and in person once a month. If you're interested, search on Facebook for the private group 'De Leerlingen – Dutch Language Group' and ask to join, or email me at kesyoung@gmail.com.

Thanks to our native Dutch speakers Karlien, Saskia and Arif for coaching us and sharing tips via the Facebook group (not using the one below!)



For Lovers of Language

Thanks to Pierre for sharing the following poems. The first is dedicated to all “advocaat” drinkers (or should that be eaters?) at the Wednesday coffee mornings and Social Sunday events (and there are quite a few.....but no Jan-Evert!)

Een straf advocaatje

*Jan-Evert is van 't ouwe stempel
En drinkt nog stug jenever, warempel.
Maar bezoekt-ie de buren voor een praatje,
Dan heeft hij ook geen moeite met een advocaatje,
Maar wel later met de drempel.*

- Abe Labes

The next is dedicated to all Dutch language lovers and is a true gem of word-wizardry.

't loopt altijd anders....

*Dit rijmelarijtje gaat overmorgen.
Dus daar kom ik met een dag op terug.*

*En dit overleden
die hun lidmaatschap hebben opgezegd.*

*Ik haat het oeverloos overleg
kippen te praten.*

*Deze toegift is overlekker-
bekjes.*

*Dit vers is overjarig
Jetje.*

*Het gaat wel weer overgrootmoeder.
Ik heb er jodium op gedaan.*

- Abe Labes

Embassy Update

The Netherlands Embassy in Wellington advises their team is back to full strength with the arrival of **Greet Pauwelijn** as new Senior Consular and Outreach Officer. She is here to support the Dutch community and keep strengthening ties with the New Zealand government. Greet has been a key contact for us in support of the Orange Bike Ride.

Lastly and related to the previous rhyme, one from new kid on the block: AI (artificial intelligence) – with a little prompting from Pierre.

The subtle dance of meanings

*In the ever-enchancing realm of language,
Dutch words hold a secret power, a quiet mystique.
A shift of space, a breath's pause,
and meaning transform with effortless grace.*

*The magic of Dutch in spaces lies.
Each shift, each move, ripples in a pond,
crafts stories anew, like a poet's wand.*

*So next time you weave words in this Dutch
enchantment,
pause and ponder the spaces' commandment.
For within the lines, both subtle and grand,
lies the symphony of meaning, at language's
command.*

- AI generated

Voor de volgende generatie



A recent photo opportunity at the Clubrooms with one of our youngest members: Maria being read to (in Dutch) by her mother Francine Harland – who is one of the ‘Leerlingen’ group mentioned on the previous page. Francine has kept up her Dutch through a regular online Zoom group arising from Dutch night classes some years ago in Wellington. Prachtig!

Klaverjas results

Recent results from the last two months:

14 Jan	Arif Effendi	5425 points
21 Jan	Mien v/d Kuit	5212 points
28 Jan	Harry v/d Gulik	5113 points
4 Feb	Harry v/d Gulik	4861 points
11 Feb	Arif Effendi	5398 points
18 Feb	Ann Beyk	5278 points
25 Feb	Roel Ymker	5686 points

Special thanks to guests Jane and Paul Hellendoorn for filling in for Julie and Harry who are away for seven weeks, leaving a gap at the klaverjas table.



Ans and Isabel (above) recently celebrated their birthdays at the clubrooms in early February, with Ben Lokum (below) providing the music.



(and apologies to Ben for getting his name wrong last issue.)

Hartelijk Gefeliciteerd ...

to our members celebrating upcoming birthdays:

April: Peter Vandeursen and Maria Schrader

May: Paulien Fa'atafa van Geel, Joop Dol, Phemia van Dijk, Yvonne van de Berg, René van Lierop, Anna Heythuysen, Peter Romijn, Dale Wright, Gordon Stewart, and Anne-Marie Knibbeler.



Congrats Ann Beyk on your 97th!



Ann Beyk received a plant at the first coffee morning of the year, in recognition of her 97th birthday in January. Here she is with other club members gathered around her. Congratulations Ann.

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

Tulpen van Avalon



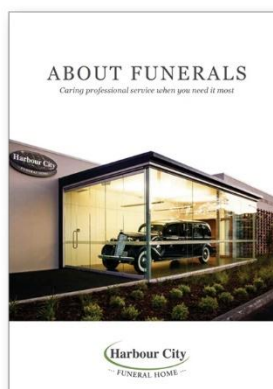
Yes, I know it's out of season, but the time for sowing is NOW!

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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Next Double Dutch: June – July 2025. Deadline: 22 May 2025.

(Contributions to the Editor at dutchclubwqn.editor@gmail.com; or post to the address below)

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