

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 2024/3

June – July 2024



***Dutch royals pop in for Koningsdag
and it's 'on yer bikes' for Orange Bike 2024!***



COMING UP: Solstice Lunch * Our New Committee
Join us for coffee mornings, Klaverjas and Sunday afternoon socials.

The committee – Het comité

Officers

(Note: roles under previous Committee listed below; these may change – see page 10)

President	Pierre Schmits	021 0827 2084	pierre.schmits@yahoo.com
Vice-President/			
Assistant Secretary	Carolina van Rooy		carolinavanrooy@gmail.com
Secretary	Anne-Marie Knibbeler	027 9515770	dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rita Langerak		ritalangerak68@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Ann Beyk	04 567 8575	
Financial Advisor:	René van Lierop	04 977 7086/021 740930	dutchclubwlg.treasurer@gmail.com
New member: Saskia Knibbeler			

Other committee roles

Bar Licence Holder:	René van Lierop	04 977 7086/021 740930	
Manager of bar, kitchen and other supplies; Cleaner:	Anna Heythuysen	027 563 6026	
Facebook Administrator:	Saskia Knibbeler	027 22 2287	s.knibbeler@gmail.com
Website Administrator:	Pierre Schmits/Saskia Knibbeler		

Positions outside the committee

Double Dutch Editor:	Martin de Jong	021 909 688	dutchclubwgn.editor@gmail.com
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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	Mr Bill van Waas	04 298 4244
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 (with Sunday instuif): 9 June, 14 July.

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

Top cover photo: This year's Koningsdag featured a 'Where's Willem' hunt for autographs from the Dutch royal family. Thanks to our homegrown members who stood in for King Willem and family – who were otherwise engaged in the Netherlands. Standing in for the royals were (left to right): Roel Ymker, Maddie Attewell, Samara Ryan, Piper Ryan and Anna Ryan (and 'Scout' for the royal pet poodle 'Mambo').

Celebrate the Solstice – 23 June Lunch!

June 21st each year marks the day when the sun is farthest north and travels the shortest path through our sky in the Southern Hemisphere. Or, in layperson's terms,

***Days will be getting longer,
nights will be getting shorter,
and we are on our way
towards summer!***

Considering the success in previous years, we will celebrate mid-winter solstice again this year with a heart-warming lunch on **Sunday 23rd June**.

Similar to last year, we will be serving a Christmas style three course lunch. Of course, the, by now traditional, mulled wine will be served as a welcome drink. Doors will open at 11:30am and lunch will be served shortly after midday. The price for non-members is \$50 and members pay a reduced price of only \$35.

We have a \$70 special for new members which includes one year membership and entrance fee to the Solstice Lunch for one person (other persons in the same household will pay the \$35 reduced entrance fee per person). So, if you know someone who would like to join the club you could advise them that this would be the right moment to do so and save some money.

This event will be limited to 40 guests only, so it is essential to book if you don't want to miss out. Booking should be done before 15 June 2024. Members have preference when booking, up until 10 days before the event.

You can register your booking by:

- Calling Pierre Schmits on 021-08272084
- Filling out the form on our website www.dutchclubwellington.co/nz/solstice-lunch
- Talking to Ann Beyk at one of our regular club events.



Payment can be made in cash to Ann Beyk at one of our events or electronically to:

Account name: New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Inc.
Account number: 03 0525009 8055.
Please reference: "Solstice lunch" and your last name.

Don't miss out, book now!

Hartelijk Gefeliciteerd ...

for members of our club with upcoming birthdays:

June: Senna Rosenblatt and Dinie Bode.

July: Pieter Laterveer, Jaimie Rosenblatt, Lis Visser and Jo de Graauw.



And special congratulations to our club member Phemia van Dyk who turned 90th last month!



From the President – Van de Voorzitter

Hello everyone,

We are nearing the end of May and winter is settling in. Here in Upper Hutt, we have already had the first few nights of frost. Ah well, another few months of colder weather and the warmth will be coming back again, I hope.

Looking back, I can report that we had a very successful Hutt Orange Bike and Kingsday event with more than 100 visitors to both Avalon Park and our clubhouse. The weather was beautiful and everybody, especially the kids, really enjoyed all the activities.

A few days ago, we held our Annual General Meeting, and I was happy to see that more than 30 of our members attended the meeting. After having presented the usual topics on the agenda, we had sufficient time to have a good discussion about the future of the club. The main vibe that I take from that discussion is that the majority (if not all) of our members are keen to keep the club alive in the same shape and form as it is. It was also encouraging to see that some of our younger members had ideas on how to rejuvenate some activities and I look forward to seeing action on that.

Tuesday Klaverjas Club

Klaverjas Club results from the first two months of the playing year are below:

13 February	Mien v.d.Kuit	4900
20 February	Ann Bosh	5282
27 February	Mien v.d.Kuit	5022
5 March	Ann Bosch	5072
12 March	Julie Tan	4933
19 March	Mien v.d.Kuit	5353
26 March	Arie Effende	4981

A good start to the year. Keep it up.

Ann Beyk

Early next month the (new) committee will meet to elect new officers and determine the course of the club for the coming year.

Next on our list of activities is the Solstice lunch. This year the event will take place on 23rd June, and we will once again try to serve you a delicious and heart-warming meal. If you haven't already signed up for this event, don't hesitate too long because seats are limited. You can find more information on how to register on our website or in this issue of the Double Dutch.

After that it will be quiet for some time as normally, we have a break until Tulip Sunday in September. We are discussing if and in what shape this event can take place. Also, the new committee might surprise you with some new activities or events that could be organised before then!



As I did at the end of the AGM, I would like to close by thanking all volunteers for their time and effort helping out and making the events of the past year great successes, each and every one of them. I would also like to say a big THANK YOU to our members and friends of the club for your continued support and contribution.

That's it from me. I look forward to a fantastic new club year and hope to see you all soon at one (or all) of the coming events.

Pierre.

Bevrijdingsdag (Liberation Day)



On Sunday 5th May, a small group of Social Sunday visitors went to Avalon Park to commemorate the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944. On that day the Netherlands customarily celebrates the end of the Second World War and the restoration of life in freedom.

Many years ago, the Dutch Club Wellington honoured that day by planting a small pohutukawa tree in Avalon Park, not far from our clubhouse. Last Sunday, a few of us visited this tree and decorated it with an orange ribbon to show that we haven't forgotten and hopefully are learning not to repeat what happened in the 1940s.



Koningsdag with Orange Bike

For the third year running, the weather smiled on us for a brilliant (and relatively smoothly run) Koningsdag with Orange Bike Ride – centred on the children's bike area at Avalon Park and Avalon House, which supplied a steady stream of rookworst, kroketten, cakes, coffee, tea and other beverages from the bar. Avalon House grounds were also the focus for games, a small kledjesmarkt, the final prizegiving and the end point of the 'Orange Mystery Trail'.

According to the record, we had 101 registrants for Orange Bike, and organisers estimate about 20 more people didn't officially register but participated in side activities. So, with some who may have just come to the Dutch Club for the socialising and coffee, perhaps we may have had up to 150 turn up for the event at some time!

Free Ride of Naenae were kept busy with free bike checks, and e-bikes trials around the park. Greater

Wellington provided bike promotion materials and free accessories such as bag covers and slap bands, and all participants got a bike bell from the Embassy. Prizes were given for best dressed bikes and people in both adult and child categories.

Thank you to all volunteers and the core organising team for Orange Bike of: Joel Burton, Tom White, Lucy and Martin Ryan, and Nicolaas Thiemens; our poster designer Niels Hunefield, and to our prize sponsors and suppliers: Maryflower Nursery, The Cozy Orange, The Dutch Shop, Kennett Brothers, Revolution Bicycles of Ngaio, and of course, Montfoort for their delicious stroopwafels!



It was fantastic to have representation from both the Netherlands Embassy and Hutt City Council in the persons of Martin van Buuren (right above) from the Embassy, and Cr Simon Edwards (left) from the Council. And both joined us on well-decorated bikes for the final Orange Bike Ride around Avalon Park.



The singing of *Het Wilhelmus* this year was ably led for us by Jeltsje and Doetje Keizer.



Winner of best dressed adult prize (above) was inspired by previous two-time winner Denise Rush – an appropriately attired judge this year (below)!

No bike too small or too tall for Orange Bike 2024!



On the lighter side, did you know



... **Len Visser is reviving the ancient art of Tree Hugging.** He is conducting a training course especially for the Dutch Club Wellington.



Here you see Rita Langerak at her first day of training. While initially very apprehensive, she is now.....



..... a firm believer in the art, just like master Len is.

New students are welcome: \$10 per hug.



... **Heineken is phasing out their light beer option** and the Dutch Club Wellington had a limited stock only. As it is a very popular drink, the club decided to put the last bottle up for auction. Ans Howes was the lucky highest bidder who got her hands on the final bottle for an undisclosed amount of money.

On the right, you see runner-up Len Visser who also tried to get his hands on the treasure. Sorry Len, you will have to stick to your "spiced" apple juice.

Proost Ans!





...Rapper Ann B in da house

Our club was delighted to have the famous rapper **Ann B.** visiting our club house. **Ann B.** is on tour and made a quick visit to her hometown of Upper Hutt after two sold-out performances in Sydney and before flying out to New York to continue her tour in the United States.

Ann B., who originates from Utrecht, made her fame with rap versions of Dutch traditional songs such as:

“All the ducks are swimming in the water”,
 “At the back of the silent monastery” and
 “Father Yes-head” (Vader Jacob).

Yo Ann, keep on rapping!

... the Dutch Club Wellington is facing a lawsuit!



Three of our most distinguished members are considering filing a lawsuit against our club for damaging their reputation. “We are nowhere near the age of being recycled” says Ann Beyk, while Diny Bode claims, “If it has to be, then only with my kroketten,” and Isobelle Lokum states, “Typically Dutch, this would never have happened in Australia”. Stay tuned for how this ends.....

Looking back, looking ahead: the AGM

It was quite a lively AGM this year, as issues were raised (not for the first time) about the long-term future of the club. The Club is in an overall healthy shape financially and steady on membership. However, it struggles to get enough willing and able hands to help at some events, and often runs at a loss. Various ideas for alternative sources of funding or ways to cut costs or activities were discussed at the meeting, and there is some enthusiasm for working out new ways to attract more members and interest in the club.

Pierre gave an excellent and colourful rundown over the past year, over our regular special events, and our weekly and monthly social occasions.

The biggest events (in terms of numbers) were the Kings Day/Orange Bike event (well over 100), and Sinterklaas – which saw about 55 children and 120 people in the Clubrooms (in two sittings). Rain did not deter families from connecting their children with this unique Dutch tradition. Our large social events, such as the Solstice Lunch (now in its fourth year), Leiden's Ontzet and Kerstviering attracted about 30-40 people, while the official number of guests at our special 75th anniversary lunch was – appropriately – 75! Thanks to the Committee for organising all these events and keeping our Clubrooms ticking along and up to scratch – despite two vandalism incidents (quickly dealt with by the Council).

The incoming Committee just needs to review our Constitution a little to ensure compliance with new requirements relating to Incorporated Societies and will also be reviewing our Privacy Policy.

And we're pleased to say our existing Committee members have all agreed to stay on, supplemented by Saskia Knibbeler. Another member was also nominated, but is yet to accept the nomination. The new Committee meets on 5 June to decide on Officers and roles for the coming year.

Thank you to all Committee members and helpers for various events for keeping us rolling.

Martin de Jong



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

Air BNB in Blenheim

A new member has joined us from Blenheim! Willem Vissers was at the AGM, and hosts a bed and breakfast in Blenheim, available through AirBNB. If anyone is tripping down that way, you are most welcome to stay. A cooked breakfast in the morning. Three different rooms available:

- 1) Queen bed: \$75
- 2) 2 single beds: \$50 for 1 person; \$70 for 2.
- 3) 1 single: \$55.

Club members will get a 10% discount.

Contact: Willem Vissers. Ph 022 691 2234.

harmonyatnz@hotmail.com.

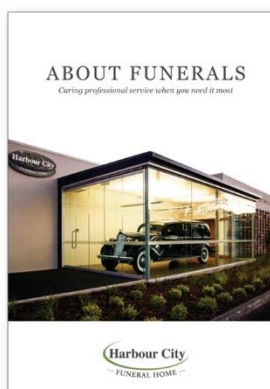


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Sender:

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61 Taita Drive, Avalon
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Next Double Dutch: August – September. Deadline: 18 July

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

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