

Newsletter of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 2024/5

October – November 2024



Leiden's Ontzet at the Clubrooms – more pics inside!

COMING UP: Sinterklaas * Christmas Lunch * An "Operatunity"
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: 13 October and usually 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.

Sinterklaas komt!

The committee has received an email from the "Hoofd Piet" (Head Piet) that Sinterklaas will be coming to Avalon House to celebrate his birthday with the children living in and around Wellington. The party will be on Sunday 1 December and further details will be forthcoming via our website and social media channels.

Registration for this event is a must. You can do so on our website from 1 November onwards. Go to www.dutchclubwellington.co.nz for more details.

If you know Dutch families, or other families that are interested in this event and that live in the Wellington region, please encourage them to register and join the party.

"Hoe meer zielen, hoe meer vreugd" (The more souls, the merrier.)

Sint en Piet



Having given up his white horse a long time ago, Sinterklaas constantly surprises us as to how he will arrive. What will it be this year? Come and see!



From the President – Van de Voorzitter

Now that August and September have past, summer can start. Yes, I hear you say, it is Spring only and October can throw some nasty weather at us, but I have seen the first signs of summertime already: both in the flower beds at the clubhouse and in my own garden.

While August and September were quiet months as far as club events were concerned, the last part of the year is going to be doubly active.

First of all, there is (or was) Leiden's Ontzet – on 6 October. See page 6 for a write-up and photos of what was 'een heel gezellig' event.

Next on our agenda will be a visit to one of our nonagenarians (I googled that) who hopes to become a centenarian in a few days' time. Our oldest member: Bert ten Broeke. I will make sure to take my camera so I can report back to you with some images.

After that it will be show time! Quite a large group of us will be visiting an "Operatunity" Christmas performance on 21 November. I can still order a few more tickets if you are interested in joining us. Please find more details on page 9 of this issue.

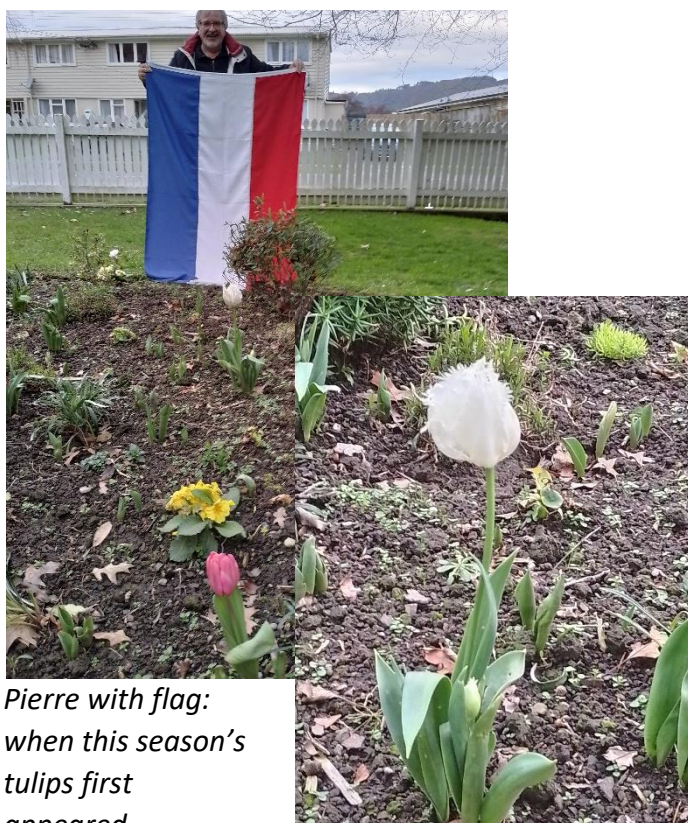
Word is out that Sinterklaas will be visiting us on Sunday 1 December. For this year's celebration, I would like to encourage our older members to join the party as well. "Pieten training" has also started, so if you know anyone who is interested in joining the training, please let us know. The minimum age is 16.

Other dates for your agenda are the Christmas Lunch on 15 December and New Year's Social Sunday on 5 January.

In February we are planning to repeat our summer lunch at Days Bay (with or without a boat trip) as it was a great success last time. We will inform you about the date and time in the next issue of the Double Dutch in December.

That's all from me, see you soon.

Pierre.



*Pierre with flag:
when this season's
tulips first
appeared.*

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

From the Secretary – Van de Secretaresse

Dear people

I hope you are well and enjoying the stunningly sunny days we are getting this spring. I've been very busy clearing weeds from my garden and spring cleaning.

Recently, we received an email from a man who had found some old Dutch papers in a barrel on his newly-purchased property in Wainuiomata. He offered them to the club and delivered them last week. They are issues of *De Veldpost*, a publication obviously aimed at farmers and small holders as most of the articles and advertisements are about livestock, chickens, or potatoes! I'm really enjoying myself reading through them. The item below is taken from an issue of *De Veldpost*, dated 8 April 1893. The story originated in the publication of another paper in Odessa (Ukraine):

DE GOEDHARTIGE SCHURK

De person die gisteren de kas van ons blad heeft verbroken en zich heeft meester gemaakt van de aangeteekende brieven, bevattende 36 roebels, 40 kopeken, het bedrag voor vier abonnementen, wordt verzocht deze brieven (zonder het geld) terug te zenden aan den administrateur, opdat deze de courant aan de abonne's kan toezenden.

Twee dagen later ontving de administrateur het volgende schrijven:

“Waarde heer,

Hierbij zend ik u, overeenkomstig u wensch, de vier door mij gestolen brieven (zonder het geld) terug.

Wees zoo goed mij nu ook een kleinen wederdienst te bewijzen.

Gij weet, dat ik na de verbreking van de kas genoodzaakt was mij, tengevolge van uw onverwachte komst, door het venster te verwijderen. In mijn haast heb ik op uw bureau laten liggen een breekijzer, een paar tangen en een instrumententasch.

Deze voorwerpen heb ik nodig voor mijne broodwinning.

Wees zo goed ze te pakken in een nummer van uw geëerd blad en het pakje dan morgennacht te leggen buiten de stad, op tien pas afstand rechts van den hoofdingang van den dierentuin.

Hoogachtend enz.”

De verlangde voorwerpen berustten bij de politie, die weigerde ze af te staan, zoodat aan het verlangen van den inbreker niet kon worden voldaan.

THE AMIABLE VILLAIN

We ask that the person who yesterday broke in and stole four registered letters containing 36 rubles and 40 kopeken, the price for four subscriptions, returns the letters (without the money) to the administrator, so that he can send the paper to the new subscribers.

Two days later the reply came:

Dear Sir, As per your request I herewith return the four letters (without the money) I stole from you. I ask for a small gesture to reciprocate.

You know that, after I'd broken into the safe, I had to retreat through the window, due to your unexpected return. In my haste I left on your desk a crowbar, a few pliers, and a tool bag. I need these items to make my livelihood.

Please wrap these items with a copy of your esteemed paper and deposit the parcel tomorrow night outside of the town, ten paces to the right of the main entrance to the zoo.

Sincerely, etc.

The desired objects were in hands of the police who were unwilling to return them.

Best wishes to you all,
Anne-Marie

Leiden's Ontzet ...

On 6 October we celebrated an enormous “gezellig” Leiden’s Ontzet feast. Avalon House was cozily filled with 39 guests who enjoyed a classic Leiden’s Ontzet meal of “haring op witte brood” (herring on white bread), “hutspot met klapstuk” (carrot/potato mash with meat stew), followed by a lovely ambrosia as dessert.

All present confirmed that the meal was delicious thanks to the efforts of head chef Anne-Marie and sous chef Carolina. On hand to dish it all up were Dawn, Jakolien, Susanne and Saskia, who treated us to an excellent service.

To make sure everyone kept awake, Saskia presented a Bingo game after the main meal with second prize winner Corrie Romijn and first prize winners (again) Corrie Romijn, Mary Mason and Pieter Laterveer. Coffee was served and the guests had a chance to mingle and further engage in some banter.

Pierre



een heel gezellig feest!



Leiden's Ontzet – as much fun for the servers as for the diners, it seems! Thanks to all who made this such a success.

The Dutch Club – for young and old

- van de Redacteur



Rieke in her favourite chair with a photo of her late husband Anton.

Recently I spent time with Rieke Dorrestein, one of our members who turns 93 this month – and still drives herself around and contributes to the community. It was delightful to hear of her journey out to New Zealand by ship with her then fiancé, finding jobs and a place to live in Wellington, then settling down with

her husband in Stokes Valley in 1955, bringing up three adopted children, still finding joy and consolation on her property, and growing orchids which she shares with club members. Also good to see that someone still practices the ancient art of preservation. If she had her life to live again, she

wouldn't want it any other way. I hope to share more of her story in a future issue of the Double Dutch. Indeed, we'd love to share stories and reflections from all our members. If

you have a story or memory to share – from former times in the Netherlands, early days of forging a life in Aotearoa, or the strangeness of encountering a new land and culture; write it down, or contact me the Editor and we'll sit down and chat about it.



New Committee member Saskia Knibbeler and I are also exploring new ways of connecting people with the club and making it relevant to all generations for anyone who has a 'Dutch connection' or interest. We have the monthly spelletjes – and with spring now here, experimenting with bike rides along the riverbank.



We're also exploring an informal Dutch language group for fresh (or rusty) learners to practice and learn in a fun environment. Klaverjas classes and craft-making sessions have also been discussed. And we'd like to use the Facebook page to share relevant information (and trivia) on all things Dutch. If any of this interests you – or you have other ideas for the Dutch Club, please contact me Saskia, or any member of the Committee (see names and contacts on page 2).

If you're not a member of the club yet, and have just been coming along to some events occasionally, well now is the time to join to check us out more fully – as well as enjoy the benefits of cheaper entry fees to our paid events. People joining from October get a 50% discount off our annual membership fee of (an already low) **\$45 per household** (to 1 April 2025). If you're a non-member thinking of coming to the Christmas Lunch, you'd save money by joining as a member, then registering for the lunch (see opposite, and do the maths).

Martin de Jong (Editor)

COMING UP...

Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 15 December we will be organising our yearly Christmas lunch in Avalon House. The door to the clubrooms will be open from 11:30.

The price for this scrumptious lunch including drinks is \$45.00 per person for members and \$60.00 per person for non-members.

We have a maximum capacity of 40 seats so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Registration needs to be done before Friday 6 December by:

- 1) Paying cash to Anne-Marie or Pierre at a Sunday or Wednesday event;

OR

- 2) Transferring the total amount to:

New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Inc.
Account number: 03-0525-0098055-00

Please mention: Xmas lunch and family name.

See you there!

Pierre

An “Operatunity” Show

The “Operatunity” group are a band of singers and actors who have been doing shows all over New Zealand for quite some time.

On Thursday 21 November this group will be performing their Christmas show at the Car Museum in Paraparaumu and I will be ordering tickets for the club in bulk.

So far, I have 16 people interested in going and it would be great to have some more people joining us.

Please let me know if you are interested in going and if you need transport to get to the venue.

Details are:

Christmas Royal Variety Show

Thursday 21 November

Show starts at 11AM until 2PM

Venue: Southward Theatre (car museum), Otaihang Road, Paraparaumu.

Price \$35 per person (if we can order in lots of 10), otherwise \$37 per person.

More information:

Keen on joining us? Contact me on 021-08272084 or email pierre.schmits@yahoo.com

Pierre

Editor’s Note: More details on “Operatunity” from its website www.operatunity.co.nz. Sounds like fun!

Since forming in 2001, Operatunity has grown to be New Zealand’s leading provider of daytime concert entertainment, presenting 200 concerts annually to seniors throughout New Zealand ... These concerts are filled with joy and are delivered with Operatunity’s unique brand of good music and humour. ...

Unlike any other arts company, the artists greet you at the door. They get to know you and make you feel welcomed and part of the extended family. Their concerts are of a high standard. They only employ professional New Zealand artists who are talented as well as ‘giving’ performers who genuinely want seniors to have a great time...

Operatunity is not an opera company. Operatunity is a play on the words opera and tunes and presents all sorts of different concerts, each with its own special theme: everything from music theatre, 50s and 60s popular songs, Gatsby art deco, Irish, iconic kiwi shows, popular opera, crooners, Glenn miller, big band. Audiences regularly say that Operatunity concerts are "the highlight of their lives".

At the Clubrooms

Our 'homegrown' Tulip Sunday

We had a low-key but pleasant sunny Sunday afternoon for our inaugural 'homegrown' Tulip Sunday on 29 September. Ben had timed his tulip planting and with sufficient variety to put on a splendid display on the day. Bulbs had been flowering at different times for several weeks beforehand, so it has been a good all-round Spring display.

Unfortunately, we didn't have our planned paper tulips due to illness of our lead crafter, but we welcomed three guests, attracted by the "Tulip Sunday" posting to reconnect with their Dutch heritage. There was plenty of convivial conversation – in Dutch and Nederlands – around the table, and lovely cake supplied by Rita Langerak for her birthday. Heel gezellig!

It's not viable for the club to participate in the Wellington City Council Tulip Sunday/Spring Festival due to the logistics involved and the space made available by the Council. However, let's hope we can build a new 'tradition' on our own terms, on our own turf (well – Hutt City Council's turf, actually). In some ways, all our social Sundays can be a mini 'Tulip Sunday'.



Hartelijk Gefeliciteerd ...

... to our members celebrating upcoming birthdays over the next two months:

October: Bert ten Broeke (100!) and Rieke van Dorrestein.

November: Joke Effendi, Harry van de Gulik, Chris Veenswijk, Bill van Waas, Pierre Schmits and Jan Bakker.



In Memoriam – Geraldine Waijers-Klarenbeek

Many club members will know Albert and Geraldine Waijers, who joined the club in the early 80's and celebrated their 50th birthdays and then 50th wedding anniversary with us. They had not been able to attend club activities in recent years due to Geraldine's declining health. Sadly, Geraldine passed away in July, and Albert – filled with memories of the good times the couple had enjoyed at the club – wanted to pass on the following to members, in tribute to his wife.

It is with great sadness that I share that Geraldine, (Gerarda Maria Waijers-Klarenbeek) passed away peacefully in my arms on the 19th of July, 2024, at 5:45 PM. She was my best friend, my confidante, my soulmate, and a devoted mother and grandmother. We will miss her radiant smile, infectious laughter, and the way she always put our happiness before her own.

Throughout our journey together, Geraldine's remarkable strength, resilience, and equanimity inspired me every day. Her love was a sanctuary where I always could find peace and comfort. As I say goodbye to my beloved Geraldine, I take solace in the memories we created together, the laughter



we shared, and the adventures we embarked upon. Geraldine may be gone, but her love will forever live on in my heart, guiding me, comforting me, and inspiring me.

Geraldine was the loving Mama to Stefan, Amanda

and Judith. She adored her grandchildren: Stefan and Andy's boys, Aston and Luc, who live in the far north of New Zealand; Amanda and Peter's girls, Zoe and Maya, who live in Sydney, Australia; and Judith and Theo's children, Harriet and Robin, who live in Martinborough, New Zealand. They all miss their Oma very much.

Rest in peace, my darling Geraldine, I know your love for us will never fade.

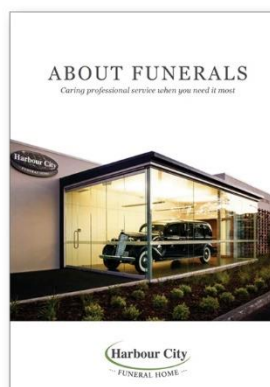
Albert Waijers

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: December - January. Deadline: 21 November 2024

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

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