

Echo

Nov
2025



Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society Christchurch (Inc)



Sinterklaas 2024
Image: Pete Knuiman

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Editor's note

Geachte lezers,

Vriendelijke groet vanuit Mui Ne, Vietnam, 19 more sleeps at the time of writing this and then we're back, we're staying with our niece Janneke who worked with us in the café and when Sinterklaas visited us at the last Spencer park picnic. She has been living in Vietnam for the last 3 years, we've been travelling from Hanoi to Phan Tiet, with overnight train (recommend) and VIP sleep bus (recommended too) if anybody wants to go to Vietnam and you need some travel advice, she can make your journey super easy.

Quentin is missing us, granddaughters keep asking when we're back, friends are telling us it's been long enough now. We're coming back on the planned date of 12 November. Unfortunately we're missing the car boot sale which was so much fun last February!

We will be there for the Sinterklaas Picnic, we wouldn't want to miss that for the world (would be fun though celebrate in Nederland one day in the winter but the grandchildren are in NZ and I wouldn't wish the winter on them when they can be in the summer. It is great nonetheless).

Bring all the children you know on Sinterklaas and make it a special celebration family picnic at the NSC clubhouse by our very own windmill that looks once again great for the upcoming season.

All other festivities that are coming up, you can read about them further in this Echo newsletter and on

Whatsonchch, look for Dutch and you'll be informed of things we post on that site. Put them in your agenda and we look forward to welcome young and old to join in festivities.

We look forward to see you next time.



**Hedwig
Dunbar-Keek**
Editor, Echo



Netherlands Society Christchurch

637 Marshland Road
Ouruhia
Christchurch 8083



Visit our facebook page



Netherlands_Society_Christchurch

Want to contribute to the next issue of the Echo Newsletter?

Echo Material for the next issue of the Echo has to be in by the 20th of each month. Although handwritten material is acceptable if clearly readable, the editor will be very happy with typewritten articles. You would, however, really make my day with your contributions as an attachment to email or with an email in Word format (.doc NOT .docx). Please ensure any images are of good quality. Please send to: editor.nsc@gmail.com

President's greeting



**Miryam
Denny-Ipenburg**

President
Netherlands Society
Christchurch (Inc.)

Thanks to our sponsor
Zealandia, our windmill
is once again covered
in beautiful flowers.



Beste lezers,

Vandaag heeft de Nederlandse Society hier in Christchurch de ANCM/Federatie bijeenkomst gehad, met deelname van ambassadeur Ard Van der Vorst, honorair consul Geordie 't Hooft en Belgisch consul Lieve Bierque. Het was een hybride bijeenkomst, met deelnemers die vanuit Auckland en Palmerston North waren afgereisd, anderen die via Zoom deelnamen — en natuurlijk enkele van onze commissieleden.

Ik wist niet helemaal wat ik moest verwachten, maar ik ben blij te kunnen zeggen dat de bijeenkomst goed — en verrassend snel — verliep! We hebben waardevolle gesprekken gevoerd, vooral over de rol van de Federatie en hoe we de communicatie en samenwerking binnen het netwerk verder kunnen versterken.

Wat onze club betreft, er staat ons een drukke en spannende periode te wachten!

We trappen af met onze Markt en 'Kofferbak/Rommelminkt', gevolgd door Toenail Culture Ale, Sinterklaas voor de oudere generatie, de Sinterklaas Familie picknick, en tenslotte onze Kerst bbq — met natuurlijk onze inmiddels bekende (beruchte) Kerstvoorstelling!

Tussendoor is er ook nog het Nederlands/Vlaams Taalweekend, en er wordt gewerkt aan de organisatie van een nieuwe Nederlandse filmavond — dit keer eentje waar het hele gezin van kan genieten.

Er valt dus weer veel te beleven, en ik hoop jullie allemaal te zien bij de Markt / 'Kofferbak verkoop.' Vergeet je niet aan te melden!

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Miryam

Dear readers,

Today the Netherlands Society hosted the ANCM/Federation meeting here in Christchurch, joined by Ambassador Ard van der Vorst, Honorary Consul Geordie 't Hooft, and Belgium Consul Lieve Bierque. It was a hybrid event, with participants travelling from Auckland and Palmerston North, as well as others joining via Zoom — and, of course, some of our committee members.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but I'm pleased to say the meeting went smoothly — and surprisingly quickly! We had some great discussions, particularly about the role of the Federation and how we can strengthen communication and collaboration across the network.

As for our club, we have a busy and exciting few months ahead! We'll kick things off with our Market and Car Boot Sale, followed by Toenail Culture Ale, Sinterklaas for the older generation, the Sinterklaas Family Picnic, and finally our Christmas BBQ — featuring our now-(in)famous Nativity Play!

In between all that, there's also the Dutch/Flemish Language Weekend, and plans are underway for another Dutch film screening — this time one the whole family can enjoy.

Lots to look forward to, and I hope to see you all at the Car Boot Sale.

Don't forget to register!

Yours sincerely,

Miryam

What's on!

Dutch Market 2025



Last Market of the year,
combined with a Car Boot
Sale, 9 November, from
10am to 2pm

Youth of Yesterday

Every Friday morning
9.30 am - 2.00 pm approx.

Operating are Rummikub, card
players, drawing, golfers coffee



Important date:

Maybe you would just like to get out of the house
for a coffee and chat speaking Dutch/English with
a group of friends, or maybe you are a group of
knitters, crochet, etc. You are most welcome.
We have plenty of space. You do not have to be
dutch to join in.

☎ 027 751 9338 Lilian for information

lilian_van_elk@hotmail.com

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Xmas cards, birthday and
all occasions cards:

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monthly market or to order.



What's on!



Due to popular demand, our final market of the year will also feature a Car Boot Sale! This is a great chance to declutter, showcase your treasures, and make some extra cash.

Location for Sellers: Sellers will be set up on the grass in front of the Windmill. For your convenience, the large gate on Marshland Road will be open for easy access.

Seller Fee: \$10 per space

Come along to shop, sell, and enjoy a vibrant day filled with bargains, community spirit, and of course, delicious Dutch food.

All our usual stalls will be there, with Dutch cheeses, herring, witlof, Dutch pikelets, poffertjes en croquettes, kroketten, Dutch liquorice, stroopwafels and all sorts of other Dutch goodies.

Book your spot today!

- Lynda: 021 137 9147
- Annie: 021 062 5656
- Email: secretary.nsc@gmail.com | president.nsc@gmail.com

We can't wait to see you there!

LEKKER DUTCH



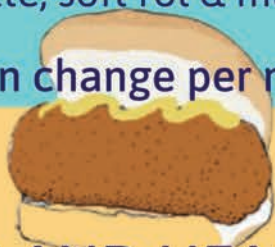
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Cinnamon spiced syrup waffle
freshly made



BROODJE KROKET

Croquette, soft rol & mustard
(menu can change per market)



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squeezed orange juice
Smoothies & Mango Lassi
Lemon-honey-ade



@LEKKERDUTCHINNZN



WHERE TO FIND US

***EVERY SATURDAY** on Kahu road
Christchurch Farmersmarket,
Riccarton House and Bush
***Every 2nd SUNDAY** of the MONTH
Dutch Society, 637 Marshland rd,
at Everglades Golfcourse
Instagram: lekkerdutchinnnewzealand



POFFERTJES

Our speciality,
little buckwheat pancakes,
served with butter and icing sugar

OLIEBOLLEN

Traditional Dutch Donut

APPELTAART

Oma's Recipe served with cream

email: lekkerdutchnz@gmail.com

What's on!

Toenail Culture Ale

Met ons toneelstuk
**IN DE GOUDEN
PAUW**

Vrijdag 14 (19.30)
zaterdag 15
(19.30) of zondag
(14.00uur) 16
november.
Kaartjes @ \$20 zijn
te koop bij Annie
van der Dussen:
021 0625 656.

Wij hopen u daar
allemaal te zien.



Help our Drama Group!

Ani De Bodt
donated this
beautiful
painting for our
drama group to
raffle. You can
buy the tickets
at the Dutch
Market and
at the drama
production in
November.



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Festive events!

Sinterklaas Picnic

Sunday 7 December, 11.30am - 2.30pm
The picnic ground at the front of the clubrooms, 637 Marshland Road.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of families for a great day of games and fun activities.

Everyone can take part and to close it all off before Sinterklaas arrives we will have a tug of war for whoever wants to show off their muscles.

Everyone can have photos taken with Sinterklaas.

All children will receive a gift, a bag of lollies and a packet of juice.

The adult will receive a taai taai.

We need you to register for this event before 26 November.

email: annievanderdussen@gmail.com
or call / text Annie: mobile: 021-0625656
or call / text Lynda: mobile: 021-1379147

Cost is \$10 per child, adults are free.



7 Dec



Games:

Water relay course,
Family obstacle course,
Pass the ball, Stilt
walking, Volleyball,
Ballen gooien, Hoepels,
Spijkerpoepen,
Sjoelbakken,
Zakken lopen

Festive events!

Christmas Play and BBQ



Like every year we are planning to have another Christmas play, therefore we like to hear from children who want to take part in this fun part of the Christmas afternoon we are having on the 21st of December.

21 Dec



We do need lots of children and some adults to help out. As always we do need Mary, Joseph, angels, kings, soldiers, shepherds, sheep, donkey, ox, or any other person or animal you like to be.

We would love to have a baby, it would be really great if there is a mother who likes to take part with her baby.

Costumes are all provided or especially made.

No need to be able to speak Dutch and we practice 3 times, usually after school time.

For more info, please contact Annie on mob: 021 062 5656

BBQ: Starting at 2pm with a sing along of all the old well known Christmas songs.

The bar will be open to buy a drink, tea and coffee will be provided.

Cost for members \$20, non-members \$30.

Children under 10 years free with a paying adult.

Children between and 10 and 15yrs \$15.

Bookings can be made by calling Annie before 15 December.

Ph: 383 1594 or Mob. 021 062 5656

Sinterklaas for the not so young!



30 Nov

Especially for the more mature people, Sinterklaas will visit us on Sunday the 30th of November.

Sinterklaas and his helpers will arrive around 2.30pm with presents for everyone.

Afterwards he will join us for afternoon tea with traditional dutch "lekkernijen" like banketstaaf, taai taai as well as sandwiches and savouries.

Cost for all this is \$10 pp

Please book before 27 November, so we know how many we have to cater for.

Annie: mob:021 0625 656 or 383 1594.

This article is about Lynda Smit's uncle in the Netherlands, who, despite his own handicap, still works as a volunteer for the "Zonnebloem Stichting". Lynda is the NSC Vice President.

Het ochtendritueel van Herman

De niet-schrijvende secretaris

Ondanks zijn eigen beperking zet Herman Koopman zich met volle overtuiging in voor andere mensen met een lichamelijke beperking. "Ik ben de enige secretaris in Nederland die geen potlood vast kan houden", zegt hij met enige zelfspot.



"Mijn eigen lichaam maakte me ziek", verklaart Herman zijn auto-immuunziekte GBS. Maar geen enkele professor die hem precies kan vertellen waarom. Stress kan een reden zijn. Of verkeerd voedsel. "In Ierland at ik zalm waarvan ik dacht: is die nog wel goed? Voor ik het wist, lag ik dik drie weken op de intensive care in Londen. Daarna werd ik met een vliegtuigje overgebracht naar het ziekenhuis in Deventer, waar ik nog vier maanden aan de beademing lag."

Handigheidjes

En dan kom je na een jaar ziekenhuis en revalidatie thuis en moet er van alles geregeld worden. Voor Herman een geluk bij een ongeluk dat zijn vrouw als 'ergotherapeut' optrad. "Voor mijn bed- en ochtendritueel ontwierp ze allerlei handigheidjes. Een houder aan mijn tandenborstel. En overal plakstroken waar ik een glas op kan zetten. Dat heeft ze allemaal zelf uitgevogeld." Voor Herman dé oplossingen om met een sterk verminderde handfunctie toch deels zelfstandig te kunnen functioneren.

Feestelijk ritueel

Zijn ochtendritueel ziet er anders uit dan dat van de gemiddelde Zonnebloemvrijwilliger. "Ik heb vier vaste krachten die me helpen met het naar bed gaan en bij het opstaan. Nadat ik ben gewassen en aangekleed, eet ik pas mijn ontbijt. Eerst een broodje honing en yoghurt, gevolgd door de pillen die ik moet slikken. En dan

koffie." Op zondagen pakt Hermans vrouw uit, dan is het feest met een ontbijt van roerei en spek in de serre.

Van schrijver naar spreker

Een kwart eeuw was Herman directeur van een basisschool. Vanuit die ervaring schreef hij een boek over achttien scholen in de Oost-Achterhoek. "Daar begon ik in 2004 aan. Drie jaar later werd ik ziek, maar uiteindelijk heb ik het boek kunnen afronden." Met dank aan het digitale spraakherkenningsprogramma dat hij gebruikt om zijn teksten in te spreken. "Vervolgens wordt dat in een keurig tekstbestand omgezet."

Afgestemd

Op die manier verricht Herman ook zijn werkzaamheden voor de afdeling Borculo-Haarlo. "Na jaren donateur van de Zonnebloem te zijn geweest, werd ik vijf jaar geleden gevraagd om secretaris te worden bij de afdeling. Wat ik overigens al deed voor de humanitaire kringloop in Borculo, naast mijn voorlichtingswerk op basisscholen vanuit Gehandicapten Platform Berkelland. Ik neem de bijeenkomsten op en werk ze vervolgens uit door met een koptelefoon de notulen in te spreken in het spraakherkenningsprogramma. Dat herkent mijn stem steeds beter, waardoor dat redelijk foutloos gaat. Fijn dat ik op deze manier iets bij kan dragen aan onze prachtige, zeer actieve afdeling." ●

Lynda Smit's Uncle (cont.)



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Kingdom of the Netherlands

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Dutch community in New Zealand and the Pacific,



The elections for the Dutch House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer*) are approaching. On Wednesday 29 October, voters in the Netherlands will choose their next representatives.

For Dutch citizens in New Zealand, the voting period has started and registration has now closed. Remember, voting is a fundamental right, and the outcome can affect you too, even from the other side of the world. Think of

issues like consular services, dual nationality, climate policy, migration, and defense topics where parties differ in their views.

Not sure who to vote for? There are interesting websites available to see which party aligns with your views. More information about the respective political parties you find on the website of the [Dutch House of Representatives](#).

Your vote matters. Please make sure your ballot papers **arrive at the embassy before Friday 24 October, 12:00 pm**. For details on how to vote, see the consular section of this newsletter.

Meanwhile, the embassy is busy organising our first Dutch Language Weekend which will be held from 4 until 7 December. During this weekend, the embassy will team up with the Belgian embassy in Canberra, the Belgian honorary consuls in NZ and the Federation of NZ Netherlands Societies to organise various activities throughout New Zealand. It is going to be a festive weekend where we celebrate the Dutch language as a living link between people, cultures and communities. There will be plenty of activities for children, students, adults, families and the older generations. The programme is designed to be inclusive, easily accessible, and welcoming to all.

Of course, since it takes place during the weekend of Sinterklaas, lots of activities will be organised by the Dutch clubs. In Auckland, a panel discussion will be held about language regression, exploring the two sides of language loss. Stay tuned for more information on our socials about this important event.

Finally, as mentioned in the previous newsletter, we are here to support you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require assistance or support.

Your Ambassador,

Ard M.M. van der Vorst



CONSULAR NEWS

HOW AND WHEN TO CAST YOUR VOTE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF 29 OCTOBER 2025

Are you a Dutch national living abroad and have you registered to vote in the elections? Your ballot papers should have arrived in your mailbox by now.

You can cast your vote in three ways:

1. Send your vote by post to the Embassy.
2. Hand in your vote in person at the Embassy.
3. Send your vote by courier to The Hague.

Electronic voting is not possible.

All postal votes must arrive at the Embassy in Wellington by **Friday 24 October, 12:00pm** to ensure they reach The Hague in time.

WE'RE MOVING!

After 46 happy years on Ballance Street, we will be moving to our new offices on Bowen Street towards the end of the year. Our new chancery will still be in close proximity of the station and bus stops. More details to follow soon!



POP-UP DESKS

After a successful consular pop-up desk in Queenstown, we're preparing for our last trip this year to Christchurch (3-5 November). If you haven't been able to secure a spot, we advise to renew your passport in Wellington or Auckland.



Tip from us:

For all your Dutch government related questions, call our Netherlands WorldWide 24/7 contact center:

0800 388 243

Or visit:

netherlandsworldwide.nl

Embassy closures:

Labour Day
27 October '25

Christmas closure

22 December '25 -
4 January '26

Our address:

Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

Kiwi Wealth Building
10th Floor
20 Ballance Street
Wellington 6011

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637 Marshland Road, Christchurch



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Green fees \$15.00 for 9 holes.

Clubs are available for hire.

**The course is open every week day (except Tuesday)
from 9.30am to 12.30pm and Saturdays from 10.30am
to 3pm**

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

Or from the Secretary

Sue Edkins

027 205 5708

evergladescgc@xtra.co.nz



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P: 022 039 0374

E: mulhollandpainting@outlook.co.nz

***"laat uw huis
weer stralen!"***

Klaverjas Club "Ons Genoegen"

Hier is een woordje van de Kaartclub. Ja, we zijn er nog en we komen nog elke dinsdag bij elkaar om een lekker potje te klaverjassen, weer of geen weer, want ons clubhuis is altijd warm en gezellig en je hoort hoe Jan en alleman het maakt en we vinden het jammer als één van ons voor één of andere reden niet op komt dagen maar daar hebben we wat op gevonden, we kunnen nu ook met z'n drieën spelen, maar het aantal punten die je kunt halen is minder want je speelt maar 15 games in plaats van 16. We kunnen die spelers een aantal punten geven zodat ze op dezelfde hoogte komen en als we volle tafels hebben gaat er een hoeraatje op, dan maken we er een feestje van. Op zaterdag de 25e Oktober hebben we een Kaart drijf en iedereen die op kaarten was zouden allemaal komen, dat had niets met kaarten te maken maar het gaat om de lunch die wordt georganiseerd door Lidia Verstappen, zo moeder zo dochter en daar kijken we naar uit, soep met broodjes, het lijkt wel of er één jarig is. Feest vieren, wijn en eten, kaarten bijzaak, gezellig bij elkaar zijn en dat maakt het mijn dag. Wel mensen dit is mijn verslag. Oh nee! De winnaars van deze maand. De 26ste, 1ste Olga Verstappen met 5207 Punten en 2de Bep van Polanen met 5057, De 6de September was er een Card Drijf er waren 12 spelers zodat kwam mooi uit en de winnaars van die dag waren, 1ste Gerard van Kuppenvelt met 5121 punten, 2de Lydia Verstappen met 4931 punten en 3de Emmy Nederpelt met 4789 punten het was weer een geslaagde dag.

De 9de September, 1ste Lidia Verstappen met 5258 punten en 2de Arda Hogendoorn met 4885 punten, 23 September, 1ste Arda Hogendoorn met 5724 punten en 2de Agnes met 4638 punten De 7de October 1ste Arda Hogendoorn met 5208 punten en 2de Bep van Polanen met 4888 punten. Alle winnaars gefeciteerd, volgende keer onze beurt. Wel mensen dit is het weer ik wens jullie allen een goede gezondheid toe en op z'n Twentse" veel geluk in tuk

Wim



New members welcome!

Are you or a friend considering becoming a member of the NSC?

For more info contact the Membership Secretary: 022 362 3411, secretary.nsc@gmail.com
Post this application to: Miryam Denny, 637 Marshland Road, Ouruhia, Christchurch 8083
Or, email application to: secretary.nsc@gmail.com



Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

City: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Membership: ☐ \$30 - Single membership

☐ \$42 - Family membership*

*includes children up to 16yrs of age

You can pay the membership fee to: Westpac New Zealand 03-0823-0070683-000. Subscription year starts 1st April.



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for children 6 years to
12/13 years old, for free
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every Monday.

Contact:
Elma van Baasbank
+64 29 023 78998

NSC Committee Members

Miryam Denny – 022 362 3411
Annie van der Dussen – 021 062 5656
Jan Hollestelle – 022 677 5024
Lynda Smit – 021 137 9147
Jack Hoetjes – 027 281 9999
Pete Knuiman – 021 0225 3774
Ellen van Ballegooij – 021 753 002

Affiliated and Other Clubs

Hall Hire – Annie van der Dussen, 021 062 5656
Costume Hire – Marina Wijlaars, 021 0271 8942
Klaverjas Club Ons Genoegen – Wim de Winter, (03) 352 5317
Toenail Culture Ale – Annie van der Dussen, 021 062 5656
Walking Club 'De Landlopers' – Joop Stokvis, 021 0813 3480
Youth of Yesterday – Lilian van Elk, 027 751 9338

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021 670 330
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Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies

dutchcommunities.co.nz

The views and opinions expressed within the Echo are those of the individual author, Google, or other information source and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Netherlands Society or the Editor. All contributions are proofread for style and grammar. We reserve the right to reject, abridge or edit letters for linguistic, spelling, style and other literary errors.

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Newsletter design by
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Echo

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society Christchurch (Inc)

