

Echo

Feb
2026



Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society Christchurch (Inc)



ANNIVERSARY

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Happy 60 years Netherlands Society Christchurch!



NSC Committee

President

Miryam Denny-Ipenburg
022 362 3411
president.nsc@gmail.com

Vice-President

Lynda Smit
021 137 9147
smitty29979@gmail.com

Secretary

Ellen van Ballegooij
021 753 002
secretary.nsc@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jack Hoetjes
027 281 9999
nsc.treasurer.nsc@gmail.com

Entertainment Manager

Annie van der Dussen
021 062 5656
entertainment.nsc@gmail.com

Property Manager

Pete Knuiman
021 0225 3774
property.manager.nsc@gmail.com

Membership

Ellen van Ballegooij
021 753 002
secretary.nsc@gmail.com

Editor/Distribution Echo Newsletter

Hedwig Dunbar-Keek
editor.nsc@gmail.com
Instagram: Netherlands_Society_Christchurch

Editor's note

Welkom terug als lezers van de eerste Echo van 2026, als u het nog niet wist of hebt opgemerkt, de NSC bestaat 60 jaar en viert dit jaar het Jubileum, diamant volgens Google.

Ik vind dit wel erg speciaal want het is niet niks. Ik hoop dat we dan ook een paar leden hebben die er al vanaf het begin bij zijn, misschien kunnen we die in de Echo even in het zonnetje zetten met een verhaal van henzelf over of hen verteld door hun familieleden.

Stuur je verhaal of de namen naar mij, adres op deze pagina, hier links. Ik kan ook een interview doen, per email of persoonlijk.

Verder nodig ik u uit deze Echo van begin tot het eind te lezen want er staan wat oproepen in, uitnodigingen en nieuws van de ambassade uit Wellington, een mooie (pittige) puzzel en nieuws over het 60 jarig jubileum.

De eerste markt is deze maand op zondag 8 februari en kijken er naar uit jullie allemaal te verwelkomen met jullie vrienden en familie. We maken er weer een gezellige dag van met lekker Nederlands eten, lokale honing, handgemaakte sieraden, kleding, jam, zeep en nog veel, veel meer.



**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.)

Beste lezers,

Ik hoop dat iedereen een heel fijne Kerst en Jaarwisseling heeft gehad.

Momenteel genieten we van mooi weer, misschien zelfs een beetje té warm.

Dit jaar is een groot jaar voor ons; **ons 60 jarige jubileum!** De Society was incorporated in 1966. Dit willen we natuurlijk vieren, en we hopen dan ook dat we dit jaar iedere maand iets speciaals kunnen doen.

Het committee en een groep vrijwilligers zijn al bijeen gekomen om het een en ander te brainstormen. Dat houdt niet weg dat als iemand nog leuke ideeën heeft of ook mee wilt helpen, laat het ons dan weten. De club is van en voor ons allen 😊.

We beginnen dit jaar natuurlijk met onze eerste Markt op 8 februari, in maart hebben we weer een Car Boot Sale en in april "The Cocktail Party". Lees hierover meer op pagina 4. In mei wordt Koningsdag gevierd. Dan dachten we een expositie te houden van door onze leden gemaakte kunst, een movie night, de viering van het 25-jarig bestaan van de Toneelclub en wie weet wat we nog meer bedenken.

Wij willen dit in ieder geval een bijzonder jaar maken en hopen u dan ook allemaal op onze evenementen te zien.

Miryam

Dear readers,

I hope everyone had a very lovely Christmas and New Year.

At the moment we are enjoying beautiful weather, perhaps even a little too warm.

This year is a big one for us: our **60th anniversary!** The Society was incorporated in 1966. Of course, we want to celebrate this, and we hope to be able to do something special every month this year.

The committee and a group of volunteers have already come together to brainstorm ideas. That said, if anyone has fun ideas of their own or would like to help out, please let us know. The club is for all of us 😊.

We are starting the year, as usual, with our first Market on 8 February. In March we will have another Car Boot Sale, and in April there will be "The Cocktail Party." More on this on page 4. In May, King's Day will be celebrated. We are also thinking of holding an exhibition of artwork created by our members, a movie night, the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Theatre Group, and who knows what else we may come up with.

In any case, we want to make this a very special year, and hope to see you all at our events.

Yours sincerely,

Miryam

What's on!



You're Invited! 🧑🏻 🧑🏻

1960s Themed Cocktail Party

Dust off your dancing shoes and step back in time as we celebrate a very special milestone – our club's 60th Anniversary!

📅 Friday 10 April 2026

🕒 Doors open: 7.30 PM

637 Marshland Road, Christchurch

🌸 *Theme: Fabulous 1960s - come dressed to impress!*

🌸 *What's included:*

Entry: \$20 per person

- First drink free
- Nibbles provided
- Cash bar available

📌 Registration is essential

Please register with: Annie vd Dussen

📞 021 062 5656

✉️ secretary.nsc@gmail.com

🏠 *Payment details:*

Netherlands Society Christchurch

03-0823-0070683

Please include your name and the name of the event with your payment.

Let's celebrate 60 years in true 1960s style – think glam, groove, and good times. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Warm regards,

🌸 Netherlands Society Christchurch 🌸

What's on!

Dutch Market 2026



See you all at the first Market
of the year - 8 February 2026!

Youth of Yesterday

Every Friday morning
9.30am - 2.00pm approx.

Bottomless coffee/tea and a speculaas.

Rummikub, card players, drawing, golfers.

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.

**Contact Lilian
for information:**

027 751 9338

lilian_van_elk@hotmail.com





Dit jaar vieren we niet alleen het 60-jarig bestaan van onze Netherlands Society, maar ook Toenail Culture Ale heeft een jubileum: het is 25 jaar jong!

Vijfentwintig jaar met veel verschillende toneelstukken, veel muziek, prachtige achtergronden, heel hard werken, eindeloze repetities, en vooral heel veel lol. We hopen dat dat laatste ook voor ons geweldig leuke en trouwe publiek telt. Toch zou dit jaar ons laatste optreden kunnen zijn.

Daarom willen we op een heel speciale manier eindigen.

We willen graag een toneelstuk brengen dat gebaseerd is op uw en onze eigen ervaringen als emigrant.

Iedere emigrant heeft een uniek verhaal. Als we bij elkaar zitten komen die verhalen vaak naar boven en die horen we graag! Wij zouden het fijn vinden om anekdotes van uw ervaringen in een nieuw

toneelstuk te zetten. Het verhaal kan gaan over verrassingen aangaande de reis zelf, winkelen, eten, gewoontes, taal, vriendschappen, verwachtingen enz.

B,V,: bekend is dat we vriendelijk met een stapeltje lege borden naar een BBQ gingen waar de 'ladies' verzocht werden 'a plate' mee te brengen. 😂

Heeft u anekdotes, of korte verhaaltjes, van uw emigratie die ontroeren, laten lachen of fascineren, dan kan u mij bereiken via:

FACEBOOK, MESSENGER of E-MAIL:
katroos@hotmail.com

Of u kan **ANNIE VAN DER DUSSEN** bellen op:
021 0625 656

We kijken er naar uit, voor de laatste keer.

(Tenzij we een Heintje Davids doen 🥰)

Liefs Annekatrinen Verbraak 🌹

Toenail Culture Ale news (cont.)

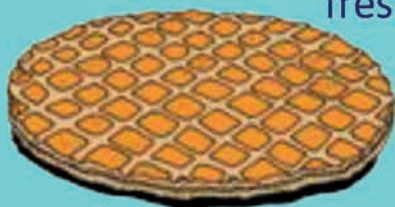


LEKKER DUTCH



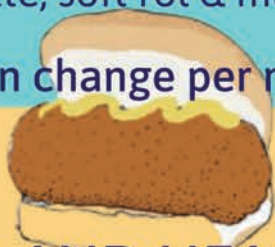
VERSE STROOPWAFEL

Cinnamon spiced syrup waffle
freshly made



BROODJE KROKET

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



FRESH AND HEALTHY HOMEMADE HOT & COLD DRINKS

Hot Chocolate, fresh
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

Looking for / Gezocht Verhalen gezocht!

Het Watersnoodmuseum in Ouwerkerk (Nederland) heeft ruim 100.000 bezoekers per jaar en werkt aan een tentoonstelling over Nederlanders die mede door de Watersnoodramp van 1953 emigreerden, onder meer naar Nieuw-Zeeland. Herken je jezelf of je (groot)ouders hierin, ken je iemand met zo'n verhaal, of heb je suggesties of materialen (zoals foto's, brieven of dagboeken)? Neem dan contact op met Joep Janssen via jjanssen@watersnoodmuseum.nl

Website link: <https://watersnoodmuseum.nl/en>

Call for stories from Dutch migrants to NZ

The Watersnoodmuseum (Flood Disaster Museum) in Ouwerkerk in the Netherlands welcomes over 100,000 visitors each year and is working on a new exhibition about Dutch people who emigrated as a result of the 1953 North Sea Flood, including to New Zealand. Do you recognise yourself or your (grand)parents in this, do you know someone with such a story, or do you have suggestions or materials (such as photos, letters or diaries)? Please contact Joep Janssen at jjanssen@watersnoodmuseum.nl

Website link: <https://watersnoodmuseum.nl/en>



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Elma coaching sessions



Invest in What Matters: Book a \$20 'Progress' Coaching Session 60 Minutes of Coaching to Focus on Your Goals and Find Your Next Step

Hello, Kia Ora! I'm Elma. I am a Psychologist, University Lecturer, and Mental Wellbeing Coach. For over 25 years my work has been dedicated to helping professionals, leaders, students and parents find meaning and purpose in their leadership, their direction in life and work and/or their parenting. You can find more about me on [LinkedIn](#).

What is Coaching? Coaching is a professional, collaborative partnership that supports clients in what they want, who they are, what might be in the way, and how to move forward with integrity and empowerment, honouring what truly matters to them.

Offer: For the next 6 weeks, I'm offering 60min online coaching sessions for the discounted price of \$20, because I want to make it easier for you to take that first step toward a calmer, more purposeful life. **There's no commitment—just one hour dedicated entirely to you.**

Why I do this: Life can feel overwhelming or, at times, a bit empty. When that happens, your next best step can be hard to see—let alone take. I'm passionate about making coaching more accessible as a tool to support people, because I've seen how much of a difference even one hour of safe, intentional conversation can make.

My Approach:

- **Compassionate:** I meet you exactly where you are today. All of you is welcome.
- **Practical:** We focus on your "best hopes" and real-world action steps.
- **Human:** No jargon or one-size-fits-all solutions. Just honest listening and curious conversation, advocating for what truly matters to you, empowering your unique strengths and skills.

What others are saying:

"Elma succeeds like no other coach has in helping me to discover what I really want out of work and life. She does this in a pleasant and objective way -not by fixating on what doesn't work but by staying close to who I really am and how to get more out of myself. This enabled me to do my job much more confidently and live my life with more joy and balance." - Mark J., The Netherlands

"Elma has a huge heart to help. Our session began with her asking thoughtful questions about my primary struggle before she guided me toward some possible avenues to healing and provided insights that I've been mulling over now for weeks. Her approach is gentle, yet she effectively supports you toward powerful insights. I couldn't recommend her more highly. - Courtney, USA

If you're interested in booking a 60-minute, online, \$20 session or if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out directly at elmavanbaasbank@gmail.com.

If you know someone that you think would be interested in this offer, I would be very grateful for you passing on this email. I look forward to helping you take that first step toward a meaningful 2026!

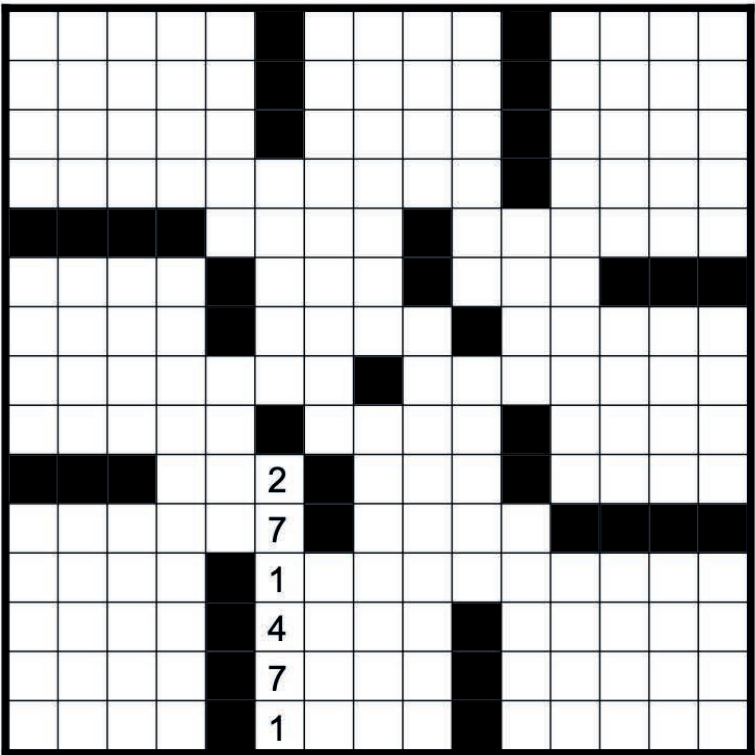
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Kingdom of the Netherlands

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

DECEMBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Dutch community in New Zealand and the Pacific,



What a year it's been! Looking back, I'm proud of everything we pulled off together and how much fun we had doing it.

Dutch Week was a real highlight, with Orange Bike Rides and celebrations popping up all over the country.

We also kicked off our very first Dutch Language Weekend, putting our taal in the spotlight in a fresh new way.

And of course... we opened our new Embassy office, which already feels like a lively home base for our community.



A big thank you to everyone who organized, volunteered, showed up, biked, baked, laughed, spoke Dutch, and helped make this such a vibrant year. You showed once again how strong and creative our Dutch-Kiwi community is.

Next year, we'll keep building on that energy. The Embassy team and I are here for you, ready to support and keep things moving forward together. Check out also our website netherlandsandyou.nl and select New Zealand for news updates on our activities.

Wishing you all a gezellig festive season and a healthy, happy, and adventurous 2026.

Your Ambassador,
Ard M.M. van der Vorst

POP-UP DESKS 2026

Following the success of our previous pop-up desks, our consular team look forward to taking their mobile desk to various corners of the country. Our first pop-up of 2026 will take place in Christchurch at the beginning of April. Watch our Facebook page or sign up to our newsletter to be the first to hear when our booking system has been opened.



CALL FOR STORIES FROM DUTCH MIGRANTS TO NEW ZEALAND

The Watersnoodmuseum (Flood Disaster Museum) in Ouwkerk in the Netherlands welcomes over 100,000 visitors each year and is working on a new exhibition about Dutch people who emigrated as a result of the 1953 North Sea Flood, including to New Zealand.

Do you recognise yourself or your (grand) parents in this, do you know someone with such a story, or do you have suggestions or materials, such as photos, letters or diaries? Please contact Joep Janssen at jjanssen@watersnoodmuseum.nl.



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:

Christmas closure

22 December 2025 -
4 January 2026

Waitangi Day

6 February 2026

Our new address:

Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

Level 5
40 Bowen Street
Wellington 6011

Everglades Country Golf Club

637 Marshland Road, Christchurch



Would you like to Play Golf?

You can right here at Everglades Country Golf Club.

Green fees \$15.00 for 9 holes.

Clubs are available for hire.

**The course is open every week day (except Tuesday)
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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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Wallpapering

Contact Darren Mullink

P: 022 039 0374

E: mulhollandpainting@outlook.co.nz

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

Nederlandse televisie en Radio/Dutch TV

If you enjoy watching or listening to Dutch programs and you do this via BVN, there will be some changes, the NPO has an App that you can download or watch it straight from your computer or tablet from the browser (NPO.NL)



De NPO heeft het voornemen om per 31 december 2026 te stoppen met BVN. Dit besluit is genomen vanwege de forse bezuinigingen waar de publieke omroep vanaf 2027 mee te maken krijgt.

Om de publieke taak ook in de toekomst goed te kunnen blijven vervullen, moet de NPO scherpe keuzes maken in het aanbod van kanalen en de organisatie. NPO Start, het kijkplatform van de publieke omroep, zal worden aangepast om Nederlandstalige programma's via internet in het buitenland te kunnen blijven bekijken.

De aanvraag om te stoppen met BVN is inmiddels ingediend bij het ministerie van OCW. Zodra er meer bekend is over het verdere proces, houden we u uiteraard op de hoogte.

Meer informatie vindt u in het officiële persbericht van de NPO:

◆ [NPO schrapt in aanbodkanalen en organisatie](#)

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
at Riccarton Library
from 3.30-5.30pm
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
Youth of Yesterday – Lilian van Elk, 027 751 9338

Royal Netherlands Consulate Christchurch

47A Studholme St, Somerfield, Christchurch 8024
021 670 330
nl.consulate.chch@gmail.com

Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies

dutchcommunities.co.nz

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Echo

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