

Newsletter of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated

THE DOUBLE DUTCH

Issue 2025/4

August – September 2025



What's brewing at Avalon House this Spring?

COMING UP: Leiden's Ontzet * Spelletjes * 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:	Roel Ymker	027 373 1339	jeanneroel@xtra.co.nz
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	Ann Beyk	04 567 8575	
	Anna Heythuysen	027 563 6026	
	Saskia Knibbeler	027 522 2287	s.knibbeler@gmail.com

Other responsibilities:

Bar Licence Holder: René van Lierop

Kitchen, bar & purchase manager: Anne-Marie Knibbeler

Klaverjassen: Roel Ymker

Clubroom maintenance: Pierre Schmits

Rejuvenation: Saskia Knibbeler

Facebook and Website Administration: Pierre Schmits/Saskia Knibbeler

Activities – Activiteiten

Klaverjas	Roel Ymker	027 373 1339
Dutch Costumes	Carolina van Rooy	021 217 9849
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Anne-Marie Knibbeler	027 951 5770
Library	Carolina van Rooy & Rita Langerak	(see above)
Friendly Support Network	Kees Dorresteyn	021 685 649; keesdor@gmail.com
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: 10 August; 14 Sept

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

Club account details (for online payments)

Account Name: New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated

Number: 03-0525-0098055-00 (Provide your name and what the payment is for in the reference fields.)

VOLUNTEERS/VRIJWILLIGERS WANTED

The Dutch Club Needs You!

If you enjoy our Sinterklaas feest at the end of the year, we need you!

Over the years, the club has hosted countless events: Sinterklaas celebrations, Dutch film nights, language classes, Queen's Day markets, and more. It's been a place where generations have gathered, friendships have formed, and heritage has been proudly shared.

But none of this happens without people volunteering their time. We have a dedicated – but small – team of regular volunteers. But “we worden nu een dagje ouder!” (we are no longer young!)) And the work, although pleasant, has become a bit much for us to carry out alone. If you would like to see Sinterklaas and other events continue, please consider joining us in making these wonderful events happen.

There are a lot of small and large ways you can get involved. And there's a lot of room for new ideas and creativity ... What would you like to get out of this club?

For Sinterklaas, the roles you could take on include:

- Being a Piet on the day
- MC-ing
- Running activities or entertainment for the kids
- Collecting tickets
- Buying and wrapping gifts for Sinterklaas (leading up to the event)
- Playing a musical instrument or leading the singing
- Setting up or packing down
- Attending the food stall
- General organisation and preparation for the event
- Any combination of the above!

The Dutch Club in Wellington has a proud history that stretches back decades. The club has been active since 1948 and has supported the Dutch and wider community in a variety of ways since then.

If you've enjoyed these events in the past, and would like to see them continue, please consider helping out. Even a small contribution makes a big difference. If you're interested, please email dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com, call Pierre Schmits on 021 08272084 or Saskia Knibbeler on 027 5222287.



Big events like Sinterklaas require many hands on and off the scene to make them work, and bring joy to our young ones!

Don't leave it all to Sinterklaas and his Pieten!

From the Co-President



As August approaches I reflect on the 2025 winter, the exceptionally wet conditions, yet relatively mild temperatures. The grounds around the clubrooms have been so water logged, but inside the heaters are on. This provides a gezellig (cosy) environment for socialising and enjoying a good coffee and food. It is always lovely to see familiar faces pop in and spend time with friends.

The re-drafted constitution was presented at the AGM attended by 26 members. Followed by wine and cheese. Kroketten were kindly donated by Danny Langstraat.

Solstice lunch was the mid-winter, popular event. The mulled wine made by Rita was enjoyed by all. The main meal prepared by caterer, Lance from Fine Foods offering a delectable selection of dishes. Followed by cheese cake, thanks to Anne-Marie. Thank you to the helpers who assisted with the clean up.

A recent working-bee (or two) repaired the broken gate, cleaned out the guttering around the roof of the clubrooms, and repaired some cracks in the guttering. Thank you to Pierre, Marina, Martin

de Jong, and Lucy and Cade Picard, for giving up some of your Saturdays!

What's coming up? Spring, Tulips, Leiden's Ontzet and herring! Get your orders in – see Anne-Marie's item opposite.

Hope to see you at the club soon.

Carolina van Rooy (Co-President)

Continuing the volunteer theme from page 3: one of the reasons we weren't at the Botanic Gardens' Tulip Sunday 2024, was the difficulty of getting enough able helpers – but this crew enjoyed themselves in 2023!



From the Secretary – Van de Secretaresse

Dear people,

We've had our first committee meeting after the AGM. I'm pleased that we have two more committee members, namely Martin de Jong and Roel Ymker. I'm looking forward to working with the **NEW COMMITTEE**; it feels good to have some new blood! We have elected the officers as follows:

- Co-Presidents: Carolina van Rooy and Pierre Schmits
- Treasurer: Roel Ymker
- Secretary: Anne-Marie Knibbeler
- Editor: Martin de Jong

Other committee members are Anna Heythuysen, Ann Beyk, Rita Langerak and Saskia Knibbeler. Please see page 2 of the Double Dutch for contact details and responsibilities.

We settled on committee meetings being held on Mondays at 12 noon on the following upcoming dates: 4 August, 15 September, 13 October.

I'll be ordering the '**NIEUWE HARING**' (**SALTED HERRING**) for Leidens Ontzet and as in other years, if you want to be in on this order, please let me know. Payment is due before or at pickup from the clubrooms. The price is as follows:

- \$17 for a pack of 4, individually packaged, frozen herrings
- \$40 for a pack of 10 frozen herrings
- \$10 for a mackerel.

I'm going to place the order around the 24th of August, and the order will take only a day or two to arrive in our clubrooms. You can order as follows:

- Email dutchclubwlg.secretary@gmail.com with your order and pay online or cash on pickup;
- Pay online to **03-0525-0098055-00**, New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wgtn) Incorporated. In the reference fields, include your name and the order (Write 3x4, 1x10, or 4 Mac or whatever you order. I can work it out.); OR
- Order in the clubrooms via Pierre, Roel, Carolina or me - there's a list and you can pay cash on placing the order, if you wish.

LEIDENS ONTZET is coming up too, on Sunday 5 October from 11:30am onwards. You can make your booking by paying to the account above (your name and Leiden in the reference fields) or in person in the clubroom. The cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Herring, hutspot, meat, dessert and drinks are included. I hope to see many of our members there – and no power cuts or other upheavals, please!

Thank you to the team, mentioned by Carolina, for cleaning and fixing the gutters and fixing the broken gate. It's much easier now to get in (I'm too old to climb over the fence!).

Keep warm, people, eat well, and enjoy the calm and sunny days we have between the rainy spells. For those of you who you are suffering illness or bereavement, I wish you strength and a quick recovery, if possible.

Warm greetings
Anne-Marie

Hidden treasures: Marvellous mouthfuls

It's amazing what you find out about people when you dig a little deeper. I had no idea that my new colleague on the committee, Roel Ymker, was a chocolate maker, with a steady, sweet supply going to the Dutch Shop in Pito-one. Pierre told me offhandedly at a Social Sunday, but I only got to asking Roel about it while working on this issue – deadlines have a habit of focusing the mind!

While speaking to Roel over the phone, it quickly became apparent that he had a much deeper and longer story about carving out a life for himself and his family as a Dutchie in Aotearoa. But for now, here is a quick rundown of how he came to be – at an age when most people are 'retired' – still supplying chocolates on a commercial basis to the Dutch Shop and other localities around the region.

Roel learnt the art of chocolate making in seven years of training as a baker, chef and pastry-maker (among other things) at a training institute in Amsterdam.

Roel came to Wellington in 1967, imported (along with many other Dutch workers) by Andre Jacobs, the owner of then Hollandia Bakeries, which was supplying many cafes and other retailers with quality baked goods – with a Dutch/European flavour – on a wholesale basis. Roel says 'it was huge at the time' and 'a totally Dutch affair', as when Andre Jacobs needed bakers – he would get them from the Netherlands. Roel came for an initial two-year contract, and stayed.



When Andre Jacobs acquired a chocolate-making business from a friend, Roel was asked to run the new chocolate operations added to Hollandia Bakeries' product line at Miramar. Later – after he left Hollandia – Roel would occasionally make chocolates for friends and family members' birthdays or other special occasions. At one of these gatherings, someone on tasting them said, 'Could you make me something for my shop?', which he did. Another time, while working part-time at Midland Park café, he made some for the café owners to sell there, and they took him up on a regular supply.

When the Dutch Shop was being established in Pito-one, the daughter of the owner visited him at the café, and said they were setting up a shop if he'd like to come along to see; and that was how he got started supplying them regularly with chocolates and truffles.

'It started as a hobby,' he says, but he's certainly made a business out of it – having a dedicated room in his house, from which he supplies the Dutch Shop regularly on a Tuesday, and a few other delicatessen-type places around Wellington. He makes about 5 kilograms of chocolate and truffles a week.

So the next time, you're at the Dutch Shop, buy a bag or two – and you'll be supporting one of our own members!

Roel Ymker (left) – not only King for a day on Koningsdag, but king of the chocolates too!



Solstice lunch success!



First and foremost, a big thank you to Carolina, Anne-Marie and Rita for all the hard work making our it a great success! Thank you also to all the people that helped cleaning up afterwards. And thank you to Rieke for calling the numbers on a great round of Bingo.

The feedback was very positive (as usual), and our guests enjoyed themselves AND the food. The good news on the financial front is that Fine Touch catering charged us at last year's prices for the catering, and only for the 35 people who were actually there (rather than the required minimum of 40). Some generous spirit there on the part of the caterers!

Thank you to all who came along to make it a spirited, mid-winter event.

Unfortunately, we didn't get any photos from the Solstice Lunch for this year, and neither did I get my camera out for a large social gathering a few weeks later when Pieter Koedijk called in.

However, to the right is a small cosy group from a recent Social Sunday! Numbers may vary, but the warmth and vitality remain – *Editor*.

De Leerlingen – Dutch learners

Not quite at the Clubrooms! I was hoping to feature a pic of our Dutch learners at the Clubrooms. Maar 'Helaas Pindakaas' – our in person get together was postponed due to several last minute apologies – for very good reasons. However, the two groups (beginners and advanced) have each been meeting fortnightly online with tutors Arif Effendi and Karlien Haak. Karlien has also put out an excellent little newsletter for both groups, with a tasty sampler below (Karlien had a food theme for Issue Een).



Nederlanders love brood. Not toast, brood. In the morning, ontbijt, they eat brood. At lunch, middageten, they eat brood. For dinner, avondeten, soep met brood. A typical Nederlands ontbijt is brood met boter (butter) topped with kaas (cheese), jam, or hagelslag (chocolate sprinkles). Nothing beats the first slices of a freshly baked brood covered in boter en hagelslag of vlokken.

To join our Dutch learners, email Martin de Jong at kesyoung@gmail.com or look for 'De Leerlingen – Dutch Language Group' on Facebook.



Finding a home at Avalon House

Most members are probably aware that Avalon House provides a base for a few other groups who hire our rooms, like the Swedish Club and the Numismatic Society (followers of coins, medals and currencies). For this issue, however, I set out to find out more about the latest group, who have been using the clubrooms for just over a year. I joined them at one of their fortnightly Monday get-togethers.

Ngā Koeke O Ngā Hau e Wha is a social and wellbeing group of kaumatua and kuia (elders), from different ethnic groups including Samoan, Cook Island, Pākehā and Māori. People from different iwi, various marae, places, and organisations around the Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata. Their name was bestowed upon them out of love and respect by a very knowledgeable person in the realms of Te Ao Maori and fluent speaker of Te Reo. The meaning of Nga Koeke o Nga hau e Wha is "The Elders who hold all Knowledge."

While affiliated with other groups in the past, they are now a group of people who enjoy each others' company, and just want to have fun, socialise and support each other on their own terms. There are about 25 members in the group, but on the Monday I joined, it was a relaxed, friendly and jokey group of 10 people who made me very welcome – even inviting me to stay for a generous shared lunch.

The coordinators for the group, Raima Roberts and Karena Efaraimo gave an overview of the group, and everyone went round introducing themselves. The eldest in the group is 91, and the youngest? – well, he's just 'handsome'.

How did they come to hear about us? Through one of the Numismatic Society members, who is married to

one of the Roopu. Karena and husband Jack first met with Carolina and Anne-Marie onsite, then Raima was introduced and that kicked off a good relationship.

They are hugely appreciative of finding a home at Avalon House – it was affordable, accessible, and easy to get outside for some physical exercise. And they are able to make the place their own when they are there.

As Raima described who they are and what they do, it sounded like a mirror image of what the Dutch Club is about: "It's about being together, making memories, reminiscing and enjoying each others' company." They have regular events they celebrate during the year – Matariki, Anzac, Mokopuna Day (connecting with grandchildren during the school holidays), a Christmas do – and a 'Midyear Lunch'.

"The wairua here is very warm, very cosy. Now, it's been a home". This was the common feeling from those at the House. I told them the Dutch word for this was 'gezellig'.



Members of Ngā Koeke O Ngā Hau e Wha enjoy the warmth of Avalon House on a July afternoon.



Klaverjas mementoes

These little trophies were dropped off recently at the Club by the Spaarnay family. Mementoes of various wins by Ciska and Paul Spaarnay in the 'Wellington Klaverjas Club' in the early 1990s.

I remember Paul Spaarnay trying to teach me Klaverjas round 2000, when there was a Tuesday evening session – *Editor*.

Going Dutch ... elsewhere

At the end of May, I joined the Auckland Dutch Club on an enjoyable bus ride down to the Cambridge Dutch Market which draws people from around the Waikato and beyond. It is held on the last Saturday of every month at Bridges Church, Cambridge.



Meanwhile, Holland House (below) at Mt Wellington, Auckland hosts the Auckland Dutch Market on the second Saturday of each month. Photos from April.



Another 'Operatunity'

After an enjoyable Christmas show last year, the Committee would like to invite members along to another Operatunity experience. This time round we have selected a show with a completely different topic namely: *The Fabulous 50s*.

The show description promises: "Singers and band presenting hit songs from the 50s, a decade where music defined the optimism, romance, coolness and charm of an era with simply the best songs!"

The venue will be again at the Southward Car Museum in Paraparaumu on the Kapiti coast, on Tuesday 21 October 2025. Information about the exact timing and carpool options will follow.

The club will be sponsoring this event so we will offer ticket prices of:

- \$25 per person for members;
- \$35 per person for non-members.

If you are interested in joining this event, please contact Pierre or any of the other committee members. Put your name down as early as possible, but before 1 October 2025. As these shows sell out very quickly, we will reserve 10 tickets for the club: first come, first serve! After that we can order additional tickets, for as long as they are available.

Hartelijk Gefeliciteerd ...

Congratulations and best wishes to all our members celebrating upcoming birthdays:

August: Gaynor Amaru, Martin de Jong, Emmy Vandeursen, Bill Visser.

September: Elizabeth Pijnenburg, Toos Philipsen, Marina Schmits, Annie Peters,

Nick Russell, Saskia Knibbeler, Arie Molenaar, Nelly Laterveer, Rita Langerak and Dorien Preston.



Klaverjas Results from May – June

Date	1st	Points	2nd	Points	Last*	Points
6 May	Harry v/d Gulik	5268	Julie Tan	4098	Ann Beyk	3668
13 May	Roel Ymker	4993	Mien v/d Kuit	4901	Jo de Grauw	4036
20 May	Roel Ymker	5074	Jo de Grauw	4902	Arif Effendi	3234
27 May	Roel Ymker	5344	Mien v/d Kuit	5098	Truus Otte	3880
3 June	Arif Effendi	5323	Roel Ymker	4814	Jo de Grauw	4168
10 June	Harry v/d Gulik	4933	Julie Tan	4911	Mien v/d Kuit	3855
17 June	Truus Otteq	5672	Mien v/d Kuit	4929	Paul Hellendoorn	4069
24 June	Harry v/d Gulik	5119	Julie Tan	4787	Truus Otte	3591

* Wooden spoon award (but also get a chocolate bar!)

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



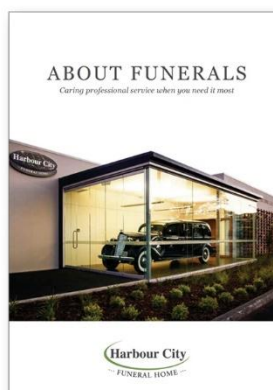
Almost there ...Co-President Pierre with Cade Picard fixing the front gate damaged by a fallen tree earlier in the year. Cade is one of our 'Leerlingen' learning Dutch, and a handy man to have around the house. He also worked on repairing our gutters. Thank you Cade – and Lucy!

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.



Call Danny Langstraat on
570 0111



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Next Double Dutch: October – November. Deadline: 18 September 2025

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

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