

Echo

March
2026



Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society Christchurch (Inc)



Gold medalist Jens van 't Wout of the Netherlands celebrates after the short track speed skating men's 1500m final at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Feb. 14, 2026. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

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Editor's note

Whoa its March already! Thanks to my connections I was lucky enough to be on the forefront of the first market of the year. It was super busy and everyone had a good time judging by the happy faces. I would personally like to thank the committee members who make it all possible year after year and month after month, they do this voluntarily and who reads the Echo and is an active member knows and expects the yearly celebrations and activities, they plan way ahead to organise and **SHOW UP** to create these happenings for all to enjoy.

Also Lillian with her **YOY** club (if you haven't yet, go and check it out) and her Mama that come to every market for their gezelligheid, I mean charity! I am not going to forget the other stall holders, **THANK YOU**, without them, there wouldn't be a market and what better way to catch up with news and the Netherlands language.

As I am watching programs on NPO de new Dutch **FREE / GRATIS** tv-provider even I am learning new words in Dutch as it always changing, however I do notice that there is a lot of Du(tch-E)nglish going on among the younger generation, "everything is chill" bijvoorbeeld, om wat te noemen.

De kaartclub, "Ons Genoegen" is weer druk bezig en op zoek naar nieuwe leden, kan je een beetje of niet klaverjassen? Dit is je kans, ze geven ook les!

We hebben de nieuwsbrief van de Ambassade voor februari en de president van de **Netherlands Society Christchurch**, Miryam, heeft veel informatie voor

de volgende periode. Somebody from the Netherlands is looking for **L. Matthijsen** and you can now get cheese from another market and there is a party coming in May to celebrate 60/61 years of this club and much more to read in here, enjoy!



**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,

Allereerst mijn excuses: dit jaar vieren wij ons 61-jarig jubileum, niet ons 60-jarig!

Omdat ik druk bezig was met de nieuwe statuten, waarin staat dat wij in 1966 geregistreerd zijn als vereniging met rechtspersoonlijkheid, was dat jaartal in mijn hoofd blijven hangen. Maar dat mag de pret niet drukken!

We hebben besloten het cocktailfeest uit te stellen en ons eerst te richten op een Jubileumreceptie voor al onze leden. Deze zal gratis toegankelijk zijn voor al onze leden en enkele speciale gasten. We streven ernaar deze in mei te houden. De uitnodigingen worden naar jullie verstuurd zodra ze klaar zijn.

En zo zie je maar, alles verandert in een oogwenk.

Nog geen twee weken geleden hadden wij op Waitangi weekend de Indian Motorcycle Rally in Wainui. Samen met vrienden uit Duitsland, Hawaï en Australië, die hier speciaal voor overgekomen waren, vertoefden we in Little River, Wainui en Akaroa onder het genot van de zon en vele biertjes. Nog geen twee weken later worstelen ze daar met vloed en weggeslagen wegen.

Tot op de Car Boot sale, waar ik velen van jullie hoop te zien!

Miryam

Dear readers,

First, my apologies as it is our 61st Anniversary this year, not our 60th !

As I had been busy with the new constitution, which refers to us being incorporated in 1966, that date had lodged in my mind. We won't let that spoil our fun however!

We have decided to postpone the Cocktail party and concentrate on a Jubilee Reception for all our members first. This will be free to all our members and some special guests. We are aiming to hold this in May. Invitations will be sent to you when we have them ready.

And that just goes to show, everything can change in the blink of an eye.

Less than two weeks ago, during Waitangi weekend, we attended the Indian Motorcycle Rally in Wainui. Together with friends from Germany, Hawaii and Australia, who had specially travelled here for the occasion, we stayed in Little River, Wainui and Akaroa, enjoying the sunshine and many beers. Now, not even two weeks later, the people there are dealing with flooding and roads that have been washed away.

See you at the Car Boot Sale, where I hope to see many of you!

Yours sincerely,

Miryam

What's on!

Jubilee Reception

61st Anniversary Celebration Of the Netherlands Society Christchurch

All members are warmly invited to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of the Netherlands Society at our special Jubilee Reception.

 **Date:** Sunday, 24 May

 **Time:** 2:00pm – 5:00pm

 **Venue:** Netherlands Society Club Rooms,
637 Marshland Road, Christchurch

 **This is an adults-only event**

Join us for an afternoon of celebration, connection, and reflection as we mark this important milestone together. This is a catered event and free for all members.

 **RSVP is essential by 8 May**

Please confirm your attendance by contacting:

Annie

 021 062 5656

 secretary.nsc@gmail.com

If you have any memorabilia, photographs, or documents that could help us commemorate our 61 years, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with one of the committee members.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

What's on!

Dutch Market/Car Boot Sale

Sunday 8th March 2026
10am - 2pm
Netherlands Society Clubrooms

Come and enjoy the offerings at our monthly Market. Grab a coffee from our new stallholder, Jerod and perhaps try one of his baked goods.

Kevin is our honey man with locally produced goodness for your morning toast. As always we have herring, witlof, rookworst and of course Liesbeth and Ewout doing a great job with the cheeses.

Plenty of other stalls too, which we will feature in our next Echo.

Our March market will combine with the Car Boot Sale around the Windmill. The sale is on until 2pm.

See you all on the 8th of March!



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



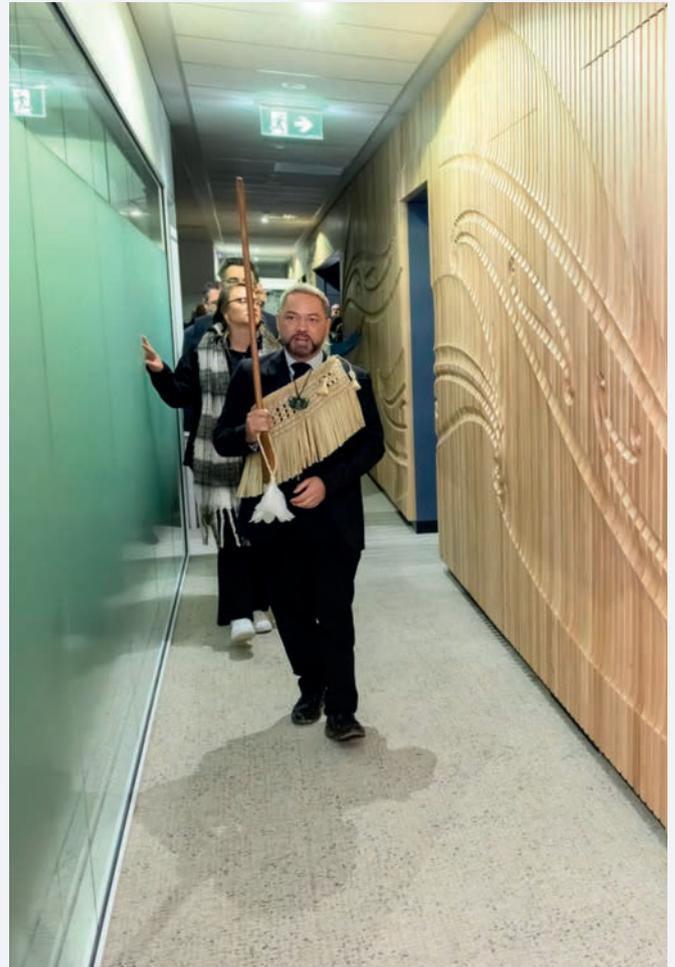
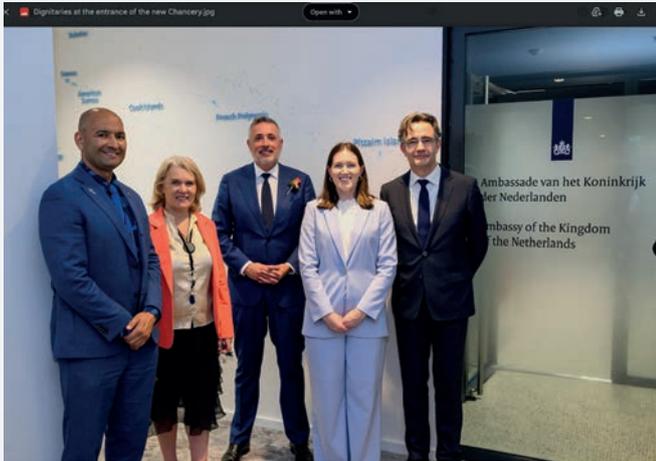
Dear cheese lovers,

We will be at Riverlution Farmers Market with the cheese on the Saturday after the Dutch market.

Kind regards, Liesbeth and Ewout



The traditional opening of our new Chancery



Up at the crack of dawn for the traditional opening of our new Chancery in Wellington

With a Tohi Tangaengae ceremony, the new Chancery of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Wellington, New Zealand, was traditionally opened by local Māori authorities in the morning of 2 December. A Tohi ceremony is a Māori custom, done by the local Iwi (tribe) representative to welcome us into our new office space and give their blessing, as the traditional custodians of the land where the Chancery is located.

The ceremony was held in the presence of our SG BZ Christiaan Rebergen, who was joined by his colleagues Gert-Jan Buitendijk (SG AZ) and Vincent Roozen (SG BZK). Our team was also

joined by our Police, Defense and Customs Attachees traveling from Canberra, and our Honorary Consuls from across the Pacific Ocean. Among other guests were the CEO of Toi Māori Aotearoa (Māori Arts NZ) and the CEO of the Māori Language Commission.

To align with the energies of a fresh new day, the Tohi is traditionally done at dawn, just before the sunlight wakes up the natural world around us. As December is summer in New Zealand, this meant the gathering started bright and early at 4:30am. The Tohi Tangaengae ceremony involved the ceremonial blessing of every room in the office by Kārangā (ritual calls) and Karakia (prayers), followed by Kōrero (speeches) and Waiata (songs). Afterwards, the formal proceedings are ended by a shared consumption of breakfast (kai).

Article: <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/new-zealand/w/maori-opening>, 03-12-2025 | 02:47

Toenail Culture Ale Questionnaire

Benieuwd naar je Nederlandse avonturen in Nieuw Zeeland voor hun nieuwe toneelstuk

1. Wat zijn grote verschillen tussen Nederland en Nieuw Zeeland?
2. Heb je gouden tips voor Nederlanders die dromen van een leven hier?
3. Wat mis je het meest uit Nederland? En wat helemaal niet?
4. We zijn benieuwd naar jouw mooiste of meest verrassende ervaring!
5. Wat is een bijzonder of grappig moment dat je hebt meegemaakt sinds je in Nieuw-Zeeland woont?
6. Wat is iets dat je nooit in Nederland zou zijn overkomen?
7. Wat wil je verder nog kwijt over jouw avontuur?

Heel veel dank voor de moeite en tijd,

Annekatrien
katroos@hotmail.com



LEKKER DUTCH



VERSE STROOPWAFEL

Cinnamon spiced syrup waffle
freshly made



BROODJE KROKET

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



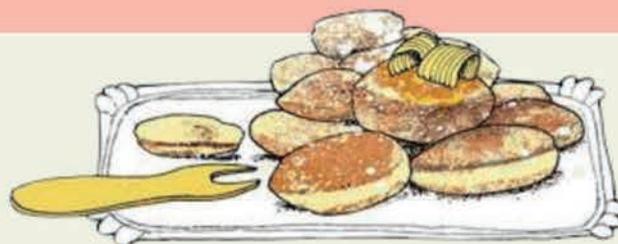
FRESH AND HEALTHY HOMEMADE HOT & COLD DRINKS

Hot Chocolate, fresh
squeezed orange juice
Smoothies & Mango Lassi
Lemon-honey-ade



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: lekkerdutchinnewzealand



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

Do you know this person?

I have been searching since the 80s for my cousin Ludy Mathijssen (LGJ or LJG) born on 15.10.1958 in Rijsbergen/The Netherlands. He emigrated to NZ at the beginning of the 80s. I know he lived in 1987 in Christchurch, Selwyn Street, approx. number 300.

His father is Jan Mathijssen, his mother is To Frijters (older sister of my mother). They both died from cancer in 1975 which was a hard shock for all his brothers and sisters. As Ludy is the youngest I guess he suffered most of them.

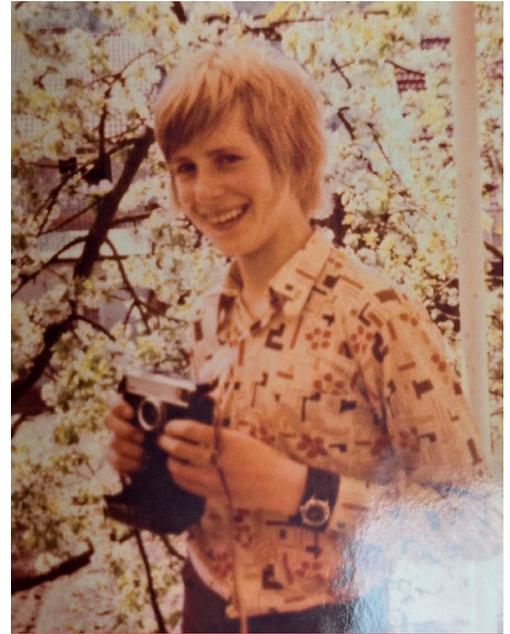
In oktober/november 2026 I will be in NZ for around 5 weeks and I really would like to find him, as I have been trying to find him for more than 30 years.

Can you please let me know if or how you can help me with finding him or getting in contact with him.

Looking forward to your messages.

With best regards,

Ella Bastiaansen
The Netherlands
ella.bastiaansen@gmail.com



Ludy at approx.15 year old.

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Profile housesitting

Marit de Ridder – Caring & Experienced Housesitter

Hello, my name is Marit de Ridder. I am 50 years old, a non-smoker, and a permanent resident of New Zealand.

After a long stay in the Netherlands, I have recently returned to New Zealand following a career as a policy and safety officer. Five years ago, I chose a different path and became a full-time nomad, travelling throughout Europe in a van with my dogs. During this time, I gained extensive experience in house-, pet-, and farm-sitting across several countries.

My house-sitting experience includes caring for private homes, gardens, and a wide variety of animals, as well as organising guided tours and activities on a husky farm in Sweden.

Having owned my own home and being a devoted pet mum, I fully understand how important it is to feel confident that your home and animals are safe, respected, and well cared for while you are away.

I have two well-behaved dogs who are used to living with other animals, including dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and chickens. They are calm, social, and accustomed to long daily walks.

I treat every home, garden, and animal as if they were my own and always respect established routines. I am reliable, tidy, and communicative, and I take great pride in providing peace of mind to homeowners.

I am happy to house-sit anywhere throughout New Zealand and especially enjoy longer stays during summer or winter.

References are available upon request, and I am always happy to answer any questions you may have.

With kind regards,
Marit de Ridder
(Mika and Moran)



Tel: 029 025 98357

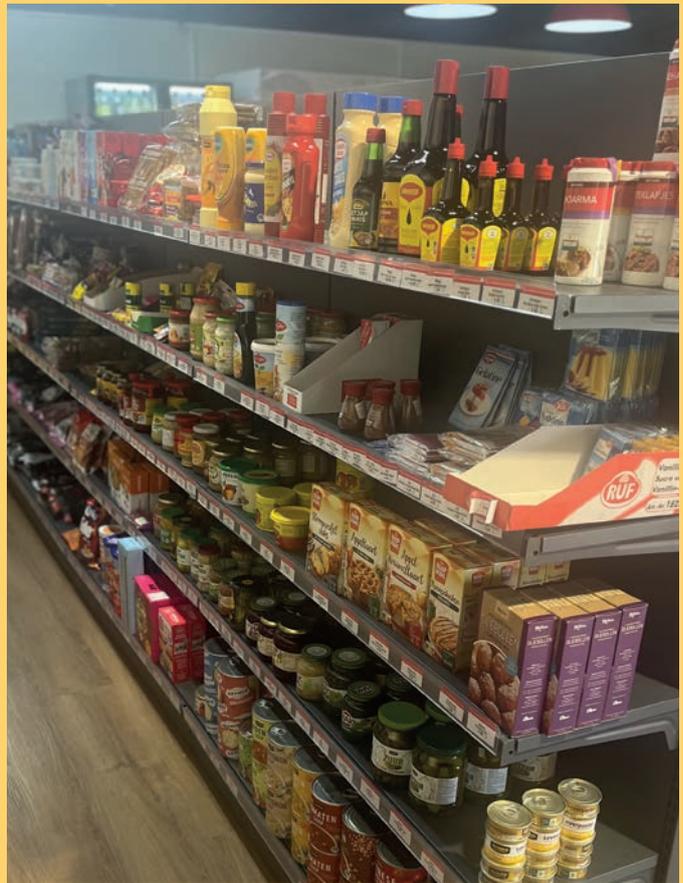
Email: deriddermarit74@gmail.com

Address: 120 Kawai Street, Nelson

New Bin Inn!

Patrick and Claire who own the Bin Inn at Stanmore road, opened another store at 526 Wairakei Road, Burnside, telephone 03 359 0396.

Open Mon-Fri 10 till 5, Saturday 10 till 4 and closed on Sunday. As per usual they have dedicated a whole display of Dutch imported food and Dutch cheeses.



Wasps!

Summer, sun, warmth and... WASPS. For nature they are useful hunters and pollinators, but for people they are mainly a nuisance.

The wasps buzzing around your plate in summer can smell food from far away and use landmarks, such as your table, to find it. Stay calm if one approaches you. Hitting, waving, or shouting actually makes you look suspicious to a wasp, because it resembles the behavior of an enemy. (yes, that's right – that's what I am!)

In early summer they are often after a piece of meat; later in the season they prefer sweets. That also tells you how to lure them away. Place a small portion of that food a few meters from your table. The wasp will take it and return but will then fly straight to your distraction spot instead of your plate, according to researchers. (I'll believe it when I see it.)

At the beginning of summer, they mainly look for proteins to feed the larvae in the nest. Toward the end of the season those larvae have matured, and the workers themselves need energy. Then your lemonade, jam, or cake suddenly becomes much more interesting.

By giving a wasp a tiny share, you indirectly help control pests such as flies, caterpillars, and aphids. And yet despite that, I still find them a plague.

By *Miryam Denny-Ipenburg*



Image: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests-and-threats/wasps/>

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SCAN FOR ONLINE VERSION



Kingdom of the Netherlands

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

FEBRUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Kia ora and hartelijke groet to our Dutch community across New Zealand.



Wherever you live, whether in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, or further afield, I'm always struck by how active and welcoming our community is. Over the past months, I've seen club evenings, well-attended lunches and coffee mornings, and lively discussions in Dutch community groups online. None of this happens by accident, so let

me start with a sincere thank you to the many volunteers who organise events such as Sinterklaas, King's Day, and Dutch Week, those who support our elderly, and those who initiate borrels, markets, and all the other gatherings that bring people together.

There is also important news from home. The Netherlands is heading towards a new government following last year's elections. Even from the other side of the world many of you follow these developments closely because your family, your work, or your heart is still partly in the Netherlands.

Here in New Zealand there is plenty to look forward to. Planning is already underway for Dutch Week 2026, and if previous years are anything to go by, we can expect a great mix of events: orange-themed celebrations, cycling activities, markets, cultural get-togethers, and, of course, good food and good conversation. Events like Big Dutch Day Out, King's Day celebrations, and local club festivals continue to show how strong and visible the Dutch community is across the country.

I would also like to congratulate the Netherlands Society in Christchurch as they celebrate their 60th anniversary this year. The best way to stay up to date is to follow your local Dutch club and the Dutch-in-NZ Facebook pages, where most events are announced first and where you can easily get in touch with fellow community members. Check out the embassy website for news and activities at <https://www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/new-zealand>.

I very much hope to meet many of you at one of these events in the coming months. Whether you arrived in New Zealand recently or have been here for decades, you are an important part of this community. I always enjoy hearing your stories and seeing how Dutch and New Zealand life come together in so many different ways.

Your Ambassador,

Ard M.M. van der Vorst

POP-UP DESKS

We are happy to announce our consular pop-up dates and locations for 2026 and look forward to seeing you there.

14-16 April - Christchurch
08-09 July - Invercargill
06-08 October - Christchurch
18-19 November - Napier

Further info and appointments will be available approximately one month prior to each date on our [website](#) and [social media pages](#).

You can apply year round at the embassy in Wellington or VFS Global in Auckland: www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/passport-id-card/abroad/apply-new-zealand

DUTCH WEEK 2026



Dutch Week 2026 will kick off with the Big Dutch Day Out in Foxton on Saturday 18 April and run through to Sunday 3 May.

You will be able to celebrate all things Dutch, including Orange Bike Rides in a location near you, vrijmarkten at your nearest Dutch club, amazing King's Day parties, a business networking event, and more.

Full details will be released in the next edition of our newsletter.

WELLINGTON PRIDE - 7 MARCH

Join the embassy's rainbow float as we march for Pride in Wellington. Whether you're part of the LGBTQIA+ community or an ally: everyone is welcome!

We will meet at 4:30 PM on Tennyson Street, and the Pride Parade runs from 5:00-7:00 PM.

For any questions, feel free to reach out to: wel-ea@minbuza.nl

We look forward to seeing you there!



Tip from us:

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

+64 4 471 6390
or
+31 247 247 247

You can also visit: netherlandsworldwide.nl

Embassy closures:

Waitangi Day
6 February '26

Good Friday
3 April '26

Easter Monday
6 April '26

Our new address:



A reminder that the embassy moved to a beautiful new building on 1 December. If you are visiting us soon, the new location is [Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#)
5th Floor
40 Bowen Street

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

Klaverjas Club "Ons Genoegen"

We zijn weer terug van een cruise langs de eilanden in de Pacific Oceaan, die niet geheel volgens plan verliep. Het begon met het ontlopen van een tropische storm voor de kust van Australië, waardoor we een aantal havens misten. En ook de geplande bezoeken aan Papua Nieuw Guinea en Vanuatu werden om dezelfde redenen ingekort tot 1 dag in plaats van 3. Maar op 4 weken en verdere bezoeken aan de Solomon eilanden, Fiji en Tonga mocht dat de pret niet drukken.

Helaas kunnen we door privé interventie geen contact met Wim de Winter onderhouden, maar het nieuwe jaar is weer van start gegaan met slechts 2 tafels. In december hebben we de break-up samen met de YOY gevierd en een ander systeem gebruikt, waardoor iedereen tegen iedereen kwam te spelen.

In januari hebben we 2 dagen gekaart, zuiver voor de lol en, om te zien of we het nog niet verleerd zijn na 4 weken onthouding. In februari kwam het mes weer op tafel en gingen we om prijzen spelen (\$10 voor de winnaar en \$5 als 2e prijs). Op 1 februari gingen de prijzen naar Bep van Polanen en Olga Verstappen en 8 februari waren Agnes Stolp en ondergetekende de winnaars. Op 15 februari was er een dieptepunt in het bestaan van de club: slechts 5 spelers!! Vakantiebezoek uit Europa (3 personen), ziekte (2 personen), herstel (2 personen) en een auto-ongeluk (sterkte Ada met het herstel) zorgden ervoor dat we slechts 1 tafel hadden.

We hebben er gelukkig een jongere speelster bij gekregen, maar we kunnen zeker nog meer leden gebruiken.

Als je wel wilt, maar niet weet hoe het spel gaat, neem dan contact op. We zijn bereid om privélessen te geven op een door jouw te bepalen tijdstip.

Rein Bakker



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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at Riccarton Library
from 3.30-5.30pm
every Monday.

Contact:
Elma van Baasbank
+64 29 023 78998

NSC Committee Members

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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 / Rein Bakker 021 261 3461
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

Official Newsletter of the Netherlands Society Christchurch (Inc)

