

The New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Incorporated.

12th May 1948 – 12th May 2008.

Celebrating The 60th Anniversary With A Brief History Of The Club.

(Researched, collated and written by Dawn Dorresteijn)



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THE COMMITTEE ELECTED MAY 2007 – MAY 2008

All the present committee members (May 2007 – May 2008) were asked to give a brief story of their life and Dawn took photos of the members so that everyone would know who was who. A few committee members were a little reticent in giving their life stories, but nevertheless, it gives a brief insight into those who have been serving the club, some for many years.

THE PRESIDENT, *Cornelis (Kees) Dorresteyn*



Kees was born in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 9th of February 1935 and raised, along with his two older brothers and a younger sister on a farm on the Lekdijk, Jaarsveld, Lopik (in the province of Utrecht). He attended primary school in Jaarsveld and secondary school in Schoonhoven. After various jobs and being conscripted into the army he decided to immigrate to New Zealand. He left The Netherlands on the *Willem Ruijs* in April 1961 and arrived in Wellington the following month. Kees spent some time working in the Wairarapa, first of all on a dairy farm and then building bridges and other concrete work, before shifting to the Hutt Valley in March 1964 to work on a milk delivery round for a friend who had returned to The Netherlands for six months. On the 27th of June 1964, he married Dawn and in December 1964 he bought his own milk delivery round, working seven days a week for the first couple of years, delivering milk in Moera, Hutt Park Raceway, Point Howard (including the oil tankers that berthed at the wharf) and Lowry Bay. He sold his milk round in 1975 but had already started building houses and also the weir in the Tararua for the Featherston water supply. Kees became involved in the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Incorporated when the club rooms were in 50 Courtney Place in Wellington. Kees first served on the committee 1980 and has served off and on ever since, being president of the club from May 1986 to May 1991, took a break for a year then president again from May 1992 to 1997, when he took a break from the committee for a couple of years, then President for another stint from 1999 to 2004, when he handed over the reins to Jan Bakker for two years while he had another break from the committee and then re-elected in 2006 to present day. In that time Kees has also been President of the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies for several terms, and currently local co-ordinator of the Friendly Support Network as well as the national President of the Friendly Support Network of the Netherlands Community Trust.

THE CLUB SECRETARY AND DOUBLE DUTCH EDITOR, *Dawn Edith Dorresteyn (nee Ward)*



Dawn was born in Carterton, New Zealand, on 16th February 1945 and raised in Parkvale on the family farm with two younger brothers and a younger sister. Dawn attended primary school in Carterton, and secondary school first of all in Carterton. The secondary schools of Martinborough, Featherston, Greytown and Carterton closed their doors at the end of 1959 and the secondary school students were then taken by bus to the newly opened Kuranui College in Greytown where Dawn became a foundation pupil in the fifth form at the start of the 1960 school year. In May of that year, the family sold the farm at Parkvale and bought another at Mamaranui, north of Dargaville. Dawn finished her secondary schooling at Dargaville High School and starting Enrolled Nurse training at Dargaville Hospital. While on holiday, staying with an aunt in Carterton, Dawn met Kees at the end of 1962 and they corresponded for several months until Dawn had completed her training and then returned to Carterton where she was nursing in Carterton Maternity Hospital until their marriage on the 27th June 1964 in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Carterton. While raising a son and a daughter, Dawn went back to nursing again, for several years at Silverstream Hospital, and then, due to a back injury, became a receptionist for several years in a medical centre after completing a receptionist's course. Dawn was later employed as a receptionist for several years in first of all an international chemical and pharmaceutical company and then, when that company shifted to Auckland, in a chiropractic clinic. During this time, Dawn was involved in the German Shepherd Club, Line-dancing, table tennis, croquet and the Dutch club activities. Dawn has served on the Stokes Valley Table Tennis Club committee as secretary for many years, on the Hutt Valley Table Tennis Association and has been secretary of the Waimarie Croquet Club since May 2004. Dawn has been on the committee of the Dutch club since 1991 and secretary since 1992 except for taking a break from the committee for two years 1997 – 1999, as well as running Tulip Queen and Abel Tasman Award Contests for many years, (including a national final). When the local branch of the Friendly Support Network became defunct, Dawn was approached by Jos Jongenelen (the national president of the FSN) at the Dutch Exhibition held at Te Papa to start the group again, which she did before handing it over to Guy Duindam. Dawn has also been the editor of the club magazine, the Double Dutch since 1999 – apart for a few months when Ron Zwart gave her a rest from that task. At the Kerstavond in December 2001, the Netherlands Ambassador An de Bijl Nachenius presented to both Dawn and Kees the Olivier van Noort Silver Medal and Certificate awarded by het Nederlands Emigratie Fonds.

VICE PRESIDENT, *Jan Bakker*.



Jan was born on the 30th of November 1940 in Workum, The Netherlands. He came to New Zealand by plane and arrived on the 12th of July 1962. He has been a (house) painter most of his life and is married with three children. He repainted the interior of the club, donating both his time and the paint, returning it to a neutral colour after it had been painted pink. Jan plays the accordion and is interested in music. His accordion playing has been appreciated both at the club rooms for sing-a-longs on special occasions such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries and also on Tulip Sunday in the Botanic Gardens in Wellington where he dressed up in Dutch costume and wandered the paths playing Dutch music. Jan has been the vice-president of the club for a few years and has been the President of the club for two terms from 2004 to 2006.

TREASURER, *Mary Boonen (nee Fekkes)*



Mary was born on the 5th of June 1933 in Bussum, The Netherlands and came out to New Zealand on the “*Waterman*” on the 6 February 1955, together with her fiancé Henk Boonen. Mary worked as a secretary – shorthand typist (Dutch, English and German). Mary and Henk were married on the 2nd of April 1955 in St. Andrew’s on The Terrace in Wellington. Mary and Henk have five children (one daughter and four sons), fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mary’s interests are Klaverjas, walking groups and embroidery. Mary and Henk joined the club soon after arriving in New Zealand. Mary was appointed Treasurer of the club at the Annual General Meeting in May 1987 taking over from Gerry Bruggemans, who had been the treasurer for about 25 years. However, since Het Festijn was being held at Labour Weekend at St Patrick’s College in Wellington, it was decided that Gerry would continue looking after the finances until after Het Festijn. Mary has held the position of Treasurer ever since, apart from a break of two years from 1997 to 1999 when she was out of the committee and Wim van Ree was the Treasurer. Henk had been a very active committee member of the Dutch club for many years before his death on the 14th of January 2000.

ASSISTANT TREASURER : *Ann Beyk (nee de Jong)*



Ann was born 19th of January 1928 in Voorhout, The Netherlands. She left from Schipol Airport in The Netherlands on a KLM DC4 on the 15th of February 1954 and arrived in New Zealand 8 days later on the 23rd of February. Before leaving The Netherlands, Ann used to work in the family’s grocery store and helped her mother in the house. After arriving in New Zealand, Ann worked in the dining room of the Nurses Home at Wellington Hospital. She then worked at “Self Help” grocery stores all over Wellington, spent 6 months at Wellington G.P.O. Telegram Department and then worked at New World grocery stores in Petone. Ann and Jan were married in 1955 and lived in Petone for three years. They had a son and two daughters and now have four grand-sons, one granddaughter and two great-granddaughters. They shifted to Lower Hutt and after their son was born and Ann stopped working. Jan started building on his own account so Ann helped him when required, writing his quotations, accounts, banking, setting out foundations, etc. Ann used to do indoor target rifle-shooting – reaching 99 points but never 100. Ann’s hobbies include walking, reading, playing Klaverjas and Bridge, basket-making, spinning, sewing and taught crochet at hobby classes. Ann has been on the committee for several years and now runs the Monday night and Tuesday morning Klaverjas clubs.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: *Pieter Koedijk*



Piet was born 6th February 1936 in Utrecht, The Netherlands and arrived by plane in New Zealand in 1980. From 1955-1960 he was a teacher, 1960-1965 Leader Trainer Scouting Nederland, 1965-1970 Social Group worker Dutch Sanatorium in Davos – Switzerland, 1970-1975 Principal of a Boarding School for Bargemen’s children, 1975-1980 teacher, 1980-1999 Equipment Manager Scouting New Zealand. Piet and Diny were married in 1965 and have three children, two sons and a daughter. Piet was a member of Scouting from 1945 – 1999 and his other interests include building, literature and the Dutch language. Diny passed away in 2004 and had been a member of the Silver Tulip Choir for many years. Pieter has been a member of the committee for many years, was the President of the Dutch club from May 1997 to May 1988 and also a member of the Silver Tulip Choir for many years.

Jan (Pieter) Philipsen

Jan (also known as Pieter) was born on the 16th January 1929 in Venray, (Limburg), The Netherlands. He left The Netherlands on the 27th of December 1951 on board the “*Sibajak*” and arrived in New Zealand on the 2nd of February 1952. Jan had spent 18 months with the Dutch Army in Indonesia. While in The Netherlands, Jan worked at Philips, Eindhoven as an apprentice electrician but had not completed his time before leaving for New Zealand. He was an assisted immigrant and contracted for two years with the construction and maintenance branch of the New Zealand Post Office. When he arrived in New Zealand, a representative for the Post Office was waiting for him and, with others who had just arrived, was domiciled at a camp in Trentham. While there, he met his future wife, Toos Zwart, who was employed at St. Patrick’s College, Silverstream. After completing his contract, he worked on a farm situated in what is now called “Totara Park” in Upper Hutt. The farm belonged to the Whiteman family. However, he didn’t last long on the farm and returned to the New Zealand Post Office where he stayed until his retirement in 1988.



Jan and Toos were married in 1957 and moved to Pinehaven where they had three sons. Seven years later, they moved to Petone where their daughter was born and where they live at the time of writing this. Jan enjoys playing table-tennis twice a week at the Empire Table Tennis club. He is also a collector of antique telephones, managing to collect a nice array of approximately 250.

Toos Philipsen (nee Zwart)

Toos was born on the 3rd of September 1933 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and was the youngest of 8 children. At the age of 19, Toos left The Netherlands on the 7th of January 1953 on board the “*Sibajak*” and arrive in New Zealand on the 12th of February 1953. Before leaving The Netherlands, Toos worked for 18 months as a short-hand typist. When she arrived in New Zealand as an assisted immigrant, Toos had a two year contract with the New Zealand Government. Her first job was at St. Patrick’s College in Silverstream where she worked in the kitchen. Her sister, who came to New Zealand with her, also worked there. After 4 months, they were transferred to Scots College in Wellington where they also worked in the kitchen. They boarded on site while working at both these colleges and served the remainder of their contracts at Scots College. Toos then thoroughly enjoyed her work for three years as a typist at an insurance company although was unable to do shorthand in English. Toos wonders if it was “love at first sight” when she met Jan on the first day that she arrived in New Zealand. They were married on the 31st of August 1957 and bought their first house in Pinehaven where they lived for seven years before they moved to Petone. They have three sons, one daughter and thirteen grand-children. Toos relaxes by doing embroidery work, enjoys walking and reading. She enjoys her interest in the Dutch club activities and like to keep her brain active by doing crossword puzzles.



BAR MANAGER, *Leo van Stratum*

Leo (as we know him but he has several other names), was born on the 28th of August 1931 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. He worked at Bata Shoe Factory in The Netherlands as an engineer. He and Nolda (Nolly) were married on the 19th of September 1958 in The Netherlands and came out to New Zealand on the 7th of August 1959 on the “*Johan van Oldenbarnevelt*”. Leo then worked for Bata in New Zealand. He is now on call for a butcher’s shop in Naenae where he is often to be found fixing their machines that habitually break down. Leo and Nolly have two daughters who were born in New Zealand as well as three grandsons. Leo is very interested in music and has a huge collection of compact discs, videos and dvd’s. Leo is also the kitchen convenor so is responsible for keeping the supplies up-to-date. We have recently been required by the Hutt City Council to apply for a licence to sell alcohol and Leo had to study and sit an exam for his bar managers’ licence.



Pieter Koning

Pieter was born on the 22nd of February 1928 in Hilversum, The Netherlands. He came to New Zealand in 1952 on board the “*Sibajak*”. Pieter worked for two years in the New Zealand Railways in Palmerston North and then one year for Porter Motors. He shifted to Lower Hutt in 1955 where he worked for General Motors. He also worked part-time for JJ Bourke, gained his Boiler Ticket 1st Class then worked for Heat and Air Control until it was taken over by A & T Burt, for 22 years. Pieter then went to Victoria University to start their boiler maintenance and stayed there until his retirement. Pieter and Joyce were married in Lower Hutt in 1956 and have three sons. They lived in Upper Hutt for 4 years and shifted to Normandale in 1960. Pieter played soccer for New Settlers in Palmerston North and Zealandia in Wellington. He coached Petone junior soccer team for nine years and served on Hutt Valley Soccer Association.



Bill Newhouse



Bill has just served his first term as a committee member of the club. He was born on 6th September 1935 in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. He came to New Zealand on the 28th of October 1956 on board the “Zuiderkruis”. His work was in engineering (fitter-turner-welder) and he is married with three children. He lists his interests as gardening, woodwork and walking long distances.

George Mulder



George has also just served his first term as a committee member. He was born on the 29th November 1929 in Ursem, The Netherlands. He came to New Zealand on the 22nd of July 1952 on the “Sibajak”. His work was as a masonry contractor, tiler and plasterer. He recently made the display box for the Bar Manager’s certificates.

Aad Vlaar



Aad was born on the 29th September 1929 in Zype, which is in the province of North Holland in The Netherlands. He departed from The Netherlands on a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines flight on the 27th of July 1954 and arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand on the 4th of August 1954. He went to Wanganui where he worked two years on a farm, seven years with the New Zealand Railways and nine years with his own strawberry farm. In 1972 he moved to Petone where he did propagating and maintenance for the Petone Borough Council, followed by a term of building and maintenance at Chilton St. James School in Lower Hutt. Aad is married to Tini and they have 2 sons and 1 daughter.

Aad lists his interests as tramping, kayacking, skiing and travel. He was the president of the Dutch Club from May 1991 to May 1992.

Anna Heythuysen (nee Martens)



Anna was born on the 19th May 1940, in Echt, Limburg, The Netherlands – the 9th child out of 10 children. She left The Netherlands on the 16th of July 1961 with her fiancé, Peter Heythuysen, on board the cruise ship “Johan van Oldenbarnevelt”. There were 850 passengers on board and they had a wonderful trip, with beautiful weather. They spent two days in each port that they visited. They arrived in Wellington on the 29th of August 1961 in the very early hours of the morning. When Anna woke and looked out the port hole with a view of the beautiful hillside and red church, she felt it was “love at first sight”. Anna’s brother and New Zealand-born sister-in-law were waiting at Queen’s Wharf for them (he had arrived in September 1953 on board the “Waterman”).

Accommodation was hard to obtain so Anna’s brother offered her a home with him and his wife, which she gratefully accepted. Anna was a hairdresser by trade and her first job was with Salon Suzanne in Jackson Street in Petone where she worked until October 1962. She then opened her own Salon in Stokes Valley on the 2nd of November 1962, which was an instant success. Anna and Peter were married on the 26th of January 1963. They have 3 daughters and one son (who, having arrived 9 years later was considered by them to be “the icing on the cake”). Twenty-six years after opening her Salon, Anna sold the business to her youngest daughter. Anna and Peter moved to Perth, Western Australia in 1989 and returned in 1991 when she assisted her daughter in various ways until her retirement. Anna reports that they feel privileged to live in such a beautiful country and also they have lived their lives to the fullest. Anna is the artistic member of the committee, helping to decorate events.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CLUB SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED 12 MAY 1948 – THE FIRST DUTCH CLUB IN NZ

Usually, the terms started and finished in May of each year when the elections were held at the Annual General Meeting (although in the earlier years the AGM had been held in July or August). Frans Knipping keeps a board up to date for the presidents who have served and this is hanging on the wall upstairs in Avalon House. Unfortunately, the records of the secretaries, treasurers and Double Dutch editors have not been recorded so has required quite a bit of research. Many earlier records have not been kept so there are often gaps in the information which is truly unfortunate in the recording of the history of the club. Where possible, Dawn has searched for minutes, correspondence and magazines for information so as to be as accurate as possible.

PRESIDENTS

According to what little information has been recorded, it is understood that the first president of the Wellington Dutch Club was W (Bill) Arriens who served from 1948 – 1951. He was followed, to the best of our knowledge by the following presidents: J (Hans) Sprey from 1951 to 1954; J (Jan) van Roekel 1954 – 1957 (who was,

according to the May 1957 issue of the Double Dutch, “invested by our Minister, His Exc. B A Biets with the insignia of the Order of Orange Nassau”; M (Harry) de Hoog 1957/1958; Mrs Loes de Groot (now Walker) 1958 – 1960; P Wulff 1960 – 1962; Daan Everse 1962 – 1970; Jan Jansen 1970/1972; Jack Root 1972 – 1976; Ies Alkema 1976 – 1978; Henk Boekholt 1978 – 1984; Frans Knipping 1984 – 1986; Kees Dorresteyn 1986 – 1991; Aad Vlaar 1991/1992; Kees Dorresteyn 1992 – 1997; Pieter Koedijk 1997/1998; Ben van Rooy 1998/1999; Kees Dorresteyn 1999 – 2004; Jan Bakker 2004 – 2006; Kees Dorresteyn from 2006 – present day.

SECRETARIES

There are no minutes of meetings available up until 1962 and recently Valerie Bruggemans supplied a folder belonging to her late husband, Gerry, of minutes covering some meetings over the years from 1962 up to 1984. Even then, important information such as who was President, Secretary, Treasurer or who was present at the meeting was sometimes not recorded – only those who put in their apologies of absence were recorded.

It is accepted that Jim van Praag was, in 1948, the first secretary of the club although no copies of the minutes from those years are in the archives. Jim was asked for his story and the information he supplied is as follows: Jim was born, in 1922, in Antwerp, Belgium, of Dutch parents. He was educated at primary school and Atheneum there and when the Germans occupied the Low Countries, he escaped to England. He tried to join the Free Dutch Forces but was too young. He was in London during the Blitz then sailed to the United States of America. He lived in New York for some time and learned the diamond trade. Jim volunteered for the Royal Netherlands East Indies Army Airforce, receiving his training in various parts of the U.S.A. He flew with the aforementioned Air Force against the Japanese for some three years, was awarded the D.F.C (Vliegerkruis) and demobilized in New York (Groot Verlof). He was then in the diamond trade for some time. Jim met Betty in Brisbane and they were married in New York. They were persuaded by Betty’s parents to emigrate to New Zealand where they arrived in April 1947. At that time, there were some 25 Dutchmen in New Zealand. Jim, together with Bill Arriens (Dutch Consul), Lex Gesterkamp, Jan Okkerse and Wim van Dongen started the “Dutch Club” covering the whole of New Zealand. Jim entered the jewellery trade in New Zealand, wholesale and manufacturing and retired in 1989. He was active in many organisations, for example: Chairman National Executive and Life Member of N.Z Junior Chamber of Commerce; President and Life Member of Jewellers Association of N.Z; President and Life Member of Wellington Progressive Jewish Congregation; President and holder of Sapphire Paul Harris Fellowship Award, Justice of the Peace since 1976, etc. Jim and Betty have one son, (Tony, born in 1950 who is married to Gretchen) and three grown-up grandchildren. Jim and Betty are still current members of our club, therefore the longest members of the club.

Jim apparently held the position of secretary for many years but who followed in that position up until 1962 is not clear except to say that in the March 1959 issue of the Double Dutch, Loes de Groot (later Walker) was mentioned as the secretary with whom members may contact regarding further information over the Easter Egg Festival that was being held on the 21st of March.

In the minutes of a meeting held at 3pm on the 20th of May 1962 at 30 Garden Road, Lower Hutt, Mr V.d. Sterren was appointed secretary.

Mr A de Ruiter was appointed secretary at a meeting held 16 June 1965 at the home of Mr and Mrs D Everse, 907 High Street Lower Hutt. This secretary often faithfully recorded not just the apologies received but also those committee members that were present. A de Ruiter served as secretary from 1965 until 1969, but also often filled in for years later when other secretaries were unavailable to attend meetings. He was appointed secretary again on 20th June 1972 and appeared to continue until a meeting held on 1 July 1975 when the minutes were signed by “Yoka”.

In the minutes of a meeting held 2nd of July 1969 in the home of Mr & Mrs C van Deursen, 50 Mitchell Street, Wellington, J Root was appointed secretary. He, like A de Ruiter, recorded the names and positions of the committee members both present and absent from the meeting – very helpful for someone researching the history. J Root apparently held the position of secretary until the meeting held 20th June 1972 when he was appointed President.

According to what can be found in the minutes available, it would appear that Yoka Saris (formerly de Bes, McLeod), must have taken over from A de Ruiter when the minutes of a meeting held on 1 July 1975 was signed “Yoka” but there are no details of who was on the committee or what their positions were. The same format of minutes carried through up until 6 July 1976 where it was officially recorded in the election of officers that Y de Bes (who was absent from the meeting) was appointed secretary, so it would appear that Yoka was the secretary in that time and up until she shifted to Christchurch in 1990.

Hans Peters then took over as secretary, recording his first minutes for the meeting held 30 October 1990 and held that position until Dawn Dorresteyn was appointed as secretary on the 26th of May 1992 and remained in that position until May 1997 when she decided that she would take a break from the committee for a while.

Jan Tuinman was then appointed to the position of secretary from May 1997 – May 1999. Dawn was re-elected to the position of secretary on the 11th of May 1999 and has held that position ever since.

With the invention of personal computers, more records are kept. We thought that computers would save paper but every year, from 1992 to 1997 and from 1999 to present day, a lever arch folder is full of filed minutes and correspondence.

TREASURERS

According to Jim van Praag, Lex Gesterkamp was, in 1948, the first treasurer of the club. In the minutes of a meeting held at 3pm on the 20th of May 1962 at 30 Garden Road, Lower Hutt, Mr Wicherts was appointed Treasurer. Gerry Bruggemans was appointed (re-elected) as Treasurer at a meeting held 16 June 1965 at the home of Mr and Mrs D Everse, 907 High Street Lower Hutt. It appears that he was re-elected as treasurer for many years as his name is mentioned in the minutes for several years and it is reasonably certain that he was the treasurer from before 1965 until when Mary Boonen took over from him in 1987. Gerard Bruggemans (photo) was born in Delft on the 24th of November 1928. Everybody thought he was a confirmed bachelor but Valerie came on the scene and changed all that – they were married on the 26th of March 1988. Gerry passed away in March 2000.



Mary Boonen has been the treasurer from 1987 to present day except for when she took a break from the committee from 1997 to 1999 and Wim van Ree was treasurer in that time.

With Gerry Bruggemans serving more than 23 years as treasurer followed by Mary Boonen serving 18 years as treasurer, between them they have covered more than 41 years of the club's 60 year history.

DOUBLE DUTCH

The first mention of an editor being appointed for the Double Dutch was in the minutes of a meeting held on the 20th of May 1962 at 30 Garden Road, Lower Hutt when "Mr. De Hoog kindly offered to edit the Double Dutch". It seemed that usually the secretary of the club wrote the news and announcements on a typewriter and handed it to a printer who copied it and attached a pre-printed cover. This cover had always the same picture on it, typical Dutch gable end of a couple of houses, and was produced in different colours. We have in our archives issues of the Double Dutch (originally belonging to Boyd Klap) dated 15 March 1957, May 1957 both in an orange colour, and an issue from March 1959 in a blue colour. The same cover was used in issues we have managed to acquire but in a red colour for January 1967, May 1967, May 1972 and April 1973. It seems for some time after this, the Double Dutch ceased production and an A4 page of announcements was placed with the Federation magazine to be given to members.

Gerry Wekenborg, (photo), a member of our club even though he now lives in Australia, was a previous editor of the Double Dutch. Gerry was born in 1933 in Lobith-Tolkamer (where the Rhine comes into The Netherlands). At the age of 20 he joined the army after finishing school and as soon as he went through several technical courses he decided it was time to see the wide world. A few months after his 21st birthday, he arrived in Wellington and joined the NZ Post Office. At that time, according to Gerry, they all had "Pounds" in front of their eyes so within a year he had a milk round contract with the Wellington City Council and was working 7 days a week.



In 1960 he became a NZ citizen and moved to Auckland where he bought a taxi. When a friend of his wanted to buy a taxi in Wellington they moved back to the "Start" and became partners in a taxi. This was the opportunity he had been waiting for, to make enough money to live on and go back studying so the following year he enrolled with Wellington Polytechnic for a Certificate in Science. Within 2 years he was working for the DSIR and seven years later he joined the Radio Department of the Post Office where he worked for 18 years till his retirement.

Gerry took over writing the newsletter (the first copy we have is August/September 1991) from the departing secretary, Yoka Saris when she left for Christchurch. Somebody (Gerry can't remember who it was), handed him a copy of an old Double Dutch and that gave him the idea of making a booklet instead of just an A4 sheet of paper. The first issue he produced was not much although it took him over 50 hours in Microsoft Word. Luckily Telecom stood behind him and did not mind that he spent a bit of their time and money to make all the members happy with their new booklet. When he wrote the second issue of the Double Dutch he got fed-up with MW and managed to borrow a copy of Pacemaker which he said was like hopping from a T Ford to a Ferrari. Over the next few issues he gained more experience and shortcuts and he remembers that the last DD he did took him less than 5 hours. Doing the DD, running the Klaverjas club, keeping the scores etc increased his knowledge of computers so that when he left Telecom in 1992 he worked part-time as a Desktop Publisher for National Gas Corporation and Excel tutor for NZ Statistics Department. From there he started working for Wellington High School, Petone Tech, Wellington Polytech and Rongotai College. After a trip to Australia in 1997, Gerry and Pam decided that they would shift there when Pam finished work and Gerry started training Jan Tuinman as editor of the Double Dutch. In April 1999 when Gerry and Pam moved to Queensland, Australia, he handed all the copies of the Double Dutch, nicely bound, to the library in the Dutch Club, and since we can't find them, he wonders if someone has thrown them away.

Jan Tuinman carried on as editor of the Double Dutch in the same A5 format as the original Double Dutch issues and also that Gerry had developed on the computer without a pre-printed cover, from April 1997 until 1999.

When Dawn became the editor in 1999, she preferred to work in Microsoft Word and changed the format to A4. This has made it easier for inserting De Schakel (the magazine from the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands

Societies, also A4) every two months, folding and selotaping ready for posting to the members. Dawn has been the editor ever since except for when Ron Zwart volunteered to give her a break from it for a few months.

The Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies was formed in 1966 and the first magazine from the Federation was the Abel Tasman Herald - the first issue was printed in April 1970. Boyd Klap was the President of the Federation at that time. The Able Tasman Herald has been superseded by The Oranje Wimpel, NOW (New Oranje Wimpel) and De Schakel.

AVALON HOUSE

Right from the inception of the Dutch club, the members always dreamt of having their own club rooms. Meetings were held in the homes of various committee members and halls or rooms had to be hired for other events. A scheme was set up to raise funds for a club house. Boyd Klap has kindly provided quite a lot of information about it but Emmy Vandeursen has quite adequately covered the topic of "Holland House" in her research for the 50th Anniversary of the club. The first club house then was at 50 Courtney Place in Wellington and after a lot of work by the members it was opened on the 28th of July 1979.

When the lease was taken out on the house at 61 Taita Drive, Avalon, Lower Hutt, many alterations had to take place to make it suitable as our club rooms. The house, situated in Avalon Park, consisted downstairs of a kitchen, dining room, lounge, passageway, bedroom, bathroom, toilet and garage with internal access. Upstairs were two more bedrooms, a landing, bathroom, toilet and another small room.

The conversions that took place with voluntary labour from some of the members made the kitchen, dining, lounge, hallway, front porch and garage all open-plan. The downstairs bedroom was made into an entrance foyer and the bath was removed so as to install a ladies toilet. The original toilet became the men's toilet. Upstairs, the bedroom on the north side of the house remained largely unchanged structurally, but storage cupboards have been installed and shelves fitted for books. The small room is lined with shelves of books for the members to borrow and there is a small door way from there to under the roof for storage. When the club rooms are "in session" the Dutch Flag is flown out of the window of this room, facing the road. The other



bedroom upstairs was opened up into the hallway and contains the pool table. The photo of Kees Dorresteyn and Bertus Hogendoorn was taken in May 1990 when they were looking at the changes needed for the downstairs toilets. The two doorways on the left were first, the internal access to the garage and the second one on the left was to the downstairs bedroom that became the foyer.



Magda van Ree and Jaap

Schrader were photographed hard at work preparing the walls for wallpapering. The group in the photo of some of members who worked on the changes to Avalon House are (left to right): Joka Sutthoff, Paul Sutthoff, Paula Klaassen, Kees Dorresteyn, Mary Boonen, Henk Boonen, Jannie Hogendoorn, Bertus Hogendoorn. Sadly, three of those mentioned, have now passed away: Paul Sutthoff, Henk Boonen and Jaap Schrader.

The men were hard at work to lift the beam into position to support the floor above after the weight-bearing internal walls were removed from the hallway to open it all up into one room from the kitchen through to the garage. At the opening of Avalon House, on the



9th of June 1990, Kees Dorresteyn is with the three in Dutch costume: Valerie Bruggemans, Yoka Saris and Bertus Hogendoorn. Bertus and Janny Hogendoorn are in the kitchen on opening day. Avalon House is homely, and has become a home away from home for many of the members. This is especially important for those who have lost their partners in life and who can attend the club on the many occasions offered



to mix with their friends and fellow countrymen. Regular weekly events such as Sunday afternoons, Monday night Klaverjas, Tuesday morning Klaverjas, Friday evenings as well as the coffee mornings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and committee meetings once a month, mean that the rooms are well used. Other events such as the annual club barbecue, Easter egg hunt, Annual General Meeting, national Klaverjas tournaments and Leidens Ontzet are also held in our club rooms.

In years gone by, the Orange Balls were very popular, when everyone would get dressed up in the best finery and places like the Majestic Cabaret and Overseas Terminal were hired for the occasion. Gradually, the Orange Balls were not organised anymore, mainly through lack of patronage and therefore the club lost heavily. These days, most members are just not physically able to dance so have become spectators of others performing on videos and DVD's, which Leo van Stratum shows on the large flat-screen television recently installed in the club.

♠ ♣ ♥ ♦ KLAVERJAS CLUBS ♠ ♣ ♥ ♦

Perhaps not at the inception of the Dutch clubs, but certainly in later years the klaverjas clubs have been the backbone of the Dutch clubs in New Zealand, our own club included. The first organised Klaverjas evening was 7 February 1967 in the Wellington Bridge Club (announced in the DD January 1967). Ann Beyk said that the Schoppen Negen card club was playing cards in Newtown in the early 1970's in an old run-down school hall, which cost \$10.00 to hire it. A room at the Wainuiomata Swimming Pool became available for playing cards costing \$4.00. When the club rooms from the Dutch Club opened in Courtenay Place in Wellington, about half of the klaverjas club players decided to play there, leaving the other half to play in Wainuiomata. Later on, when the price of hiring the room at the Wainuiomata Swimming Pool increased, that card club started playing at the Moera Community Hall and in February 2005 they closed their club to join the others on a Monday night in Avalon House. Ann Beyk has been involved for many years in The "Kart Club Schoppen Negen" and has provided some information on it. A minute book with its first entry on the 3rd of February 1976 was handwritten in Dutch Later minutes were typewritten and in the Minutes of an A.G.M. meeting from "Klaverjas Club Schoppen Negen" held on the 20th November 1980 at the clubrooms (meaning Wainuiomata), starting at 7.40pm, 20 members were named as being present. Twenty-eight years later, many of those named are still playing at Avalon House. Club captains, presidents and treasurers came and went but Ann Beyk continued through most of these years (except when she was shooting) as the secretary of the card club and still helps to run both the Monday night and Tuesday morning Klaverjas clubs in Avalon House. Some members were finding it difficult to drive at night so Jaap Schrader started the Tuesday morning Klaverjas club in 1993.

In the photo on the left are the Tuesday morning klaverjas players in Avalon House. In the photo on the right are the winners of the Wellington Cup taken at the Upper Hutt Klaverjas Club ("Upper Valley"): Paul Sparnaay, Ann Beyk, Hanny Zwart and Ron Zwart, with Kees Dorresteyn looking on with a microphone (not an ice cream!) in his hand.



SILVER TULIP CHOIR

In looking through the first Double Dutch we have available (2de Jaargang No. 5, 15 March 1957) the announcements were from the clubhouse committee (raising funds for a club house), the Polygoon News in the Lounge from the Y.M.C.A, a Bridge ladder competition in the Wellington Bridge Club in Pipitea Street, an Easter Egg Hunt for the children (Island Bay School) and an Orange Ball in the Majestic Cabaret, but no



news about any choir. However, there was some sort of group (drama?) that was rehearsing (in English because of the involvement of New Zealanders) for a musical called "The Black Tulip". In the May 1957 issue of the Double Dutch (2de Jaargang No. 6), in the Annual Report from the Secretary there was mention of a repertory group that produced a very well acted and well produced detective play "Dicky". For a period of quite a few years, the Double Dutch was not printed. The first mention of "The Silver Tulip Choir/Folklore Group" was in the Double Dutch of August/September

1991, when Ann Peters was the organiser of the group. They performed at "Het Festijn" in Hamilton of that year. However, The Silver Tulip Choir had been operating for some time before that. The group photo in the Botanical Gardens was taken in 1987. The Silver Tulip Choir started out as a group who sang Dutch Songs, wearing Dutch Costumes, distinctively representing the Dutch Club at cultural events and old folks' homes, which helped to raise the profile of the Dutch community – which is one of the requirements in the Constitution of the club. Later, after many changes in leadership, the choir became more "up-market", with a "civilian" uniform, regularly practicing for concerts and for the (by now) less frequent Federation Festijns. Their performance at this Festijn was a humorous musical. They hired different conductors and they sang in public performances in other languages. Sadly, the Silver Tulip Choir has recently gone into recess.

YOUNG TULIP DANCERS

In the May 1957 issue of the Double Dutch, it was mentioned in the Annual Report from the secretary that *"the Folkdance group has travelled wide and far and has given entertainment to many of our New Zealand friends. The children in the dance group have performed with the elder members for the Wellington Public in the Botanical Gardens, and, on their own for the children of the Wellington Watersiders in the packed Town Hall."* In the May 1967 issue of the Double Dutch it was announced that the Volksdansgroep would practice every Saturday and they were inviting boys and girls from 5 – 12 years old to join. The contacts for this group (and perhaps they were also the teachers) were Mrs H Janssen of 30 Blue Mountains Road, Pinehaven and Mrs E Everse of 907 High Street, Lower Hutt. Helen Janssen was mentioned again in the Double Dutch of 1972 as still training the dancers and they had been performing in the Botanical Gardens and at other functions where they were reported as one of the best public relations features for the club. In those early years, the children were either born in The Netherlands or their parents were, and they were members of the Dutch Club. Dita Scholten and Carolina van Rooy have been responsible for running the Young Tulip Dancers group and have given more than 10 years service – when they were awarded colourful clog-shaped cards and flowers by grateful parents. The costumes belong to the Dutch Club, some originally made by Ann Beyk and recently Marianne Iwanek has been making some new ones. The performances of the Young Tulip Dancers



at cultural events are good publicity opportunities for the Dutch community.

SAINT NICHOLAS

In the May 1957 issue of the Double Dutch, it was mentioned in the Annual Report from the secretary that “*St. Nicholas came again to Wellington and was honoured by being received by the Mayor, our Patron Sir Robert L. Macalister and by the Mayor-elect (Mr. F. L. Kitts) and on this occasion we were hosts to the children of the Crippled Childrens Society*”.



As far as can be ascertained, Saint Nicholas, as well his accompanying one or more Black Peters, has visited the children in the Wellington area every year since this 1956 visit (pictured left is Paul Monod De Frau

de Ville, his son Charles as Black Peter and one-year old Marion Christenhusz). He has turned up in various manners of conveyance, such as car, horse, steamboat and miniature train. While the children have been excited to see him, maybe a little in awe of him and sometimes also frightened of him, he also had the same effect of some of the horses he rode – or tried to. At least one has shied away when the wind flapped his flowing robes and another horse bucked the hapless elderly St Nick off in Avalon Park. Since then, with Occupational Health and Safety in mind, St. Nick has been arriving by miniature railway in Avalon Park. In 2001, Saint Nicholas visited Te Papa Museum during the time that the Dutch Exhibition was held there.



CHRISTMAS PARADES



The photo to left was taken of some of the Young Tulip Dancers on the float from the New Zealand Netherlands Society, in the Lower Hutt Christmas Parade in 1998. The children are (left to right), Ariel Cronin, Merijn Thornton, Jacqueline and Sara van Rooy and Anneke Thornton. Christmas Parades, with children and adults dressed in Dutch costume is a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Dutch people in the community. There have various themes for the floats over the years but the prominent features were the Dutch costumes, windmills, Dutch flags and bikes. Also, floats were entered in different cities in the Wellington area but are now entered only in the Lower Hutt Christmas Parade, using the car and

trailer from Kees Dorresteijn. It takes several days to dress the floats but certainly attracts attention. The “Fishing Float” was taken in 1994 and the one to the right, of Nicole Fedorenko (granddaughter from Dawn and Kees Dorresteijn) was taken in 2006. All three photos were taken in the Lower Hutt Riverbank car park.



FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND NETHERLANDS SOCIETIES FESTIJNS



The decision as to which club would host the next Festijn (Festival) is made at the Annual National Council of the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies. It is a big event to organise and usually only the bigger clubs make themselves available for this mammoth task. A lot of time and effort goes into the organisation of the event itself and also by the performing groups. In the past we have been proud of our Silver Tulip Choir who not only sang but also performed little musical and humorous skits. For the first time in several years, we will not be represented at Het Festijn 2008 being held in Hamilton. Our club hosted two Festijns in Wellington in 1987 and 1997.

TULIP QUEEN CONTESTS AND ABEL TASMAN AWARDS

These contests, held for many years, were designed to try to involve the younger generation and encourage them to become members of the New Zealand Netherlands Societies all over country that were affiliated to the Federation of New Zealand Netherlands Societies. The KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and other businesses such as Philips Electrical assisted in this by sponsoring big prizes to local participants and the national winners – a return trip to The Netherlands. Yoka Saris ran the local events for many years (no information can be found on those years), followed by Dawn Dorresteyn, who organised the event for a few years. In the October/November 1991 issue of the Double Dutch, it was reported that Angélique Sparnaay and Robert Roos, winners in the local competition organised by Dawn, flew up to Rotorua on the 27th of September 1991 for the national finals which were held the following evening. There were ten regional Tulip Queens and six regional Abel Tasman Award contestants in the national final. Robert was voted by contestants as “Mr. Personality” and Angélique was crowned the national Tulip Queen. The Abel Tasman Award Winner was Maurits Kelderman from Auckland and they both won a return trip to The Netherlands, sponsored by KLM and Air New Zealand, which they took up in April 1992 and were placed on a float in the “Bloemen Corso”. Angélique is pictured in Frank Kitts Park, Wellington, as the reigning New Zealand Tulip Queen on the occasion of the unveiling of the Abel Tasman Sculpture by Queen Beatrix on Tuesday 17th March 1992. Also in 1992, Dawn organised the local Tulip Queen Contest and Abel Tasman Award on the 1 of August and the national finals on the 19th of September. Haïke Manning won the local Wellington Abel Tasman Award and also won the national final. KLM and Air New Zealand sponsored his flight to the Netherlands where he rode on a float in the Bloemen Corso. Unfortunately, while they were big events and received a lot of publicity, very few, if any of the participants continued to belong to the Netherlands Societies. The contests were eventually shelved through lack of support. Other young people, mostly just arriving in New Zealand, have read our website and contacted our club. Over the years many attempts have been made to attract and retain the younger generation with various activities, such as skiing and kayacking trips, and by various organisers, such as Klaas Bouwman (now deceased), Johann de Vos and now Casper van der Sluis, but these attempts have met with very little success. As each young person contacts our club, they are now referred to Casper and they do meet now and then but not at the Dutch Club. The younger generation, including the families of the Young Tulip Dancers, resist appeals to become members, and while that could mean that they are settling in well with their New Zealand friends, it does not bode well for the club if there are no younger members to carry on the work of the generation that are mostly now in their 70’s and 80’s.



FRIENDLY SUPPORT NETWORK



No information can be found about the beginning of this group. Maria van der Meel appeared to be the co-ordinator of a small band of volunteers until she unexpectedly left to go and live in The Netherlands for a while and the group disbanded. Dawn Dorresteyn agreed to take the position on until Guy Duindam agreed to take over and carried on the work of setting up meetings, volunteers and people to assist. Kees Dorresteyn is now the co-ordinator with a large group of volunteers (themselves of a mature age) who extend a helping hand to those who need assistance. Seen here is a bus trip to Coehaven.

GEORGE ROOKER BEQUEST



George Rooker, along with his wife Mary, had been members of the Dutch Club in Wellington for many years and also the librarians in Avalon House. He is seen here shaking hands with Kees Dorresteijn although what the occasion was for, where it was, when it was or even who was congratulating whom, has not been discovered. After George passed away, our club received a letter from the Public Trust dated 20 December 2006. In the letter an extract from George's Will was quoted as follows: *"Gift of Specified Property. I GIVE to my Trustee my house and land at 84 Kahukura Avenue, Waitarere Beach together with the fitted floor coverings, blinds, curtains and light fittings in the property at my death free of all transfer costs, mortgages and other financial charges to my Trustee to sell and to hold the proceeds ON TRUST for NEW ZEALAND NETHERLANDS SOCIETY WELLINGTON INCORPORATED at P O Box 30060, Lower Hutt."* The property was sold and the money from the sale (\$210,000.00) was put in a term deposit account at the Westpac Bank. Our club received a letter from George's

widow, Mary Rooker, dated 18 April 2007, in which she expressed her surprise that no definite instructions as to any apportionment of the funds realised had been given by George. In his stead, Mary suggested that some donations be made by the Dutch Club to certain Dutch Organisations. Following her suggestions,

and in the order of preference given by her, a questionnaire was sent out to all the financial members of the club with the June/July 2007 issue of the Double Dutch. Based on the replies received, money has now been given to the Dutch Connection, the members of which are busy setting up a Dutch Museum in Foxton, to "De Molen" – the Foxton Windmill, to Echo Radio and to the local branch of the Friendly Support Network. Our club is very grateful to both George and Mary for the generous and substantial bequest we have received.



LEIDENS ONTZET

This has always been a very popular event. No record of when it actually started can be found. There is no mention of it in the annual report in the Double Dutch of May 1957. However, it is mentioned ten years later in the annual reports published in the Double Dutch of May 1967. Other items mentioned in the annual report of that year have ceased to exist. Gerry Bruggemans used to show the Polygoon News for years, all over Wellington and even in the Wairarapa. They were shown with a projector and reel to reel films. Now of course with television, videos and internet, members can receive the news all over the world in their own homes as it happens. The Orange Balls and St Nicholas dances that were so popular are now not held any more. The same can be said for Holland House shares, the car rallies and the Bridge evenings. However, Leidens Ontzet, Saint Nicholas and Easter Egg Hunts that were mentioned in the annual report of 1967 are still with us, as is the Double Dutch. Here you see first of all Leiden's Ontzet being enjoyed in the club rooms in Courtney Place while being entertained by the Silver Tulip Choir, and also in Avalon House, holding onto their salted herrings by the tail. This is served on white bread with finely chopped raw onions. The next course follows with hutspot and braised beef with plenty of gravy and then of course a dessert.



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| <p style="text-align: center;">NEW ZEALAND NETHERLANDS SOCIETY (WELLINGTON) INCORPORATED CONSTITUTION AND RULES</p> |
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Article 1 **NAME AND DURATION**

The name of the Club shall be “New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Incorporated, established at Wellington, New Zealand. The Club was founded on May 12th 1948 for an unlimited duration.

Article 2 **OBJECTS**

- (a) To keep alive the Dutch traditions and to maintain the cultural ties between the Netherlands and New Zealand.
- (b) To foster feelings of friendship and good understanding between persons of Dutch descent and all other nationalities.
- (c) To assist its members in circumstances of need, when there is no adequate provision by statute or otherwise, and where such assistance is financially or otherwise possible.
- (d) To organise meetings and social events.
- (e) To do all such other things as are expedient or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

Article 3 **MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) The members of the Club shall consist of
- (b) Honorary members, and
- (c) Ordinary members,
- (d) No person shall be admitted as a member unless he has attained the age of 16 years;
- (e) Honorary members shall be elected on the recommendation of the Committee by a majority of the ordinary members present at a general meeting. They may exercise all the rights and privileges of membership of the Club but shall not be liable to pay a membership subscription.
- (f) Ordinary members shall be admitted upon election by the Committee. They may be either of Dutch or other nationality.

Article 4 **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- (a) The financial year of the Society runs from the first day of April until the thirty first day of March next.
- (b) Members joining after the first day of October shall pay half fee.

Article 5 **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Any person desiring to become a member shall make application to the Secretary of the Netherlands Society Wellington. The Committee shall have the power to refuse the application. On payment of the yearly subscription a membership card will be sent by the Committee to the member and the member shall receive a copy of these Rules. During membership the member shall be subject to these Rules.

Article 6 **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is terminated:

- (a) By Death.
- (b) By notice. Any member may at any time till not later than one month before the end of the financial year (31 March) resign on giving notice in writing to that effect to the Secretary of the Netherlands Society Wellington.
- (c) By failure to pay contribution within the period of three months after the beginning of the current financial year.
- (d) By decision of the Committee to end membership. The Committee is entitled to end a membership if it is considered that the member concerned has violated the rules in such a way that continuation of membership becomes undesirable or if the conduct of the member is in the opinion of the committee derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Society.
- (e) Notice of termination of membership shall be given in writing to the member concerned, stating the reasons of termination.

- (f) Any person wishing to be re-instated as a member after his/her membership has been terminated due to the failure of payment of the annual subscription shall pay \$1, (one dollar) administration fee plus all outstanding levies and subscriptions before he/she can be re-admitted as a member.

Article 7 **ALTERATION OF RULES**

The Club may by resolution passed by two-thirds majority of those present at a special or annual general meeting alter, rescind or add to these rules: PROVIDED HOWEVER that no alteration or addition to such rules shall be made without:

- (a) Notice of the proposed new rule, alteration or addition having been signed by ten ordinary members of the Club and deposited with the Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the meeting, and
- (b) A copy of such proposed new rule, alteration or addition having been posted to each ordinary member of the Club at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting at which the same is to be considered.

Article 8 **NOTICES**

A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Club upon a member personally or by sending the same through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to the member at his last known place of abode.

Article 9 **MEETINGS**

(a) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting shall be held at a time and a place fixed by the Committee for the following purposes:

- (1) To receive a report and audited balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding year;
- (2) To elect members to the Committee for the ensuing year;
- (3) To appoint an auditor for the ensuing year;
- (4) To decide on any resolution which may be submitted to the meeting;
- (5) To consider any remits received prior to the Annual General Meeting.

(b) SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee may at any time and shall upon requisition made in writing by not less than ten per centum of the ordinary members of the Club convene a special general meeting. The Quorum shall be formed of twelve ordinary members. If such is not the case, the meeting will be adjourned for one hour. Thereafter, those present will make the Quorum. The Committee has the right to arrange voting by ballot.

(c) NOTICE OF BUSINESS

Seven clear days before a special general meeting and fourteen days clear before the annual general meeting a notice thereof and of the business to be transacted thereat together with a copy of the report and balance sheet in the case of the annual general meeting shall be sent to every member and no business other than that of which such notice has been so given shall be put forward at any such meeting.

(d) CHAIRPERSON OF MEETINGS

At an annual or special general meeting the President and in his or her absence the Vice-President or any other duly elected Chairperson shall take the chair.

(e) PROCEDURE OF MEETINGS

All questions and matters brought before a general meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the ordinary members present, each member to have one vote.

In the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote in addition to his vote as an ordinary member.

Voting shall be on the voices, show of hands or by ballot, as the majority of the ordinary members present at the meeting may decide.

(f) QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS

At an annual general meeting twelve ordinary members shall form a quorum.

If no quorum can be obtained a second meeting shall be convened within 6 weeks after the first meeting.

In this second meeting any number of members shall form a quorum.

Article 10 **COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

The affairs and business of the Club shall be controlled by a Committee consisting of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and at least three members of the Committee. Where possible the Committee should consist of males and females in equal numbers.

The Committee shall be elected by the ordinary members at the Annual General Meeting of the Club.

The Committee shall appoint from its number a President who shall also be a President of the Club. At the meetings of the Committee the President and in his absence the Vice-President shall take the chair and the Chairperson shall have a deliberate as well as a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Article 11 **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall meet at such time and places as shall from time to time be determined by the President and at all such meetings the Committee shall determine its own procedure.

Notice in writing of every such meeting shall be given by the Secretary to each member of the Committee.

At all meetings of the Committee a quorum of five Committee members shall be required.

Article 12 **VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring in the Committee during the current year by co-opting from the current membership.

Article 13 **SPECIAL POWERS OF COMMITTEE**

(a) The Committee shall have power to appoint a Deputy-Secretary and a Deputy-Treasurer in order to assist the Secretary, respectively the Treasurer and to act as substitutes for them.

(b) **WELFARE OFFICER**

The Committee shall have power to appoint a Welfare-Officer in order to give suitable assistance to members of the Club whenever such assistance shall be deemed necessary by the Committee.

(c) **MANAGER FOR MATERIALS**

The Committee shall have power to appoint a Manager for Materials, who shall be responsible for all the Club's properties. The Manager shall keep an inventory of all such properties and shall not lend out any such property unless duly authorized by the Committee and against a receipt in writing duly signed by the borrower.

(c) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall have power to appoint an Executive Committee in order to conduct the usual daily business of the Committee. The President, The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be members of such Executive Committee which shall have power to decide in matters of urgency and whenever the full Committee cannot be convened on short notice.

Article 14 **DUTIES OF COMMITTEE**

It shall be the duty of the Committee generally to conduct the affairs of the Club, to collect all subscriptions and keep usual and proper books of account, properly posted up and other records of the business of the Club and to prepare and submit to the Annual General Meeting a report, balance sheet and statement of account for the preceding year.

Article 15 **COMMON SEAL**

The Common Seal of the Club shall be that appointed by the Committee who shall be responsible for the safe custody and control thereof. Whenever the Common Seal of the Club is required to be affixed to any deed, document, writing or other instrument the Seal shall be affixed pursuant to a resolution of the Committee or of the Club by the President and any other member of the Committee thereby authorized to affix the Seal and the persons so affixing the Seal shall at the same time sign the document to which the Seal is so affixed.

Article 16 **CONTROL AND USE OF FUNDS**

All monies received by or on behalf of the Club shall forthwith be paid to the credit of the Club in an account with the Westpac Bank at Wellington or other bank or Savings Bank from time to time to be fixed by the Committee and all cheques or withdrawal slips drawn on the account shall be signed by any two of the following officers, namely the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Article 17 **INVESTMENT OF FUNDS**

The Club may from time to time invest and re-invest in such securities and upon such terms as it shall think fit the whole or any part of its funds which shall not be required for the immediate business of the Club.

Article 18 **BORROWING POWERS**

The Club shall in addition to the other powers vested in it have a power to borrow or raise money from time to time by the issue of debentures, bonds, mortgages or any other security founded or based on all or any of the property and/or rights of the Club or without any such security and upon such terms as to priority and otherwise as the Club shall think fit, but the powers of so borrowing or raising money shall not be exercised except pursuant to a resolution of the Club passed in General Meeting by at least two-thirds of the members present at that meeting.

Article 19 **WINDING UP**

The Club may be wound up if at a General Meeting of the members a resolution is passed by two-thirds of the members present requiring the Club so to be wound up and the resolution is confirmed at a subsequent general meeting called together for that purpose and held not earlier than thirty days after the date on which the resolution so to be confirmed was passed.

If upon the winding up of the Club there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be disposed of in such manner as shall be decided by an annual or special meeting of the Club.

Article 20 **FINAL**

In all cases not provided for by these rules the Committee shall have power to make such decisions as it may deem desirable.

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| THE TWELVE & A HALF YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB |
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While searching through the information received about the club, Dawn found an undated letter on a page with the letterhead of NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING WELLINGTON (DUTCH CLUB) INC. The unknown writer wrote the following:

"Last year, on the 12th November 1960, it was 12½ years ago that the Dutch Club in Wellington was founded. As a 12½ years anniversary is always celebrated in Holland, the committee of the Dutch Club in Wellington thought it would be a good idea to extend this custom to New Zealand. . Through the courtesy of the Royal Rotterdam Lloyd it had become possible to celebrate this event on Dutch territory, namely on the flagship WILLEM RUYLS. However, it was a great disappointment to many people that due to unforeseen circumstances the Ball had to be cancelled. But again Messrs. Royal Rotterdam Lloyd offered their flagship to the Dutch Club and now, after 10 months the long awaited event is taking place again.

On the 12th May, 1948, as a result of the work of a small committee, twenty people gathered at the home of Mr. H. de Bruyn, then Emigration Attaché for the Netherlands. That night the history of the "Nederlandse Vereniging Wellington" started. Mr. W. Arriens, First Secretary of the Netherlands Legation and still well known by many New Zealand and Dutch friends was asked to take the Chair of this newly installed Club. This Committee existed of 4 more members of which Mr. J. van Praag for many years served as the Secretary. Although there were ups and downs, the Club flourished. It was not until the Presidency of Mr. J. van Roekel in 1955, that the policy of the club changed. With more and more immigrants coming into the country the need for integration was strongly felt. As a result thereof the Club became an incorporated Society, welcoming New Zealand members. From then on English was mostly spoken at meetings and gatherings. The present Committee feels honoured to count 2 New Zealanders in their midst, of which Mrs. W.E. Jackson has served for several years as a very capable treasurer.

At present the aim of the Dutch Club is the possession of (our) own Club House where people can come together and feel at home. The proceeds of this event will be in aid of the Wellington Dutch Club Building Fund, and we hope it will help a little to realize this big venture."

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB

This was held in the Rongotai College Hall on Saturday 30th July 1988 in conjunction with and following the National Finals of the Young Male Achiever Award (the precursor to the Abel Tasman Award). A video film was taken of the evening, showing a retrospective view of the history of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Inc., presented by several members of The Silver Tulip Choir with short sketches and a visit down Memory Lane. When this video was screened at the 60th Anniversary of the club, celebrated on the 18th of May 2008, many members could not remember being there and were astonished to see themselves on the film. Many could not remember where it was held but luckily an announcement of the event was found in the July 1988 issue of the Oranje Wimpel.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB



When the club held its Fiftieth Anniversary in 1998, Emmy Vandeursen (her photo was taken at the 60th Anniversary) did some research into the club's history. The handwritten notes that Emmy made have been kept by Dawn Dorresteijn in the Archives. Emmy found in her research that the Dutch Club had been founded in May 1948. The chairman was Mr W Arriëns, the secretary was Mr J van Praag and the Patron was Sir Robert Macalister. The membership fee (contribution) was £1.1/- (one pound, one shilling) for an ordinary member and £0.5/- for buitenlid. In March 1950, the club had 80 members.

Emmy wrote that in 1955 it was the first time that a Dutch minister visited New Zealand – Mr Suurhof, minister from Social Services. There was a reception held for him on the 2nd of February in the Concert Chambers from the Wellington Town Hall. With special permission from the Town Clerk, 36 bottles of sherry helped to make a happy party.

In 1955 a new Constitution was put in place with a change of name from Dutch Club to New Zealand Netherlands Society. On the 1st day of September 1955, New Zealand Netherlands Society Wellington Incorporated obtained a Certificate of Incorporation from the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, Ministry of Commerce.

Holland House was the next important event in the club. The club met in various locations and it was felt by the members at that they needed their own club house where they could meet and feel a bit more at home. A committee was set up with Boudewijn Klap as Chairman and their first meeting was held on the 28th of November 1956 and by March 1957 everything was in place to proceed to the next step. A Prospectus was printed and 10,000 shares were offered at £1 (one pound) each. Four hundred and eleven shares were sold at first offering. In the Double Dutch of May 1957 it was announced that quite a few more shares would need to be sold. At the closing of the share offer, two thousand, eight hundred shares were sold - which was not enough to set up Holland House. The shares were then invested in the Tulip Restaurant and Coffee Lounge in Herbert Street in Wellington. In the Minutes from the Annual General Meeting in 1970, it was announced that due to bad management, the Tulip Restaurant and Coffee Lounge was wound up and only £1200 (twelve hundred pounds) was salvaged. Finally, a location on the second floor of a building in Courtney Place, Wellington, was found and a lease taken out on it. Many members gave their free time to alter it so that it would be suitable as club rooms and it was opened on the 28th of July 1979.

Many happy years were spent there in Courtenay Place, with activities such as Leiden's Ontzet, Kerstavond, Saint Nicholas, Tulip Queen competitions, etc. However, during the 1980's, membership was declining. Some of the reasons were lack of parking close to the club rooms, the difficulty of driving in Wellington for aging members, difficulty in climbing the stairs, the smell of the fish shop next door wafting up the stairs and toilets on another floor that were also used by other tenants. By the time the lease had lapsed, and the club was renting the site on a month by month basis, a decision was made to look for a better place and the best option seemed to be in the Hutt Valley. After

many months of searching for suitable premises, a warehouse in the Hutt Road was decided upon but once again, attempts to raise the finance to buy our own premises proved to be too prohibitive. Then Bill Tames and Bill van Waas heard about the house in Avalon Park at 61 Taita Drive, Lower Hutt, which belonged to the Hutt City Council and had originally been built for the manager of parks and reserves and which was about to be demolished. After strenuous consultation with the



Hutt City Council, a twelve year lease was granted to our club to be used as club rooms.

THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB

The sixtieth anniversary of the New Zealand Netherlands Society (Wellington) Incorporated (commonly known as the Dutch Club), was celebrated in the Lounge Bar of the Petone Workingmen's Club in Udy Street, Petone. The doors opened at 2.15pm and afternoon tea/coffee was served with a variety of muffins at 2.30pm. Anna Heythuysen had organised the floral displays on the tables and on the stage. There were three display boards of photographs and other information regarding the club's history, arranged by Dawn Dorresteijn with some help from Kees.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 3.30pm with eighty members present, including for the first time in many years, Jim van Praag and Loes Walker. Jan Bakker was the only outgoing committee member who had decided not to stand for re-election this time. Pieter Koedijk was away overseas but had agreed to be re-elected. The remainder of the outgoing committee were re-elected and two new committee members were also elected: Nick de Graauw and Theo Kooistra. Immediately afterwards, a short meeting was held by the committee to elect the officers: President, Kees Dorresteijn; Vice President, Pieter Koedijk; Secretary and Double Dutch Editor, Dawn Dorresteijn; Assistant Secretary, Pieter Koedijk; Treasurer, Mary Boonen and Assistant Treasurer, Ann Beyk.

A Buffet Dinner was served at 6.00pm for a full house of one hundred diners. Leo van Stratum had Dutch music to play through the sound system and two retrospective video films were shown on a large drop-down screen. Both of those videos were supplied by Valerie Bruggemans from her late husband's film collection. One was converted from silent films Gerry Bruggemans had taken of a facade of a Dutch House, selling Dutch food in the



Wellington City Festivals of the 23rd of March 1973 and February 1976. The second video was of that taken at the Fortieth Anniversary with the humorous skits by the Silver Tulip Choir.

The Buttercup Bakery in Upper Hutt had made, and also contributed to the cost of a large coffee cake. After dinner, Jim van Praag (as the first secretary of the club in 1948) and Dawn Dorresteijn (as the present secretary) cut



the cake (and naturally sealed it with a few kisses for the benefit of the flashing cameras!). Loes Walker (pictured eating her dinner next to Jim van Praag) helped Dawn to serve the pieces of cake for everyone who stood in line for their portion.

ROYAL VISITORS

Over the years there have been a few visits from Dutch members of Parliament and members of the Dutch Royal Family. Here are a few reminders: Prince Claus and Queen Beatrix in 1978. Queen Beatrix and Kees Dorresteijn at the unveiling of the Tasman Sculpture, Frank Kitts Park, 17th of March 1992. Boyd Klap and Queen Beatrix.



Sculpture of the Zeehaen and Heemskerck. Pieter van Vollenhoven visits Avalon House. Dawn and Kees with grandson Jeffrey Dorresteyn and their granddaughter Ashleigh Fedorenko, at Parliament Buildings. Ashleigh and Jeffrey presented Princess Maxima with flowers when the Prince of Orange and Princess Maxima

re-dedicated the Tasman Sculpture in the Galleria, Parliament House, Wellington on Tuesday 31 October 2006.





This is a black and white photograph of Avalon House taken by Gerry Bruggemans, before Kees Dorresteyn and Henk Boonen built the ramp at the south side and knocked a door through a bedroom window to make an entrance foyer.