



DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE
ABN 94 022 727 862

Dutch Australian Cultural Centre



NEWS

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PATRON: Drs WN Cosijn, Consul-General of the Netherlands

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dutch Australian Cultural Centre has as its aims and objectives the collection, preservation, promotion and dissemination of Dutch culture and heritage in Australia.

THE 2017 DACC AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Yes, it's that time again, the Melbourne Cup hangover and the DACC AGM, and a horse named Johannes Vermeer providing the historical connection. That horse was a wonderful lead-in for the coming blockbuster exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW "Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age, Masterpieces from the Rijksmuseum", which features amongst others the beautiful "Woman Reading a Letter" by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer.

Yes, it's time again to reflect on the year gone by and also look at the year ahead.

Although there was no Royal Visit this year, there was plenty of action. Dirk Hartog(h) featured strongly throughout the year. The VOC Exhibition at the Fairfield Regional Gallery was very successful and was extended at the Gallery's request. It was later moved to the Gosford Library, where it was on exhibition for a couple of months.

We are looking to organise further exhibitions for next year, possibly in conjunction with the 65th anniversary of the 1953 floods and the 100th anniversary of the KLM in 2019. Any donations that could be useful for these displays are very welcome!

Our participation at the Holland Festival at the Rembrandt Club in St Mary's is becoming a major fundraising event for us. Again a fantastic turnout and favourable weather lead to a solid result.

We were also there again on Koningsdag at the Masonic Centre doing what we do each year: talking and promoting. This year we were able to convince a young man to join the DACC and at our last board meeting he became the new treasurer. Please let me introduce to you Mr. A.J.

The DACC is still promoting the idea of a migration museum. What is going on with the shift of the Powerhouse Museum is still not clear. The government has back flipped on many issues and the interested parties are still not all singing to the same tune. We are keeping our ears to the ground and will react to any new developments.

We entered into a discussion with the Estonian community about renting or buying space when they developed their site, but this development has stalled for now. No further overtures have been made to the other Dutch groups this year regarding cooperation. However if there are any developments that we think could lead to something we will respond appropriately.

Our membership is still going down by natural attrition. We get newsletters back with "return to sender" stamped on the envelope. There are well-wishers aplenty, people say we are doing a marvellous job but stop short of becoming members or involved. This issue is still very pressing.

We can report however that we have found a young man, Gijs Vonk, willing to be our new webmaster. The website has been languishing since the retirement of Joop Mulholland. Gijs has taken the website out of the doldrums and given it a professional look. For me it is quite magical what he is doing.

Our Facebook page with Glen at the helm is also going from strength to strength. More and more people are linked to it.

Our archival function has been growing by the year. We recently acquired the archives of the Catholic Dutch Migrant Association (CDMA). We also regularly get additional material for the existing archives. Sr Lia somehow finds space in our cramped surroundings. All of us at the board have great admiration for her dedication and ability to sort the significant from the dross that has been handed in.

The reference library also has had some great donations this year. Coby has been steadily cataloguing and putting them in a library programme on the computer and this can now be processed.

Our fellow board member Klaas Woldring has indicated that he would like to step down as secretary from the board. We are therefore urgently looking for a replacement for his position. I also would like to have a bit of a sabbatical. May 2018 bring us just the right persons for the job!

Finally a big thank you to: Jan and Anita van Altena for their unstinting support of the DACC; our auditors, Van Bruinessen Lambropoulos who make sure everything balances; all our volunteers Sr Lia, Coby, Glen and Gijs for the splendid job they are doing in their respective fields; Theo ten Brummelaar for assisting me with the treasurership and our new treasurer for taking that load off my shoulders; my fellow board members for keeping the DACC afloat and those friends who have made donations to the DACC both financial and material. **Paulus Breedveld**

DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

INTRODUCING OUR NEW M'SHIP SECRETARY

The DACC needed a new membership secretary and I am pleased to take on that role. The DACC aims to record and publicise the history of Dutch heritage and achievement in Australia, particularly of those migrants who came here after WWII. We also keep a comprehensive record of the extensive mapping of the Australian coast by the Dutch seafarers in the 17th century. Our archives include a reference library, artefacts and souvenirs, we organise exhibitions, publish a regular newsletter and, at this time of the year, put on a Sinterklaas display. Surplus books, mostly in Dutch, are available for purchase at a low price. Visitors to our centre in t'Winkelje in Smithfield consistently leave positive comments in our visitors book. It is a small venue, but it is well maintained and interesting. Our volunteers can play DVDs for you of Dutch sights and activities, such as the Keukenhof, trams in Leiden, Dutch windmills, the old sailing ships Batavia and Duyfken, Andre Rieu concerts, the Hartog and Vlamigh stories, and a brilliant presentation of the works of Rembrandt van Rijn. We also have a sjoelbak that you can play. We are now planning new exhibitions about the Delta Plan (in 2018) and the centenary of the birth of KLM (in 2019).

The DACC has only a limited income and our activities are managed by a small number of dedicated volunteers. We need over 100 members to keep running. If you think that the DACC is doing a good job, why don't you join and, maybe, provide assistance in some small way. We recently reduced our membership fee so that, from 1st July 2018 you will only pay:

Family: \$20, Single: \$15, Concession: \$10

Aafke Woldring,
DACC Membership Secretary.

WELCOME ABOARD, AAFKE!

FOR YOUR DIARY

REMBRANDT CLUB

The Club is open every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm and every Friday from 11am till late.

DUTCH-AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY GROUP

Abel Tasman Village Chester Hill

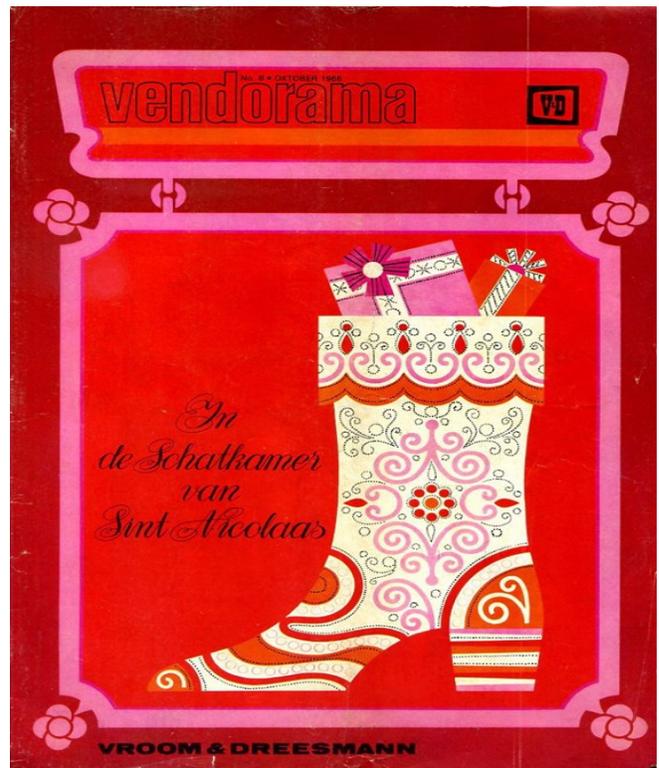
Contact Elly Ramon on 02 4681 9894 or 0414912 918 or Karma Rowe <rowint@tpg.com.au>

CONCORDIA CLUB< NEWCASTLE

For further information please **contact**
President Antonia Sommerville on 4958 1552, or
Vice Pres./Secretary Joop de Wit on 4954 5227

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE DACC'S WEBSITE?

Check out our website on www.dacc.net.au
THANK YOU, GIJS VONK



It's that time of year again when Sinterklaas miraculously and seamlessly morphs into Santa Claus and Santa carries on the good work that the Sint began. A time of good will and giving and may there be plenty of it. But there is a price to pay, there are side effects. All this goodwill and giving comes with a barrage of advertising that can be a bit overwhelming. On TV and radio, in newspapers, magazines, and door to door brochures from stores often disparagingly referred to as junk mail. But as any op-shop volunteer or frequenter will tell you: someone's junk is someone else's treasure. So too with junk mail. One such piece from our archives I'd like to share with you. It is a Sinterklaas brochure, 64 pages, from the V&D department store in the Netherlands from 1968, so almost 50 years old. V&D was a department store similar to Myers, and every town had one. Last year it folded and its stores were sold. So this brochure is now a bit of nostalgia. Most migrants would have visited a V&D store at some stage. It is interesting to compare this brochure with brochures from today's department stores. Its artwork, the products for sale etc. Unfortunately we can only show you the front cover here, but that is worthwhile enough. The DACC has a small but interesting collection of old Dutch advertising material from newspapers and magazines. We at the DACC wish all our readers a safe and happy New Year and hope your stockings are filled to the brim with treasures and goodwill. I'd like to finish with a thank you to everybody for their donations during the past year and a plea, if you have something Dutch that you might think is 'junk', it could be a treasure for us. Our stocking has still space to accommodate it. **Paulus Breedveld**

DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

A BIT OF BOOZE...

The linguistic benefits of alcohol might include more than just a predisposition for blunt honesty. Researchers at Maastricht University in the Netherlands wanted to know if there was any truth in the belief that imbibing alcohol can also improve your second language skills.

Fifty native German speakers, who had recently learned Dutch, were given a 'low dose' of alcohol, or a placebo, followed by a standardized speaking test. Tipsy Germans were consistently rated as having better pronunciation skills than their sober counterparts.

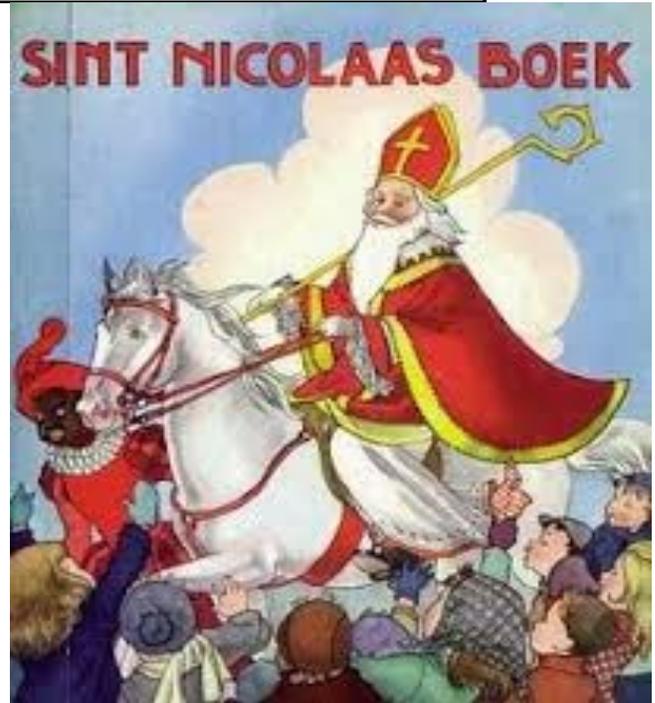
Feedback thinks it is essential this study be replicated in other languages, not least to find out if Dutch simply benefits from sounds like slurred German phonemes, but also to know which languages we ought to learn to justify alcohol as a teaching aid.

'Feedback', *New Scientist*, Nov. 11, 2017

FILM REVIEW: "LOVING VINCENT"

Reportedly the first fully painted animated film in history, this seven-years-in-the-making effort is often breathtakingly beautiful. And, truth be told, if you're going to make a movie about Van Gogh, why not make it in beautiful paintings? *Loving Vincent* is based on the actual people who sat for Van Gogh's works, complete with their clothing and poses, and when the movie re-creates an actual portrait or a landscape, it's awe-inspiring.

But things get more troublesome when the movie includes dialogue between characters; the animation in these sequences is done with rotoscoping (similar to the technique used in Richard Linklater's [Waking Life](#)), and the style is less appealing -- it doesn't quite match. Not to mention that these end up being pretty basic scenes of two heads talking. And while the story works as a pulp mystery that's somewhat based on real events, it also feels a little slight for the incredible artistry that went into the filmmaking. That said, while its elements might not all click precisely into place, *Loving Vincent* is still a very entertaining and gorgeous movie, and it could inspire viewers to look further into Van Gogh's real-life output.



In the '50s and '60s, when large numbers of Dutch emigrated to many countries a foundation was established called "Sint Nicolaas Overzee" This foundation was established to keep the tradition of Sinterklaas alive overseas. It did this by sending parcels overseas containing amongst others speculaas, pepernoten, almond pastry and chocolaatjes, a calendar, a record with Sinterklaas songs, a booklet about Sinterklaas.

Dutch companies were very interested in this project and made numerous proposals to be included in the parcel. Shipping companies transported these parcels free of charge and the Foreign Ministry tried to prevent import duties being charged. In the mid seventies it died a quiet death. Emigration on a large scale had ended.

We have in our collection the booklet and record that were included in these parcels. The booklet in Dutch as well as English is a very succinct introduction to the Sinterklaas festival in the Netherlands. The record has Sinterklaas songs sung by a children's choir on the one side with patriotic music played by a street organ on the other.

WORLD SMART CITY AWARD

Amsterdam has won the **World Smart City Award** for circular economy. The price was awarded on Wednesday 15 November at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona. With the award, the organization shows its appreciation for the pioneering Amsterdam program for circular economy and for the city's efforts to develop policy for urban-level circular economics in several areas: local production of sustainable and seasonal food, local production of electricity, reduction of fuel consumption and the improvement of waste recycling.

There were 309 entries from 58 countries in the race.

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THE WORLD SOLAR CHALLENGE

Every two years, for the past 30 years, the World Solar Challenge has welcomed the greatest minds from around the world to Australia to challenge the norms and travel the outback in a vehicle powered only by the power of the sun. Traversing 3,000 km from Darwin to Adelaide, teams comprise of tertiary and secondary students from over 30 countries. These students and their support team have engineered and built a vehicle with their own hands and powered it across some of the world's most challenging landscape.

FLYING DUTCH TO THE FINISH WITH THE WIND IN THEIR SAILS

It seems when it comes to solar cars – no one can catch the flying Dutch. In the 30th anniversary year of the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge they have reigned supreme. The Nuon Solar team today claimed their seventh title in the Challenger class as they crossed the Official Finish Line in Victoria Square Adelaide, first in the 2017 World Solar Challenge

TEAM EINDHOVEN CRUISES INTO HISTORY WITH A TRIPLE TREAT 16/10/2017

Having already won the Challenger Class title on Thursday, when Team Nuon crossed the line first one hour, 58 minutes and 37 seconds ahead of second place Michigan, another Dutch team, from Eindhoven, shone in the Cruiser Class. With an unsurpassable lead in energy efficiency going into the final stage of judging yesterday, their 2017 win was made official at the Awards Ceremony in Adelaide.

**WE WISH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AN ABSOLUTELY
MARVELLOUS CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR**

CONTACT US

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We are open every Sunday, most Fridays and the first and third Wednesday of each month

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**The DACC's Bank details are: National Australia Bank, BSB 082 - 141
Account no. 01673 - 1406**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.dacc.net.au

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Dutch-Australian-Cultural-Centre-907023886011360/>



't Winkeltje "The Dutch Shop"

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