



**DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE**  
ABN 94 022 727 862

Dutch Australian Cultural Centre

# NEWS

Volume 19 Issue 2  
June 2019

**PATRON:** Mr Frank van Beuningen, Consul-General of the Netherlands in Sydney

## 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.

## 100 YEARS of SERVICE. CONGRATULATIONS to the KLM

In 1919, a young aviator lieutenant named Albert Plesman sponsored the ELTA aviation exhibition in Amsterdam. The exhibition was a great success. After it closed several Dutch commercial interests decided to establish a Dutch airline, which Plesman was nominated to head. In September 1919, Queen Wilhelmina awarded the yet-to-be-founded KLM its "Royal" ("*Koninklijke*") predicate. On 7 October 1919, eight Dutch businessmen, including Frits Fentener van Vlissingen, founded KLM as one of the first commercial airline companies. Plesman became its first administrator and director.

The first KLM flight took place on 17 May 1920. In 1920, KLM carried 440 passengers and 22 tons of freight. In April 1921, using its own pilots and Fokker F.II and Fokker F.III aircraft, KLM started scheduled services.



On 19 June 2012, KLM made the first transatlantic flight fuelled partly by sustainable biofuels to Rio de Janeiro. This was the longest distance any aircraft had flown on biofuels.

The same year, as well as the next, KLM received the award for "Best Airline Staff Service" in Europe at the World Airline Awards. This award represents the rating for an airline's performance across both airport staff and cabin staff combined.

This year KLM celebrates its centennial. Since it is the oldest airline still operating under its original name, it is the first airline to achieve this feat. Wikipedia has an interesting short history of the KLM's remarkable success story that will make you **PROUD TO BE DUTCH**.

Here at the DACC, we too are celebrating the incredible success story of OUR National Airline. For the last year or so, Paulus has been searching for and collecting memorabilia pertaining to the KLM, from the last 100 years. From this month to the end of the year, there will be continuously changing exhibitions of the treasures he has found. The 3 posters above are just a little foretaste. **COME VISIT THE DACC AND BE ENTHRALLED!**

# DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

## ARE YOU DOWNSIZING? DISPOSE OF DUTCH WARES THOUGHTFULLY: DONATE TO THE DACC.

Don't let your story go unrecorded. - the more stories, the clearer the picture. We are also looking for Holland Heralds and KLM paraphernalia is very welcome just now. Do rummage in the back of that cupboard - you might be surprised!

### THEO KLERKS

Went to work for the KLM at the age of fourteen. He started and ran the Klerk's Nursery at Ingleside. His story is recorded under Mona Vale Local History / Oral Histories, Northern Beaches Council Library. He is well into his nineties, mentally alert and would like a phone call from his son.

### Sr LIA and the ARCHIVES

Sr Lia's story began with the records of the Holland Festival and those of the Netherlands Society of NSW.

#### She now continues:

Next, I processed the records of the **Federation of Netherlands Societies**, which was incorporated in 1967 under the patronage of the Consul General of the Netherlands in Sydney. Its main aim was to provide a meeting place for affiliated organisations which had similar objectives, or which wanted to discuss subjects of importance to the whole Dutch community and matters outside the scope of its individual members. Its records include:

Correspondence relating to the visit of Dutch Marine boats in 1970 and 1973.

Survey of aged people of Dutch background and the result of this survey

The Nursing Home project, leading to the building of the Abel Tasman Village and the Queen Beatrix Nursing Home in Dapto.

The organisation of a reception for Prince Bernhard during his visit to Sydney in 1978.

Items relating to the Liberation Festival in 1995 and the yearly 'Oranje Bal'.

There are also records dealing with representations the Federation made to the government on behalf of its members e.g. regarding social services for the aged of Dutch background and the ethnic Dutch Radio Program, to mention just two items.

**I was particularly interested in the records dealing with the proposed termination of the KLM air services to Australia in 1978.** The collection of correspondence in response really shows how "the Dutch community in Australia has rallied to support the KLM, deluging Mr Nixon's office with thousands of letters and telegrams, attacking any plan to terminate the airline's services" (from the Financial Review, July 12, 1978). The letters came from all parts of Australia. Many were from Dutch people who were probably not members of any Dutch organisation and who came from all walks of life, as well as some from very successful migrants in the business world.

Another organisation which is well documented in the records held by the DACC is **NESWA**, the Netherlands Ex-servicemen and Women's Association. It resulted from the merger of two other groups: *the Netherlands Ex-Marines*, established in 1951 and *the Nederlandse Oud Strijders*. I was amazed at the achievements of NESWA on behalf of their members. Some of these were accomplished only through the determined perseverance of the Committee members.

They include

Pensions for Dutch Ex-Services men and women.

Commemorative Awards for deserving members.

The building of a War Memorial in Canberra, commemorating the involvement of the Dutch in Indonesia against the Japanese.

Remembrance Ceremonies in Australia and the Netherlands.

Participation by its members in the ANZAC Parade.

There are records dealing with the visit by Dutch Warships in 1988 to take part in the Bicentennial Naval Salute in September that year.

There are personal stories and obituaries of some of the members. It is a fascinating part of the story of the Dutch Community in Australia.

**To be continued in the next newsletter.**

### SIMONE LAMSMA at the SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

In early April, Brian and I were lucky enough to hear and see Simone Lamsma perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto. She is the best I have ever heard!

Simone began studying the violin at the age of five and moved to the UK at age 11 to study at the Menuhin School. She continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Hu Kun and Maurice Hasson. Among her honours is an Associate of the RAM for significant contribution to her field. Simone plays the Mlynarski Stradivarius (17180 on loan to her from an anonymous benefactor.

### THE NETHERLANDS WINS 2019 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

Congratulations to Dutch Eurovision contestant Duncan Laurence, who was the winner of the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest with "Arcade".

As the winner, The Netherlands is now set to host Eurovision 2020. The Netherlands won the Competition in 1957 and therefore hosted in 1958 but declined to host in 1960 when they won again in 1959, due to the expense. The Hague was the host in 1980 when Israel declined.

The Eurovision Song Contest is organised by the European Broadcasting Union, which represents 117 member organisations in 56 countries and an additional 34 Associates in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas. The contest, which has been broadcast every year since its debut in 1956, is one of the longest-running television programmes in the world.

There have been 64 contests, with one winner each year except the tied 1969 contest, which had four. The Netherlands have won the Eurofest Song Contest 5 times, in 1957, 1959, 1969 1975 and 2019. Ireland has most wins with 7.

# DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

## KNIGHTHOOD for Mr MICHAEL GIJSBERTS

On Wednesday 17 April, Mr Michael Gijsberts, resident of Ferntree Gully and President of the Dutch Club Abel Tasman in Melbourne, was decorated Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau for his long-standing and dedicated work for the Dutch community in Victoria. Mr Gijsberts received the award from Ambassador Marion Derckx at the Dutch Club Abel Tasman in Melbourne.

Among the many voluntary roles Mr Gijsberts has taken upon himself over the past decades are: board member of the Ringwood Wilhelmina football team; Chair of the Association of Netherlands Societies in Victoria; founding of, and continued involvement in, the Dutch Australian Heritage Centre; publication of the Dutch Courier; board member of DutchCare; Vice President and now President of the Dutch Club Abel Tasman. "Many of the people you work with, and have worked with, greatly admire and appreciate what you have done and what you are doing. They felt it was time for you to be rewarded. To be more precise, they felt you earned an award. And I am glad to say that King Willem Alexander shares their opinion. And that is why we are here today," Ambassador Derckx told Mr Gijsberts.

## Heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS from the DACC!

## OLDEST DUTCH SHIPWRECK IN NORTH SEA

On the bottom of the North Sea, salvage teams - who were looking for shipping containers that fell off a merchant ship in a storm near the Dutch coast - stumbled upon a shipwreck and alerted researchers.

They had found a wreck dating back to 1540 that may hold clues to what researchers have been trying to uncover for decades. Maritime and underwater archaeologist Martijn Manders from the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands said this shipwreck is of great importance because it dates back to a period where ship-building technology was in a transition from the medieval period to that of the Dutch Golden Age. In the medieval period, ship hulls were constructed with timber planks overlapped, known as clinker-built hulls, whereas ships built afterward started introducing timber arrangements that saw planks sit flush alongside each other, known as carvel-built hulls. This ship shows signs of a specific transition from the smaller medieval ships to the larger ships with more masts. "We can learn much more from this ship than all of the other ones put together." Mr Manders said. "Basically, it's our missing link. We have to keep in mind that about 100 years after this ship sunk it was the Dutch Golden Age, where we had all these big ships travelling all over the world," he said

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### THE DACC

is open every Sunday, most Fridays and every first and third Wednesday, between 11 am and 3 pm.. **The history of the KLM will be the focus of our exhibitions til the end of the year.** Come and have a look! Our address is on the back page.

### REMBRANDT DUTCH CLUB, PENRITH

87 Dunheved Circuit, St Marys NSW 2760.  
Phone 02 9623 2569

The Club is open every Tuesday from 10am till 4pm and every Friday from 11am till late. The bad news is that the landlord has sold the property for health reasons. This means the Club has to vacate the premises early next year. Their last function will be Christmas Dinner. The Board members are spending every free minute to find the right solution to this problem.

### THE DUTCH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY IN ILLAWARRA Inc. (DASI)

469-471 Princes Highway, Woonona NSW 2517  
President: Mr John Vlietstra. Tel. 4284 9153

The Club has several interest groups: Klaverjassers, Billjarters, Scrabblers and a Dutch Class. It's a friendly place to meet friends.

### CONCORDIA CLUB, NEWCASTLE

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

### A Husband & Wife joke from their newsletter:

**H:** Whenever I get mad at you, you never seem to get upset. How do you control your temper?

**W** I just go and clean the toilet.

**H:** How does that help?

**W:** I use your toothbrush.

### 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>

### DUTCH CLUB NEERLANDIA

1 Gratton Crescent, Frenchs Forest. Tel. 02 9452 5014  
Tasty Meals, Dutch Treats, Games and good People.  
The Club is open every Sunday 11 am - 3 pm.



**'t Winkeltje** "The Dutch Shop"  
HOLLAND HOUSE PTY. LTD. A.C.N. 001 938 530  
85 Market Street, Smithfield  
NSW 2164, Australia  
Tel: (02) 9604 0233 Fax: (02) 9725 2241

# DUTCH AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

## CLOGBALL in AUSTRALIA

Dutch migrants played a significant role in Australian football in the decades following WW II. A new publication entitled "Clogball: the Dutch and Football in Australia 1948-1990" aims to tell the story of Dutch involvement in Australian football. One of the features of Australian football in this period was the multitude of migrant-aligned clubs playing in competitions across the country. With their love of football, Dutch migrants took up this concept with passion. Reflecting the extent of the Dutch migrant population's dispersion across Australia, teams aligned with Dutch migrants formed in all state capitals and several regional centres. These teams distinguished themselves with names like Wilhelmina, Neerlandia, Windmills, Clogs, Sparta, Shell, Werkspoor, Fortuna 60, Vitesse, Be Quick, Orange, Orange Lions and Hollandia. In several places Dutch migrants helped form local district teams while many took up roles as administrators, referees, coaches, trainers and support staff.

Adam Muyt, a second-generation Dutch-Australian is going to write a book about the role of the Dutchies in Australian soccer together with Dutch football writer Roberto Pennino now that the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canberra under the Shared Cultural Heritage programme has given the project the thumbs up and a grant!

### MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE 1 JULY

NAME: Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

SPOUSE: Mr/Mrs/Ms.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....PC.....

EMAIL ADDRESS:.....

ENCLOSED is a cheque for \$.....

Membership fees are, pa: Family \$ 20; Single \$ 15; concession\* \$ 10 \* Please state pension card number:

Or by direct Bank transfer - see details below

## CONTACT US

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

The DACC's Bank details are: National Australia Bank, BSB 082 - 141

Account no. 01673 - 1406

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.dacc.net.au](http://www.dacc.net.au)

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