

WACOLREMEMBERED

Country of Birth: **The Netherlands**

Date of Arrival in Australia: **September 1959**

Rob-Jan & Jacomiene Mijnarends

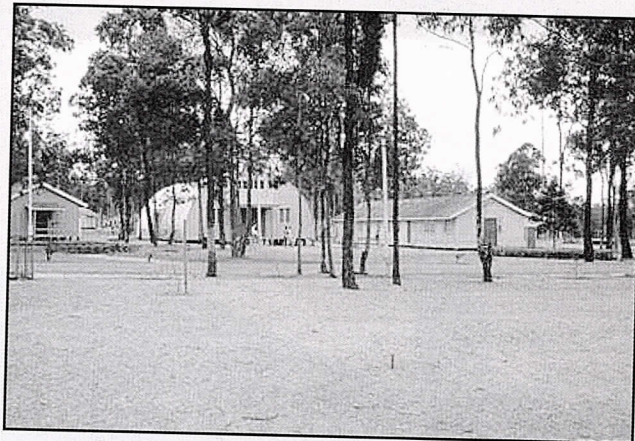
“When we arrived in Australia real life started. It was a long train journey from Sydney to Brisbane and then by bus to Wacol. The trip was well organised and the debarkation, train-travel and reception at the Wacol Migrant Centre went according to plan. The reception centre consisted of disused wartime army barracks, on the Western outskirts of Brisbane. We had some difficulty speaking and understanding English even after seven years of formal lessons.

Some weeks of unemployment followed. We bought a 1940 Vauxhall car to enable us to move from place to place and landed a job on a dairy farm near Christmas Creek. We milked 90 cows for three months

and worked seven days per week (time off on Sundays between 9.30am and 4.00pm) for the “princely” sum of fifteen pounds for us both.”

***Editor's Note:** This story was reproduced from “Our Story: Experiences of the Dutch in Queensland”, produced by the Dutch Australian Community Action Federation – Qld Inc. Reproduced with kind permission.*

From the archives



The grounds at Wacol – 1957