

*A Celebration of the life of*



*Antonie Frederik Kool*

*February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1920 ~ December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002*

# Order of Service

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**Organ Prelude:**

Joop van Treeck

**Greeting:**

Jan Leiseboer

**Psalm 23: *The Lord is My Shepherd***

The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie in pastures green,  
He leadeth me the quiet water by.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me,  
And thy rod and staff my comfort still.

Goodness and mercy all my life,  
Shall surely follow me; and in God's house  
For evermore my dwelling place shall be.

**Eulogy:**

Jan Leiseboer

**In Appreciation for the Life of Anton Kool:**

Karen Kool

Helen Kool

Ed Wolf

**Song:**        *Peace is Flowing*

Peace is flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free.

His love is flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free.

His healing's flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free.

Alleluia ...

Peace is flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert  
Setting all the captives free.

**In Appreciation for the Life of Anton Kool:**

Theo ten Brummelaar  
Jan Baremans  
Loet Elion

**Bible Reading:**    *Luke 6: 27-36*

Ina Kool

**Reflection:**

Rev. John de Lange



**Song:**      *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken  
Like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing,  
Praise for the morning,  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung from completeness  
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight;  
Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
Of the new day.

**Commendation:** (Please stand)

Rev. John de Lange

**Onze Vader: (The Lord's Prayer)**

Onze Vader die in de hemelen zijt  
Uw Naam worde geheiligd,  
Uw Koninkrijk kome;  
Uw wil geschiede  
gelijk in de hemel  
alzo ook op de aarde.  
Geef ons heden ons dagelijks brood  
en vergeef ons onze schulden  
Gelijk ook wij vergeven onze schuldenaren.  
En leid ons niet in verzoeking  
maar verlos ons van den boze.  
Want van U is het koninkrijk  
en de kracht en de heerlijkheid  
tot den eeuwigheid.

Amen.

**Blessing:**

Rev. John de Lange





*Eulogy delivered by Jan Leiseboer.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are many of you here today who have known Anton longer than I have. Our association goes back to the late eighties when both my wife Christine and I were members of the Neerlandia Club committee. At that point of time the club had serious problems with the then Department of Lands which were later solved and in which Anton played an important part. We continued our relationship when I joined the boards of the Federation of Netherlands Societies and what is now known as the Queen Wilhelmina Dutch Australian Benevolent Fund. As a new boy I sometimes became a little bit too enthusiastic. Whenever that happened, Anton, being a skilful chairman used to calm me down with a few well chosen words. At times he chose his words so well that I did not have the faintest idea of what he was talking about. Then the thought used to enter my mind "Deze man probeert mij een Kool te stoven!

Amongst many other things, Anton was chairman of the Federation, a position he held for a period of 35 years till ill health forced him to step down. One of his greatest aims over the years was to create and maintain unity amongst the various sections of Dutch migrants, not an easy task in a society as diverse as ours. It was a task in which he succeeded, being equally at ease in the company of an executive of a multi national corporation as well as that of a struggling migrant trying to come to terms with the sometimes adverse living conditions in a new land.

Because of this image the Dutch community has been able to present itself as a group of people with common interests, resulting in successful submissions for financial support to the Federal and State governments for the construction of the Juliana and Abel Tasman retirement villages, the establishment of the Queen Beatrix Nursing Home in the Illawarra district as well as the Dutch Specific Ethnic Community Aged Care Packages.

Next to his family one of the closest things to his heart would have been the birth of the Abel Tasman Village. As the foundation chairman he saw the transformation of a dust bowl with a derelict building on it into what it is to day, a place for our senior citizens to live in dignity and comfort. The many years of financial hardship took its toll at times but we are grateful that during his last years as chairman, Abel Tasman Village started to find itself in a stable financial position and can look to the future with confidence.

Anton's involvement in the Dutch community was not restricted to Abel Tasman Village only. The list is long and distinguished, president of the Netherlands Society in Sydney, vice chairman and chairman of the Queen Wilhelmina Dutch Australian Benevolent Fund, vice chairman and chairman of the Juliana Village. He was also one of the NESWA representatives at the "Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council". His work for the welfare of others was acknowledged through his appointment as a Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau, the presentation of the Olivier van Noort medal and the Premier of New South Wales Community award as well as an honorary membership of the Neerlandia Club.

Throughout all this he remained a humble man, liked and respected by his peers and always acknowledging the efforts of others. He left behind a legacy of goodwill, integrity and compassion. Always a welcome guest at the dinner table, a good sense of humour and good company. To me personally, to use the Australian vernacular, a good mate.

May he rest in peace.



*Appreciation by Karen Kool.*

*de bomen  
komen uit de grond  
en uit hun stam  
de twijgen  
en ied'reen vindt het  
heel gewoon  
dat zij weer bladeren krijgen  
we zien ze vallen  
naar de grond  
en dan opnieuw weer groeien  
zo heeft de aarde  
ons geleerd  
dat al wat sterft  
zal bloeien*

*Toon Hermans*

The cycles of nature and the earth on which we live teach us about regeneration; the transfer from one form to another; the blossoms that grow.

My father was, for me, an exceptional man and I would like to offer a small tribute in celebration of his life, in acknowledgement of the blossoms of life and living that Dad gave to me.

My father was a fine and honourable man who lived his life with a sense of fairness, justice, love, compassion, dignity and integrity. He understood that joy and happiness are transitory and treasured these times as they were. He understood that suffering is universal and, where he could, he acted to lessen the load of others, to help their lives to be more enjoyable.



Dad was kind, with a giving nature. Filled with hope, his support was constant, and he never gave up. Always the even keel, he would keep on going, his direction clear, his navigation sound. Life, Dad would say, is a process of risk management and of compromise.

Dad showed me, by example, the art of good parenting. Dad was fun to be with, we laughed a lot, and enjoyed so many times and adventures together in foreign lands and places of nature. Dad enjoyed life with innocent eyes in the times he spent with Sam, my son and Opa's grandson.

Dad was a wonderful father for me and a fantastic Opa for Sam.

"Er is een tijd van komen, en een tijd van gaan".

I miss him dearly. I hope to keep his messages of life, alive with me.

### *Appreciation by Helen Kool.*

There were many aspects to Dad's life, and as he was quite a private person he tried to keep these aspects separate. Until I was an adult I knew very little about his professional and volunteer work.

As a child, some of Dad's official roles were so mysterious that I didn't even recognize him in public. For many years Dad played the part of St Nicholaas and on December the 5<sup>th</sup> each year I sat on his knee and saw no-one but St Nicholaas until, one year, Karen pointed out that St Nicholaas and Dad had the same watch. At first I thought wow...Dad is really Sinterklaas, and what child wouldn't want Sinterklaas for a father. I wonder now how he kept a straight face while we sat on his knee believing him to be St Nicholaas. Dad often appeared to be a serious man, but there was

a light-hearted aspect to his character and he enjoyed a good laugh and a bit of a performance.

He was also the sort of person who didn't like to be categorised by his work. This caused Karen and me a number of problems at school. We were given forms to fill in with information like date of birth, religion and father's occupation. Well...I didn't know what to write for occupation. So I took the form home and asked him. With a twinkle in his eye he said "just write... nature man." At the time I didn't know what to make of that answer, but it became a bit of a family joke. However, on reflection, there is an essence of Dad in this flippant description of himself. At heart he really did enjoy very simple pleasures in life. He loved living in his stone house in Mosman, surrounded by trees and birds, with a view of the water. He enjoyed a swim at Balmoral and taking us for walks in the bush around Mosman and in The Blue Mountains, especially Mt Wilson. And he always found pleasure in a nice meal, with a good bottle of red and stimulating conversation.

I was lucky enough to have a really good adult relationship with Dad. He believed it was important to know your own values. He knew his; they were co-operation, compromise and commitment. Above all he was a kind-hearted man who tried to put his values into practice.

I love Dad deeply and I'll miss him terribly. But Dad lived a good life and he made a difference. On the whole, I think, he was a happy man.



*Appreciation by Ed Wolf, Chairman of the Abel Tasman Village.*

I have been asked to say a few words about Anton Kool in my role as his successor as chairman of the Village which he founded.

It was clear from his wish to have the funeral service at the Abel Tasman Village that his connection with the village was strong. From the original vision of the need for a further retirement village for the Dutch community of the 1980's, Anton was always keen to hear what was happening and remained a Board member of Abel Tasman Village Association until the end.

When he asked me to consider taking over the role I felt quite some trepidation. As a board member for some 3 years only there appeared to be people more experienced than I, but Anton felt that "younger blood" was needed more than industry experience. He set me quite a task, which required coming to grips with the bureaucracy of the Health Department and the Federal Government in general. I am pleased to say that he and I stayed on the best of terms and that he was satisfied that his choice had been correct.

My lasting memory of Anton shall always be that he was a "gentleman". This term may well be scorned by today's generation as not being politically correct and yet it defines the man and his actions so much better than so many fancier words. Polite, prompt, pleasant and always thinking of the effect of his actions on others, he set me a role model worth emulating.

There were so many sides to Anton's involvement on behalf of the Dutch community some of them unsung, others forgotten over the years. No doubt other speakers will also provide some examples. I would like to mention one such instance he confided to me because of my interest in aviation history.

In June 1978 the Australian Financial Review reported that Federal cabinet was considering giving notice to KLM and other European



airlines to terminate their services to Australia, thus improving the QANTAS-British Airways partnership.

The following day the Federation of Netherlands Societies met under Anton's chairmanship and moved to oppose the recommendation and to take appropriate steps. Telegrams to the Ministers of Immigration and Ethnic affairs, phone calls, advertisements in the Dutch Australian Weekly, letters to 14,000 people of Dutch origin in both NSW and Victoria advising the consequences of no KLM flights, and open letter advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald and a copy of the letter to all Members of the House of Representatives in Canberra, created an "avalanche of protest".

The action lasted through to September and by October Mr. Peter Nixon, the Minister for Transport, relented in the House by declaring that some European airlines, including KLM, would not be terminated. The quick positive action by Anton, supported by Ype de Bruin, his Victorian counterpart, maintained the airlink. We were not so fortunate last year when KLM itself decided to shut up shop.

My wife always referred to Anton as "a charming man". May we all retain our own happy memories of our association with him.

Thank you.

*Address delivered by Theo ten Brummelar, Chairman of the Federation of Netherlands Societies & Chairman of the Queen Wilhelmina Benevolent Fund*

Anton served as chairman of our Federation since its inception 35 years ago. Disagreements there were plenty, but he was the super smoother. Rarely lost his temper, but when he did we cringed, knowing he was right. Never lost his sense of humour. Always studied financial reports in great detail. Even so he remained for many a mysterious gentleman.

**Anton was the distinguished FIXER of our community.**

Riding a horse as St.Nicolaas through the streets of Sydney.

Opening formal balls on occasions of Koninginnedag.

Welcoming Royalty from the Netherlands.

Never losing the 'common touch'.

Supporting the Holland Festivals.

Ate herring and 'oliebollen'.

**Anton was the diplomatic GENTLEMAN of our community.**

Fighter for the landing-rights of the KLM.

Promoter of Multiculturalism.

Remained the very typical Dutchman.

In advance of his time believer in Ethnic Radio.

Anticipating the needs of the Dutch born elderly in Australia.

Proving you can build castles or in his terms villages.

**Anton was the LEADER of our community.**

Chaired at least 600 meetings for the Federation of Netherlands Societies alone.

Travelled long distances and talked patiently for hours.

Senior board member of many of our organisations.

Never mixing his responsibilities with personal advantage.

Put high value on his 'morality' and sometimes found that 'costly'.

Serving our community with enthusiasm over many, many years.

**Anton was the 'GRAND OLD MAN' of our community.**

We will have to proceed further without Anton.

We can but try to follow in his footsteps with similar stubborn enthusiasm.



*Appreciation delivered by Jan Baremans, Chairman of the Juliana Village.*

Dear Family Members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, friends of Anton Kool.

We have come together as family and friends of Anton to celebrate his life as we have known it and as we got to know it through Anton.

Some of you go back as far as forty years. I as the new kid on the block can only go back some seven years.

It was in fact Anton who first approached me with the question to join the ATV board and as it goes it didn't take long to become totally absorbed and involved, all the way encouraged by Anton.

On a personal level Anton was often a closed book. Somewhat of a mystery one may say.

As I got to know him however, he came over as a diplomat, a politician (an honest politician that is).

He was an inspiration to me and to many others.

He never acted impulsively on matters of importance.

He showed a great deal of patience.

Anton would not take sides easily in matters of dispute. Some people would suggest that he often sat on the fence. Not realizing that his main aim was to try to resolve disputes rather than taking sides. He would aim to unite rather than divide.

As we are aware, the Dutch community is not well known for its oneness. We are often a divided lot. And so we may say with pride that we are rugged individuals.

Anton has worked actively to unite the Dutch community. Looking around this hall seeing so many of his friends united in their farewells I can only conclude that he has succeeded in this.



Anton could see the need for social clubs, cultural organization, investment clubs etc and so he got involved, but in looking ahead he could also visualize the need arising for aged care, for the Dutch elderly in a culturally appropriate environment.

He was involved almost from its inception to establish a Dutch Village for the elderly together with Jan Logeman, Aat de Haas, Mr Wim Kalf and many others.

He became first involved as chairman of Tulip Homes, which folded around 1972/73. During 1976 he joined the board of Juliana Village and in 1978 became the vice-chairperson of the Juliana Village Association.

A few months ago the Juliana Village Association celebrated its 30th anniversary with Anton still on the Board despite his obvious frailness

During the late 80's the Federation and the Juliana Village Association got together to plan the establishment of a second Village now know as the Abel Tasman Village.

Planning, financing and building retirement villages is no easy matter. Fund raising alone required an enormous effort and again Anton was involved and here we think of the Oranje Ball, The Dutch Festivals, fetes and the many other events to raise money.

There was a need for lobbying the various tiers of Government to get the licenses and the capital grants needed for these projects.

The list goes on and it wouldn't be difficult to fill a book called Anton Kool this is your life.

Anton has taught me a lot and was a good friend to the end. About 6 months ago Anton resigned as Chairman of the Juliana board. I feel honored and humbled to continue his work, for the betterment of the Juliana Village. I am sure he will continue to give his guidance.

And the children of these families they grow up, some speaking still fluently Dutch and others with a thick accent – and always understanding everything spoken in that language. And they mix and match and produced their own creations to the pride of their grandparents, fully accepted and blended into Australian society.

This, very shallowly, then describes the life of our generation of new arrivals in the fifties. It also describes the thought basis of a man like Anton Kool, who polished these into ideas of support for others similarly afflicted of his country-men arriving here as total strangers.

Apart from his talent of leadership in several organisations dealing with a mental oasis with a breath of fresh air, mixed with the feeling of being at home and making others get used to feeling at home in Australia. He was equally excellent as a participating member in less formal situations as our, still active, Borrelclub.

Anton was a faithful member for decades. At peace with the relaxed atmosphere of Dutch settlers who, without effort, are stumbling slowly into their eighties. And those who have exceeded that number and some who didn't make it. This year has been particularly heavy in our losses.

Anton was always there to point at events at other Dutch clubs and societies and to encourage people to attend and develop mutual support. He did more than simple duty until the last few weeks when his illness took a slow turn for the worse. His efforts were honoured by the Queen of the Netherlands.

We have celebrated his life with a lunch on the day he passed away.

To his family and friends we give you our deepest sympathy at his departure. We are proud of having known him as you can be. A foremost leader in the assimilation of the Dutch settlers and in maintaining their national pride.



### ***Bible Reading, Ina Kool***

Anton asked for a reading from the bible about how one should treat one's neighbour. So I will read to you from the gospel of Luke. Luke 6 verses 27-36.

#### ***Luke 6: 27-36***

“But I tell you who hear me love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who ill-treat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let them hit the other one too. If someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours do not ask for it back.

Do for others just what you want them to do for you. If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing. Even sinners love those who love them and if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing. Even sinners do that and if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing. Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. No, love your enemies and do good to them, lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward and you will be sons of the Most High God for he is good to the ungrateful and evil.

Be merciful just as your father is merciful .



*Reflection on the reading from Luke, Rev. John de Lange*

A little while ago you heard a reading from the gospel according to Luke which was at the request of Anton. It contained that famous sentence: "Do for others just as you want them to do for you."

It is popularly known as the Golden Rule and it forms a part of a rich tradition in which this Golden Rule has been said and known around the world. It has been around for a very long time, and not only in the Judeo-Christian traditions. Confucius, who lived in China from 551-479 B.C, so a little before our time, is said to be the originator of a negative form of the golden rule: "What you do not want done to yourself do not do to others". In the Jewish tradition it also exists in its negative form. The Book of Tobit says: "...what you hate, do not do to anyone".

It is the positive form, which we know, that comes from the Christian tradition and it is the form that we have come to know best.

Anton Kool told me that he made it his motto and that he had endeavoured to live up to it. Now, judging from the eulogies that we have heard this morning we can certainly accept Anton's claim without any hesitation.

We note that Anton continued his work up until very shortly before his death. He was forced, by age and deteriorating health, to lay down his tasks. In a sense he felt, I think, that it wasn't quite finished. Yet he expressed no frustration with this, to me. He knew, and he accepted conscientiously, that he had done all that he could do.

One of the senior religious leaders in Sydney is Raymond Apple, who is the senior rabbi of the Great Synagogue. His philosophy was summed up in last Saturday's paper and I'd like to quote it: "You may not complete the task, but there is no reason why you

should not attempt it". I mention that because I believe that was part of the motivation that drove Anton Kool in his efforts on behalf of the Dutch community in Sydney.

Anton Kool did good because he was a good man. May he, I repeat as others have already said, may he rest in peace.



*Commendation: Rev. John de Lange*

I ask you all to stand please.

Now that Anton Kool has passed from this life, we give thanks for his life and commend him to his eternal rest. Let us pray together in the words that the lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples to say.



At the conclusion of the service you are  
invited to stay for refreshments.



The burial of Anton Kool will take place at  
Macquarie Park Cemetery,  
Delhi Road, Macquarie Park,  
at 2:30 pm.



Dear all of you. ~



I Love my Opa. Since he is dead he is my angel who guards me.



Bye-bye Opa,  
Love Myles.