



DUTCH SOCIETY NEERLANDIA of WA Inc

**Clubhouse: RHEIN DONAU CLUB,
110 North Lake Road, Myaree
All correspondence to "The Secretary"
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Opening & Welcome to the 55th AGM - 2024

Dear members

Thank you for attending our 55th AGM Meeting today.

Before I Proceed with today's AGM, I will read out the names of those members who have passed away over the past 12 months.

1. Pieter Diedrich Leeftang OAM - 6 November 2023
2. Pieter Jan de Geeter - 23 December 2023
3. Martha (Matty) Jeanette Mentz - 30 December 2023
4. Cornelia (Corrie) Smit - 5 January 2024
5. Jannettje (Janny) Udinga - 24 January 2024
6. Renske Saapke Hogan - 28 January 2024
7. Johann (Jo) Heinrich Smit - 20 March 2024
8. Jan Lagerwey - 14 March 2024
9. Johanna Verhoogt - 22 June 2024
10. Pieter van Dijk - 02 August 2024
11. Johannes (John) van Gentevoort - 14 August 2024
12. Rudi Haverhoek - 11 September 2024

In some way, each of these members has been a dear and close friend to many of us. If you are able, please stand and let us show our respect to these members that have passed away over the past 12 months and are no longer physically present in our midst with a minute silence.

President's Report – AGM – 13-Oct-2024

Thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Let me start by thanking those Neerlandia members who have helped, yet again, to keep our club running.

1. For keeping our membership registration up to date: - Kay & Bob Wegman.
2. For stepping into some very big shoes and continuing to present our members with an amazing magazine: - Peter van der Wedden.
3. And of course, this could not be produced without our proofreaders: - Lianna Parker, and Helen Levy.
4. The different array of entertainment was provided throughout the year by your Events Coordinator, very ably supported by Machiel, Helen, Jeannette, and Babette.
5. To our Vice-President, Machiel van der Stelt, who doubles up as our stand in Secretary, I say thank you. Things were not always perfect, but no-one can deny the fact that you always had Neerlandia's best interest at heart.
6. Our Treasurer Henry Koldenhoven. His insight, forward thinking and always looking out to protect Neerlandia's interest, and for keeping our accounts in order.
7. To the End of Month Drinks team of Lianna Parker, Eric van Waaijenburg, Anne Harper and Machiel van der Stelt. You initiated a new idea which worked extremely well and is now a regular monthly event. Thank you.
8. In organizing merchandise for sale, creating our wonderful Calendar, and everything associated with functions such as our Christmas Lunch, if it wasn't for Helen Levi's creative insight, these items would not have been produced for you to enjoy.
9. To our Librarians Lianna Parker & Machiel van der Stelt for re-housing our Dutch books with the Library at the City of Vincent.
10. To Peter van der Wedden & Karin Eastwood-Helder for keeping Dutch Community Radio on the air waves every Sunday.
11. To the committees of the Card Club, Bingo, Seniors and Choir. Without their help these clubs would not function and create that outlet where our members can socialise and enjoy activities, they like to participate in.

So, for all these people's efforts, can I ask for a round of applause, as without them, the club just wouldn't work.

When we look back over the past year, we can see that the year was different to past years.

- We were challenged in ensuring our magazine kept on being produced after the passing of our beloved past President and longtime editor, Piet Leeftang. Thankfully Peter van der Wedden stepped into the breach and continued the excellent example Piet Leeftang had set.
- A different Auto Puuzeltocht was held in November last year.
- The Rottneest trip attracted some new families.

- The Ice-Skating events in February and August were once again attended by a larger number of participants.
- We had a family day at Perth Zoo in April 2024.
- Koningsdag on the 26th of April was a resounding success with many people attending.

At many of these events, there are always two people who help set up, clean up, or provide that cup of tea or coffee. So please thank Toon & Hanny Kamps for their tireless efforts all year long.

So, we keep trying new things and improving regular events. We hope that this will result in an increase as well as the retention of younger members.

So, what can we expect for the new year, you may ask. Well, our next End of Month Drinks event on the 25th of October will have a Sinterklaas theme with some fun activities planned. Then there is a fabulous and fun Quiz Night happening on Saturday 9th of November. Our Christmas Lunch this year will be unlike those from previous years and will have a special touch to it. We will sponsor members once again to watch the André Rieu Christmas Concert in Cinemas on the 7th and 8th of December. That is just in the remaining time of 2024. The year 2025 is a totally open book with plenty of opportunities to introduce new functions, repeat past successful events and ensure those important days such as Koningsdag are celebrated in great style.

Last year, we mentioned that the Neerlandia Committee had started to invest in a portfolio of Blue-Chip Shares in Companies which have long-term financial stability and a proven dividend track record. This has continued over the past year and Neerlandia has been able to generate \$6,362 in dividends for 2022-2023 and \$6,810 in dividends for 2023-2024. This represents an annual return of 5.26% and 5.63% respectively. This does not include the possible refund of Company Tax Credits (Franking Credits). Currently we have two conflicting opinions as to whether we are entitled to claim these as a tax Refund or not. We are in discussions with the ATO to determine definitively where we stand on this issue. Should the ATO rule in our favor, we can add a further \$2,377 and \$2,414 to our cash holdings, which would mean our total return for the past two years represents 7.23% and 7.63%. You will see the overall results when our Treasurer, Henry Koldenhoven, presents his report.

Neerlandia has continued to sponsor our sub clubs with support for outings or promotional items. It remains the objective of Neerlandia to continue being able to support our sub-clubs in this fashion. It is therefore also important that each member encourages family & friends to join in with the various activities and become members of Neerlandia. Perhaps give them a Christmas Present by joining them up as members. We can achieve so much more and continue to hold on to our culture and traditions, when more members are a part of our various clubs.

It is important to highlight that under our constitution, any member who has not paid their membership fees within 3 months after the due date will cease to be a member. Rule 12 (4). Unfortunately, we have had to cease the membership of a fair few members this year.

Therefore, I urge members to ensure that they pay their membership as early as possible. Remember that as a financial member, you gain lots of benefits. By simply attending a few functions a year, you will have recovered your membership in full. For example, attending the Christmas Lunch and the André Rieu Christmas Concert will cost you only \$30, which will save you \$52, compared to the full price tickets of $\$40 + \$42 = \$82$. So, if you are a full member and have your partner as an additional member, your membership would cost $\$60 + \35 for a Total of \$95. Yet, by attending just these 2 events, you will save \$104, which will cover your membership fees entirely.

In closing, I express my sincere thanks to my committee members and their partners for their ongoing and continuing support. Without their continuing support, we would not have achieved the results we have had over the past twelve months. THANK YOU to each one of you.

Please join me in showing our appreciation for a job very well done.

John Zwartkruis, President