Visit to DACC Collection

On Saturday, 14 November 2026, the Dutch Genealogy Group held its final meeting for the year at Abel Tasman Village, Chester Hill.

As has become a tradition at the group's last meeting of the year, proceedings began with a *Show and Tell* session, giving everyone the opportunity to share something they thought might be of interest to fellow members.

This was followed by an almost encyclopaedic trivia challenge, covering just about everything Dutch – a fun way to test everyone's knowledge!

For my *Show and Tell* contribution, I took the group on a tour of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre's (DACC) collection of artefacts, archival material and books. The collection is also housed at Abel Tasman Village, although in a separate building, with its own dedicated storage area and office.

As there is currently no dedicated display area, most of the collection is stored in boxes. The paper documents have been professionally archived and, with the necessary funding, will eventually be digitised and made available online.

DACC has recently begun the task of sorting, cataloguing and labelling the artefacts. The books are housed on shelves, with some already listed in the online catalogue and many more still waiting to be added. Other materials, including records, cassette tapes (some of which may contain valuable oral histories), photographs, pictures and maps, are yet to be sorted and catalogued. It is very much a work in progress!

There was something of interest for everyone, as the accompanying photos show. One member, Yvonne R., had brought along a pair of skates for her own *Show and Tell*, which provided the perfect opportunity to open one of DACC's boxes containing its collection of clogs and skates.

Others were particularly interested in browsing the library, while some were fascinated by the archived documents – an impressive

collection comprising 192 boxes! The extensive collection of Dutch genealogy books, also housed on the shelves, attracted plenty of interest.

We also highlighted a few particularly precious and significant items, although some of their storage boxes could not be opened during the visit. Among these treasures are a 200-year-old Bible, recently restored by Karma; the large Amsterdam Maquette, now dismantled and stored in separate sections; a collection of regional Dutch costumes; and a WW 2 Resistance wall hanging, too delicate to be unrolled.

It was a wonderful opportunity to give members a glimpse behind the scenes and showcase the breadth and richness of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre's collection. There is still much work to be done, but it was encouraging to see the interest and enthusiasm generated by this special collection of Dutch Australian heritage.

Jacoba (Coby) Black