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Australia





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We invite and meet you at all our functions. "Gezelligheid kent geen tijd"

NEWSLETTER OF THE DUTCH

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Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.

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Concordia geeft onpartijdig nieuws, zonder gebonden te zijn aan enige staatkundige partij, kerkelijke richting of belangen en gemeenschap, wij werken uitsluitend in dienst van Concordia's eigen social belang.

From the Secretary's Desk - Joop de Wit

ow, our very first function this year was a huge success, it sure was enjoyed by many. Our official booking of guests was much better than last year and we were getting more people through the door than the official booking. It was a matter of putting extra chairs around all the tables, we hope to see more of you in the near future, all spoke very highly about the great afternoon and can't wait till the next one. The all you can eat food from the *Eastern Tiger* restaurant is always a big hit. After lunch we introduced our well known *Michael Montgomery* to sing and entertain us, a great show was enjoyed by all.

On 27th April 2025 most Dutch people worldwide would have celebrated King Willem Alexander's Birthday. This year, the festivities were held on Saturday 26th April. This was due to the fact that his birthday was on a Sunday, reason to have this day held one day earlier this year. The 27th April is not only King Willem Alexander's Birthday but also an official national holiday in the Netherlands.

Concordia will also be celebrating *King Willem-Alexander* birthday as well as a belated *Mothers Day* on *Saturday 31st May*. We will as usual commemorate the end of world war II, this year 80 years ago. We will devote the first part of this exclusive program to all those that have given their lives for our freedom, this will be followed by liberation day celebrations and commemorations all woven into one. It promises to be a memorable afternoon, we already have some solid bookings. So please be quick and secure your seats now. The event will be held in our private room at the *Cardiff RSL* - An all you can eat smorgasbord of the *Eastern Tiger Restaurant* while being together with your family and friends means a great afternoon is guaranteed. *RSVP* before the *31st May*. More information in this latest newsletter.

Our committee has been steadily and busy planning this event, they are ready for anything, you only need to bring yourself, a friendly face and something orange to wear for this very special occasion. On a sad note we have lost 3 well known members of Concordia, Valerie Connelly age 90, Joop van Leeuwarden age 95 and Neils de Groot age 97. Niels has been a member since the start of Concordia in 1957, holding a number of functions in various Concordia committees. We will never forget them, more in this issue. Enjoy & keep the sunny side, Joop

From the Presidents Desk - Toni Somerville

Dear readers, seems only yesterday that it was Christmas and now it is Easter. Our March function was really terrific, we had a great crowd. Lovely to have *Michael Montgomery* back to entertain us for the first half and then *Joop* for the second half. I spoke to many members and guests who enjoyed it immensely. Very nice to meet and welcome our guests, thank you all for attending. We hope you come again.

I always look forward to the wonderful table decorations at functions that our clever *Jopie Ryan* makes. She is amazing, so many members love them and comment on them. For the March function she had decorated Easter hats, with small eggs on the tables for the members to share. Our sincere thanks *Jopie*.

Thank you to everyone at the March function who donated extra while paying for lunch, for buying lots of raffle tickets and for donating some raffle prizes. We very much appreciate your kindness. Sincere thanks.

Some of our members may still remember the 1940 - 1945 war years in the Netherlands. I was 3 when peace was declared and my parents were happy to tell me how they coped during those years. Every May function we remember the men and woman who fought in all wars and those who sadly gave or lost their lives, one way or another in all wars. *Joop*, as usual, will have a short program to Remember including the Liberation of the Netherlands. Thanks *Joop*. We will celebrate King *Willem Alexander's* birthday and *Mother's Day*.

Sadly 3 members passed away recently, more in this issue. *Val Connelly* who loved coming with her husband *Don* to our functions. *Joop van Leeuwarden*, always kind and courteous, who also enjoyed the functions and *Niels de Groot*. Our sincere condolences to their loved ones. *Niels* was our oldest member. In one of our chats *Niels* told me that he was in the Dutch army fighting in the Netherlands Indies, now Indonesia. One of my uncles fought there in the Dutch army also. We will miss all the 3 members, who passed, at our functions.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers reading this, hope your family will spoil you, and remember your mothers who have passed with love and thanks. Please join us on *May 31* for another enjoyable get-together. Until then take care, stay safe and keep well. **Toni**.

When I was young, I was poor. But after years of hard work, I am no longer young.









A computer is almost human - except that it does not blame its mistakes on another computer.

Uit de Oude Doos — Memories of yesteryear



Books, Minds and Umbrellas work only.... if they are open





It's Scary to think that one day we're going to have to live without our Mother or Father or Sister or Brother or Husband or Wife. Or that one day we're going to have to walk this earth without our Best Friend by our Side, or them without us. Appreciate your loved ones while you can, because none of us are going to be here forever.

The best things in life are truly free, Faith, Hope & Love.

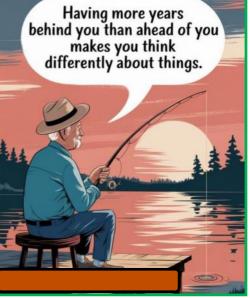






Mum is the one who has shown us the way, who's nurtured and guided us day by day. Mum is the one who's been there by our side, with loving support and a heart full of pride. Thank you MUM







Nederlands Nieuws - iedere dag 12:30pm - SBS channel 35

Ter nagedachtenis aan de bevrijding

Bevrijdingsdag 2025 heeft dit jaar een bijzonder accent. Op 5 mei 2025 is het 80 jaar geleden dat in Nederland een einde kwam aan de Tweede Wereldoorlog. Concordia wil daar op bijzondere wijze bij stilstaan door de persoonlijke herinneringen van al onze lezers op 5 mei 1945 centraal te stellen op onze volgende bijeenkomst op 31 mei, Cardiff RSL. Editar

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream





On behalf of the Concordia committee we like to encourage you in giving a gift subscription to your family, friends or acquaintances. You can never give a more value for dollar present to anyone who is interested in our Dutch community or the Dutch Culture. This truly is a gift that lasts a whole year. Think about, how you, as our members, can put something back into Concordia without too much effort.



Sausages - Frikandellen

CONCORDATION Invite to the next MAY function

Your special invite for Saturday 31st May 2025

We will remember to live in freedom despite a very uncertain future in many parts of the world.

We also celebrate liberation day and will not forget our Mothers during this special afternoon.

Don't miss it! Bring your family and your friends

Anyone is welcome - Bookings essential -

Doors open 11am - Finish 4pm -BOOKINGS: Contact Joop on 4954 5227.

Join us for an all you can eat Banquet, followed by our entertainment

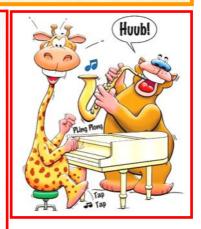
(We don't like to disappoint - please book early - yes, it is essential)

Please pay at the door. Cost \$20.00 pp for an all you can eat Eastern Tiger banquet, followed by a cosy afternoon.

Having a RED address label on this issue?
You are very much overdue in membership

Just a confriendly reminder...

Sorry, this will be your last issue, or in doubt, call Joop first.



Why not join Concordia!

You can take me out of the Netherlands.
But you can't take the Netherlands out of me!





Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool, a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor.













Pproximately 120,000 Dutch nationals immigrated to Australia between 1947 and 1961. They came from the war-ravaged Netherlands and newly-independent Indonesia. The immigration process was simplified by the 1951 Netherlands Australian Migration Agreement. Many Dutch people migrated to Australia in the wake of World War II. Many Dutch people lost their lives during the German occupation and Allied bombing and as Europe was facing economic and social devastation, survivors were encouraged by the Dutch and Australian governments to come to Australia. The Netherlands Australia Migration Agreement (NAMA) of 1951 facilitated the immigration of Dutch people to Australia, including those residing in the Netherlands East Indies.

Passenger lists for boats and aircraft arriving in Australia provide general personal information. Many ships, including the *Groote Beer, Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, Nelly, Sibajak, Skaubryn and Waterman,* and some *KLM flights*, were specially chartered to carry migrants from the Netherlands. For more information see *Passenger records held in Sydney.* Note that unless you know the name of the vessel and the approximate date of arrival, searching passenger records can be very time consuming. *Editor*

Come and join us, for our special program on Saturday 31st May We remember, we commemorate and we celebrate.





Special dates for your Australian calendar - 2025

Here are the public holidays in New South Wales for 2025

- King's Birthday: Monday, 9 June
- Labour Day: Monday, 6 October
- Christmas Day: Thursday, 25 December
- Boxing Day: Friday, 26 December
- New Years Eve: Wednesday 31 December



Public School Holidays NSW 2025

Saturday 6th July 2025 Monday 21st July 2025 Winter vacation

Saturday 20th September 2025 Monday 13th October 2025 Spring vacation

Saturday 20th December 2025 Monday 26th January 2026 Summer Vacation

CONCORDIA

FUNCTIONS 2025
CARDIFF RSL

Important Dates:

Saturday 31st May
Saturday 26th July
Saturday 27th September
Saturday 20th December
AGM to be announced

Let your past make you better, not bitter





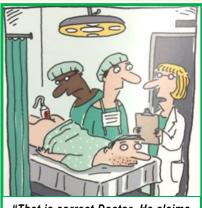




Concordia's next function will be held on Saturday 31st May. Our special get-together is all about the futility of war, the remembrance and the liberation. We will be celebrating Kings Day and Mothers day, we always honour our mothers wherever they are. Every mother in attendance will get a present from Concordia. Come and join us for a great day out with family and friends.

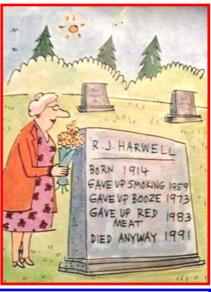
VENUE: CARDIFF RSL - Everyone is welcome, zegt het voort!





"That is correct Doctor. He claims that the instruction said to squeeze toothpaste from bottom"





Mientje stond in de elektriciteitswinkel en kocht twaalf 100 – watt lampen. Betty, die haar vriendin zoveel lampen zag kopen, vroeg haar: 'Mientje, waarom koop je zoveel lampen?' Waarop Mientje zuchtend antwoordde: 'Ik kom net van de dokter en die heeft me een licht dieet voorgeschreven.'

You will find no better best friend than your Mother in this world. Believe me, she knows you more than any one does. You are the flesh of her flesh. Respect her, cherish her, love her with all your heart, she could be gone one day and you'd find no one like her.



Joop, visited his mother for the last time in the Netherlands during **August 1993**. The above picture was taken during the celebration of her **90th** birthday. I totally overwhelmed my mum as she didn't know that I was a very big surprise to celebrate this milestone occasion.

My mother died 4 years later age 94 in September 1997.



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- Swift
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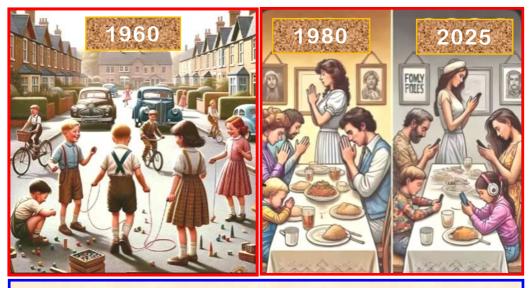
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The missing link in Australia, our famous Dutch food





The quest for peace begins in the home, in the school and in the workplace. You cannot find peace by avoiding life.



Koningsdag 2025 werd officieel in Doetinchem gevierd

Zijne Majesteit de Koning woonde op zaterdag **26 april 2025** met leden van het Koninklijk gezin en leden van de Koninklijke familie de viering bij van Koningsdag in Doetinchem, provincie Gelderland.

De Koning is getrouwd met Koningin Máxima. Ze hebben drie dochters: Prinses Catharina-Amalia (de Prinses van Oranje), Prinses Alexia en Prinses Ariane. Omdat konings dag officieel op een zondag viel dit jaar heeft men besloten dit een dag eerder te vieren, namelijk op zaterdag 26 April, gefeliciteerd namens Concordia!

Be careful how you vote in future and.... remember this story on any election day!

hile walking down the street one day, a Member of Parliament is hit by a truck and tragically dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. 'Welcome to heaven,' says St. Peter. 'Before you settle in, it seems there's a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, so we're not sure what to do with you. No problem, just let me in, 'says the politician. 'Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity. Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,' says the MP. I'm sorry, but we have our rules.' And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him. Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly & nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises....The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. 'Now it's time to visit heaven.' So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns. 'Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.' The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: 'Well, I would never have said it before, I mean, heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.' So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down to hell. Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. 'I don't understand.' stammers the MP. 'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?' The devil looks at him, smiles and says, 'Yesterday we were busy campaigning...Today you voted.' (Most political promises never last very long) Editor

Als bijen honing halen uit geurige bloemen, zo halen de mensen wijsheid en vreugde uit een vriendschap!

You don't lose if you get knocked down, you lose if you stay down.

Our choices for the 2025 FLU Season

o avoid getting the flu...Eat right! Make sure you get your daily dose of fruit and veggies. Take your vitamins and bump up your vitamin C. Get plenty of exercise because it builds your immune system. Walk for at least an hour a day, go for a swim if possible and take the stairs instead of the lift. Wash your hands often. If you can't, keep a bottle of antibacterial hand wash around. Get lots of fresh air. Open your doors or windows whenever possible. Try to eliminate as much stress from your life as you can and get plenty of rest.

OR....

Take my personal approach. Think about it...When you go for a flu needle, what do they do first? They clean your arm with alcohol...Why? Because....

Alcohol KILLS GERMS. So, I walk to the pub. (Exercise) I put lime in my vodka... (Fruit) Celery in my Bloody Mary (Veggies) Drink outdoors on the patio... (Fresh air) Tell jokes and laugh... (Eliminate stress) Then I pass out. (Rest) The way I see it... If you keep your alcohol levels up, flu germs can't get you! Not some bad advice from a teetotaller Jopp

Live Well, Laugh Often and Love Much.

Grieving never ends.... but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay, grieving is not a sign of weakness nor a lack of faith...its the price of love. RIP Niels





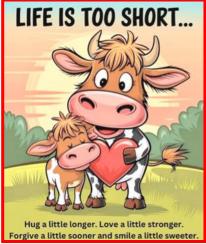


In the Netherlands we sometimes call our loved ones "Poepje" which means "Piece of shit" what a beautiful language!

When an Aussie says:
'Just Down the road',
it can be anywhere
from a block,
to a kilometre,
to a three day drive.

Life is like a camera.

Focus on what's important.
Capture the good times.
And if things don't work
out, just take another shot.







Another cosy variety afternoon was enjoyed by all



De kunst van te leven is: thuis te zijn alsof men op reis is.

As I recall, your exact words were...."You never take me out for a drive"



Now available:

A mower for artificial grass.

One of the many 1st of April jokes this year



Our love for Concordia is a combination of... Respect, Friendship, Understanding, Communication and Companionship. Therefore your Concordia friendship is like a bank account You cannot continue to draw on it without making a deposit. Please be generous, every amount is very welcome for the continuation of your Concordia. Bij voorbaat alvast bedankt!



All our earlier migrants arrived here legally, they were given nothing! They built homes and businesses.

They contributed to the Australian economy and their own personal prosperity. You all deserve a 'Thank You!'











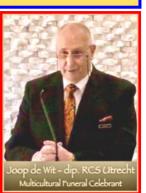
Please book your seats for the next Concordia Function.

Come to remember & celebrate a belated Mothers Day

Join us on Saturday 31st May at the Cardiff RSL - Everyone is welcome







Anyone celebrating a special event like an Anniversary, Birthday or some other special occasion during the next few months,

Concordia wishes you a pleasant time with family and friends.

Our sincere congratulations from your Concordia Family.

"Moge zij leve lang hoera hoera"



Yes, we are all experiencing financial issues, even Concordia is feeling the brunt. There are still a number of members that have not renewed their membership to date.

Only those with a **RED address label** are hereby notified. Get in touch with **Joop** to address this issue on: **4954 5227 or 0412 671 848**









You do not find a happy life, you have to make one!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE







FIND 10 DIFFERENCES





Your answers are in the above picture.

Wat vandaag niet is kan morgen komen. Vergeet daarom niet te blijven dromen. Deuren vandaag nog dicht gaan morgen misschien open. Vergeet daarom niet te blijven hopen. De traan van vandaag, is morgen wellicht een lach. Vergeet daarom niet te leven...**ELKE DAG** Cheese is made out of milk, its taste depends mainly on the quality of the milk. Natural factors such as climate, the quality of the local soil, and the grass used for feeding the cows play a significant role in determining the milk's quality and taste. The Netherlands produces richer, creamier milk than elsewhere in the world. We are also the second largest exporter of cheese.





People often judge others, but at the end of our lives its much better to have memories instead of regrets.

Happiness is a choice, not an achievement. Nothing will make you happy until you decide to be happy.



Nog eventjes een mopje:

Jim, die in een modern flat woont, wordt door een vriendin gevraagd of de muren dun zijn. Lachend herhaalt Jim de vraag: 'Of de muren dun zijn?

Gisteren zat ik in mijn keuken uien schoon te maken, toen kregen vier buurvrouwen tranen in hun ogen.'

Heavenly Search on Earth

An American decided to write a book about all the famous churches around the world. So, he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North before travelling to other countries.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs, when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read \$10,000 per call'. The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by, what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K. thank you,' said the American.

He then travelled all across America, Europe, England, Japan, New Zealand. In every church he saw the same looking golden telephone, with the same \$US10,000 per call' sign under it.

The American decided to travel to Australia to see if Australians had the same phone. He arrived at Sydney in Australia and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same looking golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read, 60 cents per call.' The American was surprised, so he asked the priest about the sign.

'Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in all of them, the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'

The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Australia now, my son,

"This is Heaven....so it's a local call"

The tongue has no bones, but its strong enough to break a heart. So be careful with your words

Your mobile phone has already replaced your watch, camera, calendar and alarm clock.

Don't let it replace your family!

















Michael Montgomery has a special talent in his professional entertainment for our guests. Once a year for the past 8 years.

In Memoriam: Valerie Connelly - Aged 90 years

Valerie passed away 20th February, 2025. Dearly loved wife of Donald.

Much loved mother and mother-in-law to all her children. Valerie left a legacy behind of 10 grandchildren and 11 Great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Valerie's life was held on *Friday 28th February 2025* at the Uniting Church, Main Road Boolaroo.

Our sincere condolences to all in the family, on behalf of the committee and members of Concordia. *May Valerie Rest in Peace*

With deep sadness we received the passing of our member Joop van Leeuwarden - Aged 95 years - Late of Hamilton.

Dearly loved Husband of the late Rene van Leeuwarden.

Much loved father & father-in-law of Bert & Carol, Ron & Tina,

Alex & Tina, Eric and Sandra, Paul & Melissa. Loved and adored

Opa & great Opa of their families. Good friend & mentor to many.

A celebration of his long life was held Saturday 12th April.

To all of Joop's family and friends we convey, on behalf of the committee and members of Concordia, our deepest sympathy in the loss of their loved one. May Joop rest in Peace - Rust in Vrede.



We were saddened and upset when the news broke that our life member Niels de Groot said his goodbye to his world. Niels was a strong supporter since the start of Concordia.

Niels de Groot - Aged 97 years - Late of Hamilton.

Neils passed away on his own accord, his loving family besides him.

Tuesday 8th April 2025 - Dearly loved husband of Nel de Groot.

Much loved Father, Father-in-law and precious Opa to all his grand & great-grand-children. Niel's family and friends attended a celebration of his Life on Friday 11th April at James Murray's funeral chapel in Broadmeadow. A cremation preceded the service of thanksgiving.

To Nel, and all of Niel's family and friends, we convey, on behalf of the committee and members of Concordia our deepest sympathy in the loss of their loved one. May Niels rest in Peace - Rust in Vrede.





DEADLINE NEXTISSUE:

For our July-August issue is the 10th June 2025.

Copy received after this date will be included in the

September - October 2025 issue.



Letters to the editor

Thank you Joop and all of the committee for a lovely day. Your hard work is appreciated, Central Coast members *Glenda & Pieter*.

Dear Joop, thank you for emailing the Concordia magazine. I had quite a few laughs and enjoyed reading it so much. I love the picture of the old man holding his wife to put up the star on top of the tree, wondering what's going to go wrong. Because I live in Brisbane, I got really envious that I can't go to 't winkeltje' in Smithfield to buy croquettes. My Dutch neighbour Gerda (now deceased) used to make them for me, they were so very nice. What do the Speculaas biscuits on the bread signify? Am loving the old lady whose husband said that she needed new batteries in her hearing aids. Also, the lady who'd crossed the road with her undies around her ankle reminded me of a rhyme from my childhood. "I danced across the ballroom floor, I tripped the light fantastic, when suddenly I rushed for the door, you should never trust elastic!" Again, thank you so much for the enjoyment you provide. Kind regards Diane Guy

Thank you for your kind words Diane. Its nice to know you appreciate our newsletter. There is a Dutch Club in Brisbane, they have a small Dutch shop. The address is 123 Pine Road, Richlands, 4077 QLD. The speculaas biscuits on bread is something which seems not traceable. I have searched far and wide but there seems no proper true answer to this question.

Enjoy and take care. Joop

Oorlog is mensenwerk...Vrede ook!

Dodenherdenking en Bevrijdingsdag 2025

Zijne Majesteit de Koning, Hare Majesteit Koningin Máxima en de Minister-president zijn op 4 mei aanwezig bij de Nationale Herdenking op de Dam in Amsterdam. De minister-president is op 5 mei in Wageningen aanwezig bij de 5 mei lezing, dit jaar bij de Poolse premier Donald Tusk. Aansluitend ontsteekt onze minister-president Schoof het Vrijheidsvuur. Het Koninklijk Paar en de minister-president wonen die avond in Amsterdam het 5 mei concert bij, de afsluiting van de Nationale Viering van de Bevrijding in Nederland. Editor

I am good at multitasking.

I can listen, ignore and forget all at once

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