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Australia

Nederland



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DUTCH  
SOCIETY CONCORDIA - HUNTER REGION NSW**



*Concordia wishes  
all our readers, their  
families and friends,  
a very pleasant  
Festive Season.*

**Concordia is a Dutch - Australian Social Club - Established in 1957**  
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***We invite everyone to all our functions. "Gezelligheid kent geen tijd"***

### NEWSLETTER OF THE DUTCH SOCIETY "CONCORDIA"

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***Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.***

**DISCLAIMER:** This Concordia news is produced as an information service only without assuming responsibility. It is intended for information sharing and general purposes only. Views expressed in articles and letters printed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of Concordia. Any advice offered or given should not be relied on as a substitute for professional advice. Concordia is completely neutral, does not belong to any religious or political organisation and only acts in the general & neutral interests of our current members.

**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 & Editor's Desk - Joop de Wit*

**W**hat a very intimate Anniversary celebration. Concordia turned **68 years**. We enjoyed a great Dutch festive show during our last function in the Cardiff RSL. More people than those officially booked turned up. Also some were not able to make it and they apologised for not feeling well. Everyone was in a festive mood and the day was once again a great success. Yes, we can always accommodate many more but, it was '**oergezellig**' as everyone commented after the show.

**Most members** still carry a bit of Dutch culture within. Time and time again we notice people at our functions in the Cardiff RSL showing many happy faces after those events. A little bit of Dutch national pride and heritage perhaps. Yes, we are all unique, but despite having embraced our **Australian** identity we still feel a soft spot for our original homeland. The more mature generation of readers will surely recognise and even appreciate the heritage we left behind in our country of birth. **Concordia** is here to create some of the old world atmosphere which includes the famous **Dutch 'Gezelligheid'** Our aim is to cater for everyone. It doesn't matter if you are **Dutch, Australian** or just looking for a cosy afternoon. Our memories can be a great tool in keeping us happy and healthy.

**For the adults** we have a special **Dutch** Christmas celebration planned for **Saturday 20th December** in the **Cardiff RSL**. Our Committee is looking forward to welcome everyone for the biggest function of the year. All in all, a big show is being planned. We sure have a few surprises for you. Not forgetting the bouts of laughter I hear during all the functions. '**Dutch Gezelligheid**' Just get yourself booked in for a special Christmas celebration. Please book a seat for our last **2025** function!

**If you noticed a red address label** on this newsletter it means that your membership is no longer valid. If **NO** payment is received before the end of the year we stop sending further issues. If by chance we made a mistake just give us a call to clarify your position. We have always been very lucky, most members pay their memberships including a donation, we are so grateful for your support. Thanks for your attention enjoy our new issue.

**Wishing all our readers** a very happy festive month of December. Please be patient & kind to each other. **Until next time....** your editor **Joop**



### *From the Presidents Desk - Toni Somerville*

**Dear Readers,** Christmas is not far away. All the shops and supermarkets have been full of Christmas items for weeks. This is our last newsletter for the year and our last function will be on December 20.

**I hope** you have enjoyed reading **Joop's** newsletters during the year, and the functions if you were able to attend. Joop puts so much effort and time into both.

**Jopie Ryan** decorated the tables beautifully again at our September 68th birthday and Father's Day celebration. The men present were given a small belated Father's Day gift. Thank you very much **Jopie**.

**We are grateful** for donations received at the functions and raffle prizes, also to everyone who send memberships due and donations to our Westpac bank. Please don't forget to email Concordia your name and money sent, otherwise the Treasurer won't know who sent it.

**The attendance** at the **AGM** was disappointing though apologies were received by members unable to attend. It was gratifying to see new member, **Tony de Sain**, attend. Thank you **Tony**, we look forward to seeing you at the Christmas function.

**President, Treasurer and Committee members** who were due for re-election were returned for another 2 years. Thank you all for your commitment to the club.

**Our member, Tony Kircher**, passed away on September 18. Tony loved coming to the functions. Sadly, when his health deteriorated, he was unable to attend anymore. Our sincere sympathy to **Irene**, family, relatives and friends. **Tony** is sadly missed, also by Concordia members.

**Jan and Monique**, owners of **t' Winkeltje** in Sydney, donated packets of **maatjes herrings** to be shared at our September birthday function. Thank you very much **Jan** and **Monique**, such a kind donation and much appreciated.

**St Nicholas and Piet** are coming again after lunch to our Christmas function



(Continued from page 4)

and are happy to have photos taken with you. As before they are sure to be warmly welcomed. Thank you both very much. They will have a small treat for everyone.

**We hope to see many members** and guests at the last function of the year. You don't have to be Dutch to enjoy our functions so come and check us out.

**If a loved family member**, relative or friend has passed on this year, may cherished memories comfort you. Sending best wishes for better health to all who are not well.

**Wishing you and your loved ones** a bright and cheerful Christmas. Happiness, good health and a safe 2026.

**Come and join us**, catch up with your friends, **St Nicholas** and **Piet**, smorgasbord lunch, entertainment by **Joop** and a great raffle at the last function of this year on **Saturday 20th of December**. Enjoyment guaranteed.

**Until next time**, take care, stay well and enjoy the Festive Season. **Toni**

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



*Weet je nog wel, oudje !!*



*Memory Lane - St. Nicholas visiting the Instuif at Marmong Point*



**HAPPY**  
*New Year*

Wishing you a joyful and prosperous New Year 2026! May this year bring new hope, endless opportunities, and beautiful moments to cherish.

**2026**

*Australians all let us rejoice, for we are one and free!*

# Sinterklaas

## KOMT OP BEZOEK

**Saturday 20th December 2025**

**Cardiff RSL - Take your camera!**



*We are keeping our former traditions alive at **Concordia***



*Die goede oude tijd zijn en  
blijven mooie herinneringen!*



*Our Concordia's St. Nick*



# Dutch News

News And Current Affairs, News - Overseas



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

## MEMBERSHIP Renewals

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



*Get well soon!*

*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!*



Traditional Dutch Recipe

WE'RE  
COVID  
SAFE

T. Winkeltje

*Dutchies*  
SNACK FOOD



# Original Dutch Croquettes

Smullen maar!

**'t Winkeltje  
The Dutch Shop**

85 Market Street Smithfield

Phone: 9604 0233

Daily 10am to 4pm - Closed Monday's

Also available at  
the following places

**Bibina - Warners Bay**

**Fill & Carry - Kanwal**

**Suteliffe Meats - Erina Fair**

**Cresthaven Meats - Bateau Bay**

*It's all Dutch en heel lekker*

Kroketten &  
Bitterballen

Frikandellen

**Available at all of the above outlets**

Croquettes Beef 23% - Deluxe Beef 46% - Chicken - Bitterballen  
- Beef Goulash - Party/Snack Size - Cheese Chicken / Schnitzel  
Sausages - Frikandellen

*Your special invite for Saturday 20th December  
Concordia Presents....*

*a special Festive December season afternoon.*

*St. Nicholas and his helper will quickly call in to say hello  
before leaving to his aged care facility in Spain.*

*All this, and more at the Cardiff RSL.*

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



**Anyone is welcome - Booking essential - Enjoy our show**

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

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

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



*They were the best and won  
1st Prize for 'Beste oliebol'*







**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 you can put something back into Concordia without too much effort.***



*Our Family heirloom*



# The Newcastle & Hunters 47th Multicultural Christmas Concert 2025

**VENUE:** **SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL**

Hunter Street - Newcastle West - NSW

**DATE:** Sunday 7th December - 2025

**TIME:** 7pm - 10pm

**COMPERE:** Joop de Wit - MC

**ADMISSION:** Free



A collection plate to go around during the service to cover the cost of the concert

The following participants for this unique Christmas concert are...

- ★ Community Singing Organist Dr. Anne Millard
- ★ Combined Choir
- ★ Callaghan Singers
- ★ Easy Voices Chorus
- ★ Filipino Choir of Newcastle
- ★ Novatones Harmony Chorus
- ★ Sing Australia Belmont Choir
- ★ The Vocal Company
- ★ Tongan Community Choir



A memorable vocal Christmas trip around the world

Featuring Multi-Cultural & Local Australian Choirs

For further information, contact the Public Relations Officer:

Joop de Wit email: [concordianewcastle@bigpond.com](mailto:concordianewcastle@bigpond.com)

Phone: 02 4954 5227 - Mobile 0412 671 848



©  
JdW

*Our 47th Annual Christmas Concert For all to enjoy*



# Zalig Kerstfeest



*Come and join us , enjoy our special Festive Christmas Function  
Everyone is welcome, please pay at the door, only \$20pp*

## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025**

**It is my pleasure** to present the Treasurer's report for the **Dutch Society Concordia Hunter Region** for the past financial year.

**Our club's** financial position remains stable, with the bank balance holding steady throughout the year. Income and expenditure have been consistent with previous years, reflecting prudent financial management and with the generosity of our members and advertisers, we have been able to subsidise our Saturday functions helping to keep them accessible and enjoyable for all.

**However,** we continue to face ongoing challenges. Attendance at our functions has seen a gradual decline, and we are seeing little to no growth in younger membership. Our membership base is aging, and despite the enthusiasm and loyalty of our current members, the long-term sustainability of the club depends on attracting new, younger members to carry the torch forward.

**We are fortunate** to have a dedicated committee whose efforts and commitment ensure the smooth running of the club. I would also like to acknowledge the many generous donations received this year, your support is greatly appreciated and vital to the continued success of our club. Thank you to all members for your continued support. **Mathijs Wolthers Treasurer.**

*Je wordt niet dik tussen Kerst & Oud and New  
Maar tussen oud & New and Kerst.*

## *Here are the public holidays in New South Wales for 2026*

- New Year's Day: *Thursday 1st January*
- Australia Day: *Monday 26th January*
- Good Friday: *Friday 3rd April*
- Easter Saturday: *Saturday 4th April*
- Easter Sunday: *Sunday 5th April*
- Easter Monday: *Monday 6th April*
- Anzac Day: *Saturday 25th April*
- King's Birthday: *Monday 8th June*
- Labour Day: *Monday 5th October*
- Christmas Day: *Friday 25 December*
- Boxing Day: *Saturday 26 December*
- Additional Day: *Monday 28th December*
- New Years Eve: *Thursday 31 December*



### *Public School Holidays NSW 2026*

*Tuesday 7th April 2026*  
*Friday 17th April 2026*  
**Autumn Holidays**

*Monday 6th July 2026*  
*Friday 17th July 2026*  
**Winter Holidays**

*Monday 28th September 2026*  
*Friday 9th October 2026*  
**Spring Holidays**

*Friday 18th December 2026*  
*Wednesday 27th January 2027*  
**Summer Vacation**



*Our executive Committee*

**CONCORDIA**  
**FUNCTIONS 2026**  
**CARDIFF RSL**  
**Important Dates:**

*Saturday 28th March*

*Saturday 30th May*

*Saturday 25th July*

*Saturday 26th September*

*AGM to be announced*

*Saturday 19th December*



## **AGM 2025 - President's report**

**It is with pleasure** I present my President's report. It's hard to believe another year is behind us. A year where again, members and guests are in decline due to advanced ages and illness. Thank you sincerely to Secretary Joop, who is very dedicated to Concordia. He works tirelessly for the club. Members enjoy greatly his publications that is always informative with jokes and photos of members at Functions, all in colour and taken by Joop's daughter-in-law Jib. Joop's entertainment at functions is always enjoyable and appreciated. Mat remains our competent Treasurer which he does so well and has the clubs' finances well in hand. It's pleasing that Mat agreed to continue as Treasurer for another two years. Thanks' very much Mat.

**Our Committee ladies** are a great bunch of lovely ladies who give their all to make functions a happy occasion. I very much appreciate the help you always give me. Thanks to all for your donations including the creation of beautiful table decorations on the day of our functions.

**This year** once again a number of long-time and other members have passed away, they are sadly missed, our condolences are going to the loved ones that are staying behind. I sent my get-well wishes to all who are not well, I hope that they will recover soon. Stay positive so as to be able to return to our functions in the future.

**A sincere thanks** to the Cardiff RSL for the use of the large function room every year, especially the wonderful staff for opening the front door early so we can bring our gear in to set-up the room.

**We loved** having St. Nicholas (**Terry Moonen**) & his helper Piet (**Jib**) after our lunch at the Christmas function. Piet handing out small bags of kruidnootjes. Thanks so much to both in making many guests very happy as the memories of the past are flooding back.

**We certainly** enjoyed listening at 2 of our functions during the year where Michael Montgomery entertained us in March and Norm Bakker in July.

**To end my report**, sincere thanks to all members of Concordia who have donated in any way during the year and to the members who continue to support us at our functions. We welcome guests and new members. You don't have to be Dutch to enjoy our company 5 times a year.

Looking forward to another successful year. **Antonia Somerville, President.**

***Inner peace, it begins the moment you choose not to allow another person or event to control your emotions.***

**I love this Sunburnt country**, a land of sweeping plains.

But I've gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains.

The countryside is dying and there's just no end in sight,  
and just to rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.

**The landscape is on fire** from north of Brisbane to Geelong  
And everybody's asking "**where the hell did we go wrong?**"

But we can get through this one if we help each other out,  
take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.

**The rain is going to fall again**, the good times will return  
But living in Australia means at times it's going to burn.

So if you need a helping hand, just give a mate a call.  
We're all here to help you out and catch you when you fall.

**The RFS, the SES, the Firey's, and police**,

all put their lives upon the line to help to beat this beast.

So, hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do  
And I hope when this is over, we can make it up to you! **Editor**

**De mens heeft al veel uitgevonden**

**Koffie zonder Cafeïne—Bier zonder alcohol**

**Nu nog een parlement zonder idioten**





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**Wednesday: 8am - 4pm**

**Thursday: 8am - 4pm**

**Friday: 8am - 4pm**

**Saturday: Closed**

**Sunday: Closed**

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*Don't save anything for a special occasion.  
Being alive is a special occasion.*



*Er is altijd een geweldige kerstsfeer in 't Winkeltje*





*It's with great sadness to announce the passing of  
our much loved member;*

***Tony Kirchner*** - 89 Wonderful Years.

Tony passed away on ***Thursday 18th September 2025.***

Late of ***Mount Hutton*** - Formerly of ***Warners Bay.***

***Tony*** was a much loved husband of ***Irene.***

Beloved father and father-in-law of ***Tony jr & Catherine,***  
***Gabrielle & Paul, Melanie & Chris***

Proud and loved grandfather of ***Benjamin, Alicia, Breanna, Mikayla,***  
***Shanaë, Jeremy & Hayden.*** Loving great-grandfather of ***Harley.***

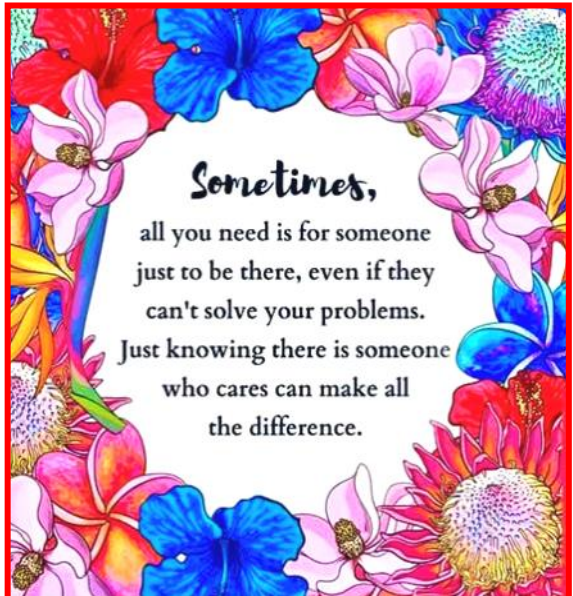
***Tony*** was a very good friend too many, he will certainly be missed by all  
those who touched his life.

A celebration of ***Tony's*** life took place in the ***New Apostolic Church*** at  
Kahibah on ***Monday 29th September 2025.***

***"Say not in grief 'He is no more' but in thankfulness that he was."***

Farewell ***Tony***, may you rest in Peace. ***Rust in Vrede - Ruhe in Friede.***

***My patriotic heart beats Red, White & Blue.***



***You know you are Dutch when you're the only one who is on time***

*A little poem for seniors, so very true that it can hurt!*

**Another year has passed** and we are all a little older. Last summer felt hotter and winter seems much colder. **There was a time** not long ago, when life was quite a blast. Now I fully understand about living in the past. **We used to go to weddings**, football games and lunches... Now we go to funeral homes and after-funeral brunches. **We used to go out dining** and couldn't get our fill. Now we take a doggie bag, come home and take a pill. **We used to often travel** to places near and far. Now we get sore bottoms from riding in a car. **We used to go to night clubs** and drink a little booze. Now we stay at home at night and watch the evening news. **That my friend is how life is**, and now my tale has been told. **So enjoy each and every day**, to love it up before you're too dammed old! *Editor*

**Concordia wishes all our readers  
A happy Festive Season.**

# A U S T R A L I A

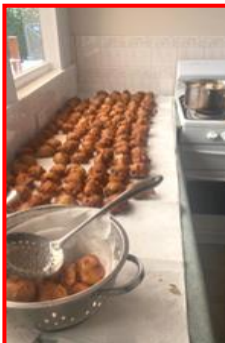


*Happy Australia Day 2026*

**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.



*Some photographic memories of our last September function*





*Sandra has 2 great passions  
Drinking Beer and Horse Riding*



*Joop is preparing another great afternoon*

*Christmas stress. Yes its true, Santa Claus  
doesn't say Ho Ho Ho for nothing!*

Concordia

S@MEN

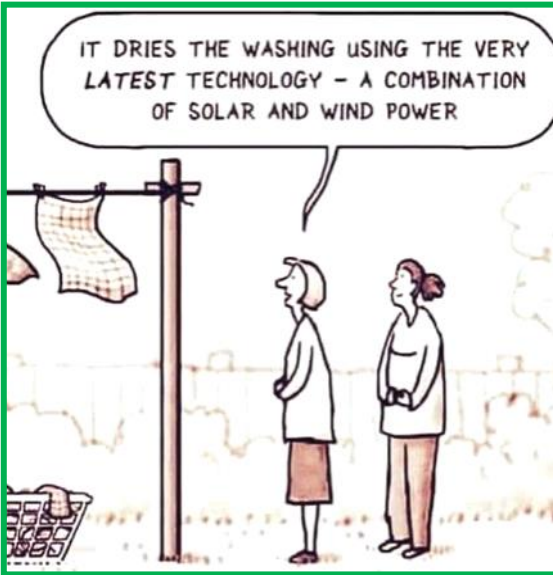
SINDS 1957



**June 30** was the official end of Concordia's financial year.  
We allow our members a period of **2 months** to pay their new  
membership before the **30th August** as the closing date.  
Those already paid we thank you. Please refer to page 35 for  
information. Some memberships are now overdue for 2025-2026!



***Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall - Humpty Dumpty had a great fall  
The structure of the wall was incorrect. So he won ten grand with claims direct.***



***Love is Free, it's a shame some people are so frugal with it.***

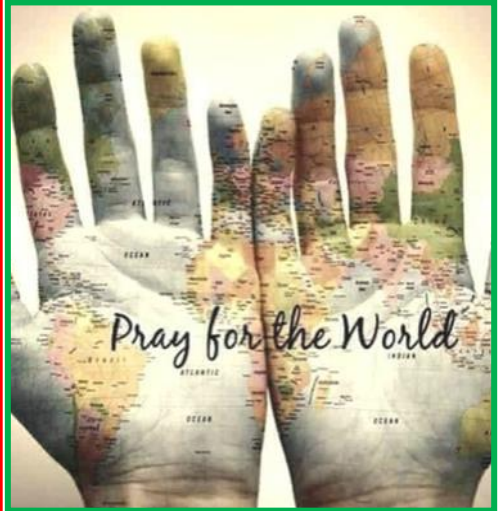


***The older you get, the more you chose calm over conflict. Drama becomes peace. You start surrounding yourself with people who are good for your mental health, Heart and Soul.***



# Kerstfeest

*I always offer two dinner choices - take it or leave it.*



From the President of the Multicultural Choral Society *Joop de Wit*

You are invited to our 47th annual  
**Multicultural Christmas Concert**

To be held on: **Sunday 7th December 2025**

**Venue: Sacred Heart Cathedral**

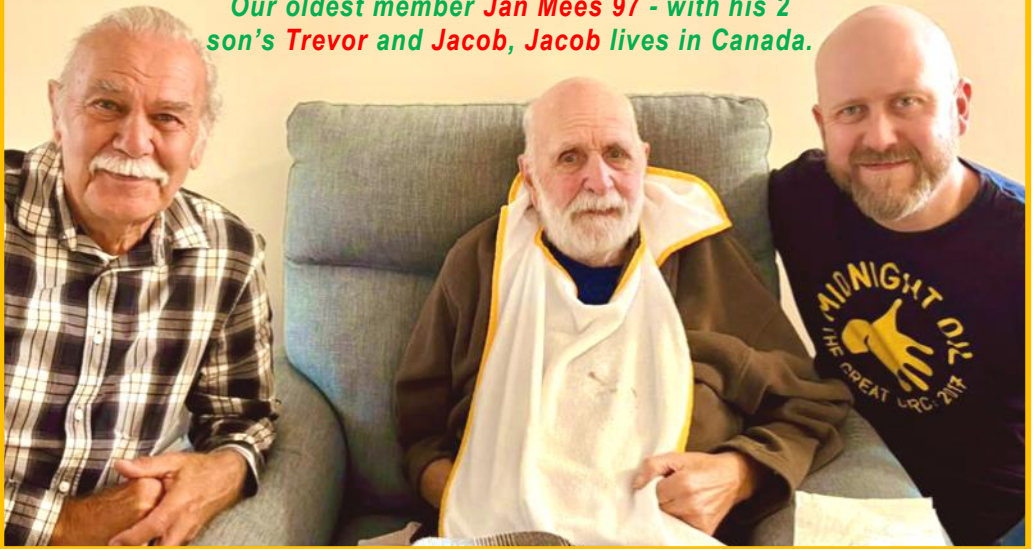
**Hunter Street— Newcastle West**



**Commencing 7pm - Free Concert - Collection plate during the service.**

*A Festive Multicultural Christmas Celebration*

*Our oldest member Jan Mees 97 - with his 2 son's Trevor and Jacob, Jacob lives in Canada.*



*My mother-in-law is an organ donor.*

*In her will she is to give anything to save others, except her eyes.*

*She wants to see where she is going after her passing.*



*Because we walk past hundreds of people every day, and none of them wear signs that say, "I am grieving," "I am exhausted," or "I am barely holding it together." But they are everywhere. Kindness might be the only softness we can give them every day, Merry Christmas 2025*



# Christmas WORD SEARCH



F T N E M A N R O S Y R R E M  
 I N A M W O N S A H T A E R W  
 R S T O C K I N G P E A C E P  
 E C Y N B S T D E C E M B E R  
 P Q H V W A E G S T E L V R L  
 L S W R C M A I N L I E E Z G  
 A Z N L I R I E K G E I R K W  
 C E A O L S V S H O N I W T Y  
 E U V A W D T T E D O I G Y R  
 S S N I A M S M E L N C L H M  
 T D T K T T A E A T T I R N J  
 A N V F J S R N E S M O J M T  
 R G X L I Q E R T A X D E X W  
 M Y Z Y T G X F F J T N R N J



ADVENT  
 CHRISTMAS  
 COOKIES  
 DECEMBER  
 LIGHTS  
 MERRY  
 TREE  
 MISELTOE

PEACE  
 SANTACLAUS  
 GIFTS  
 REINDEER  
 SLEIGH  
 SNOWMAN  
 STAR  
 ORNAMENT

STOCKING  
 WREATH  
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*a Taste  
of Dutch*



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OPEN 6 DAYS: Mon - Fri 8am to 5pm \*\*\* Thurs 8am to 7pm \*\*\* Sat 8.30am to 4pm

## *Secretary's Report 2024-2025 AGM*

**Dear members**, firstly I like to thank you for your continuing support of Concordia. Having personally clocked up **42** years of association with our club since I joined during an AGM in **1983**. During all that time I have written many reports. Most of those reports were positive and encouraging. What saddens me every year is the decline in general health of our ageing members, this of course has resulted in the loss of a number of members, Those losses keep striking at the core of our Concordia organisation.

***Members that have left us to greener pastures since our last AGM were:***

**Rick Melder 03/11/2024** aged **61**.

**Valerie Connelly 20/02/2025** aged **90**.

**John Peschar 06/12/2024** aged **96**.

**Joop van Leeuwarden 06/04/2025** aged **95**.

**Niels de Groot 08/04/2025** aged **97**.

**Helen Lewis 21/04/2025** aged **79**.

**John Melder, 25/08/2025** aged **82**

**Anton (Tony) Kirchner, 18/09/2025** aged **89**.

***May they rest in peace.***

Concordia Members that have reached **100 years since 1957** were **Anton Davelaar 24/07/2017** aged **101**. **Martha Mulder 22/04/2023** aged **102** and **Lena van der Lely 20/08/2024** aged **100**. Do you know of someone that has reached **100plus years** since **1957** I might have overlooked?

Our current oldest member is **Mr Jan Mees**, Jan will be **97** in **December 2025**.  
2<sup>nd</sup> in-line is **Henk de Jong 96**. Henk celebrated his Birthday **last October**.

**Overall**, it has been a reasonable year for our club. The hardship of the economy in regard to cost of living is a very big issue, everything is getting more expensive, printing, mailing and even the meals at the RSL. To combat our concerns, we need to encourage our members to think about the future of Concordia, especially regarding **extra donations**, very welcome indeed.

**During** the past year, our Committee has met on several occasions. We debated the various Concordia issues. At every meeting we always experienced a great atmosphere; I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their wonderful work for our club. Our President **Toni Somerville** became an official Concordia member on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

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2006, She has now clocked up **19** years, first as a committee member and **14** years as our President. She is an excellent operator. Our Treasurer **Matthew Wolthers** is in control of Concordia's finances doing a great job since **2013**. Some Committee members unfortunately had to resign for personal health reasons may we thank in particular **Henry Louwen, Gonnie Terpstra, Gerda Wood. Henry Louwen** and his wife **Johanna** & also **Gonnie Terpstra** are now residing in **Opal aged care in Berkley Vale**, I regularly visit them once a month. All this means we have a number of vacancies in our committee, love to see them filled one day soon. **Koby Stevens**, formerly of Wallsend is now a resident in **Kirkpatrick Court**, Toronto, **Connie Verstegen** has moved into **Arcare**, Warners Bay.

**Concordia is**, despite the losses and minimal attendances at our functions still a growing concern. This doesn't offset those who have left us for greener pastures. Our **5** Concordia afternoons during the year is our only asset to get-together. The number of members attending our functions is of some concern, not because of the type of get-togethers which we all truly enjoy, it's about the number of guests. What does stick out is always the harmony and the **'gezelligheid'** of meeting up with friends that share a similar background, so many are always looking forward to a day out and having a good time. Lately we have a number of **Thai** and **Filipino** people attending as they are very impressed with our hospitality and what we have on offer. They have already booked a full table for the next Christmas function, please make them feel welcome. **St. Nicholas** will again bring a visit with his **Piet** named **Jib**, many are looking forward to our next function on Saturday **20<sup>th</sup>** December. In Australia we have a slogan **we are many**, therefore we are open to anyone that is looking for a great day out.

**The Concordia Newsletter** has made a big impact by all our readers. We are mailing around **135 hardcover** issues every print, on top of those I personally deliver around **20**. I am also sending around **250** issues by email to many readers in Australia and around the world. The only negative part is that the emailed issues don't bring much revenue in our financial situation, however Concordia's main concern is to bring a ray of sunshine to as many Dutch people in Australia and beyond. Let those that get a Concordia issue by email, please sent an occasional donation to help us out. Our very first coloured Concordia issue was sent out during **February 2022**, they were having a dramatic effect on the quality of the newsletter, thanks to **Claudio**

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of **PixPrint** in **Weatherill Park**, also to **Jan & Monique van Altena** for looking after them after they are printed, I have to include the generous donations of many of our members including from the **Dutch shop 't Winkeltje** and **Holland house** during the past few years. We have saved around **A\$1000** per issue by having it printed in Sydney instead of **OfficeWorks**. it wasn't even a very good print in comparison to **PixPrint**.

**This my friends** is the Secretaries report **2024-2025** It's a reflection of the past 12 months serving our members. Thanks, must go to everyone by your attendance. On a personal level I wish you all good health and many happy years of **'gezellige' (cosy)** get-togethers. It's also my personal wish that we can continue spreading and enjoying Concordia's happiness for many years to come. **Joop de Wit**, **Hon. Secretary Dutch Society Concordia**.

***Never let the thought of what you want tomorrow  
make you forget what you already have today.  
Stay strong, positive and blessed.***

**kom mar famke, wy binne yn  
dit lân net mear wolkom.**

**Come on Femke, we are no longer  
welcome in this country.**



**Did you pack your bags yourself Sir?  
No, the Elves did.....**

**Last night in a restaurant I ordered a glass of wine with my  
meal, the waiter asked me for some ID. I replied , "Do I look that  
young?" the waiter said "No, I just wanted to see if you  
qualified for the Senior Citizen discount."**



*Come and join us for a great day out with your family and friends.  
CARDIFF RSL - Saturday 27th September- Everyone is welcome.*



## **‘OLIEBOLLEN’** fritters

**Mix flour, milk, yeast, salt, sugar and raisins to a smooth batter. Cover it and let it rise for an hour. Heat the oil in a deep fryer to 180 degrees. Use an ice cream scoop to form a ball, drop it in the oil and fry for 5 minutes. Serve with icing sugar.**

**Ingredients for  
20 fritters:**  
500 g sifted flour  
500 ml milk  
7 gr instant yeast  
40 g raisins  
25 g sugar  
a teaspoon of salt  
sunflower oil  
icing sugar



*Whenever you're having a bad day, remember this:  
Concordia loves you!*

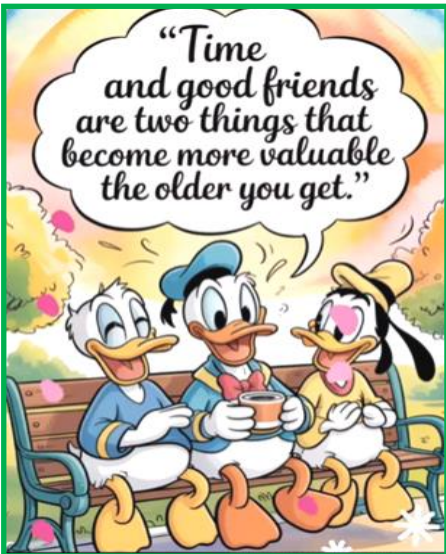




## DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE:

For our MARCH-APRIL issue is the 10th FEBRUARY 2026

*Copy received after this date will be included in the May-June 2026 issue.*



**Mashed potatoes** can be truly amazing, but sometimes they taste a bit... well, boring. What I often use: Butter, and lots of it. Don't skimp on it; it makes it nice and creamy. Sometimes I add a dash of cream or milk. Garlic! Just cook a clove with the potatoes; it gives it such a lovely flavour. Herbs: A little parsley, chives, or a pinch of nutmeg can work wonders. Cheese: Add Parmesan or aged cheese, seriously, that takes it to another level. Extras: a spoonful of coarse mustard or a little truffle oil if you want to impress. Honestly, I think mashed potatoes are only truly good when they're almost too buttery. Dry mashed potatoes are just very sad food. *Love this better than any Christmas dinner, Editor*





**A man** approached a very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and asked, ***"You know, I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?" "Why?" "Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere."***

### ***Letters to the Editor***

**Hello Joop**, I would like to thank you for the newsletters I've received from you over the past few years. Let me introduce myself. My name is **Annelies te Velde Prummel**, born and raised in **Veendam**. I am a cousin of **Antonia Somerville** and **Ingrid Thomas**. I admire your dedication to making such a difference for the Concordia Club. I read that the club has been around for 68 years this year, hats off to you! I think the Concordia Club is a very close-knit community. I still enjoy receiving your lovely newsletter every time. Thanks again, **Joop**. Give my warm regards to my family. Sincerely, **Annelies te Velde**

**Hello Joop**, I would like to inquire whether I can apply for a new membership. My Opa (**Bas**) gave me his copies of the newsletter to learn '**een beetje Nederlands**' but he passed away and I infrequently get Oma's (**Hendrika**)

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copies since I have moved away out of the district (*down near Canberra*). It is okay for me to apply even though I live out of the district, I have transferred the membership fee direct to Concordia's bank account. You should received it in a couple of days. I would appreciate the printed issue sent to my address as I have kept every single one *Opa* has given me. Whilst I most likely cannot volunteer due to my remote location, I can contribute financially if any opportunities arise to support your functions and newsletter etc. I have fond memories of both the functions and newsletter and have heard *Bas* mention your name many times. Please let me know if/when you receive my membership fee in the bank. When I know it was received okay, I'll send some extra (*I assume donations go to the same bank account*).

**Dear Joop**, thank you for remembering mum's passing after 12 months, time does go by fast. My family always mentions the service you have done, and how good it was. Regards *Karl van der Lely*

**Hello Joop**, Thank you for remembering, and your kind words about our Mum. We miss her heaps, but we know that she thoroughly enjoyed her time with her friends at Concordia. Losing *Renee* last December was another blow, totally unexpected, but it makes one doubly grateful for still being around - and upright! On another note: I have today transferred the membership fee to Concordia, as I suspect I didn't renew my subscription last year, though you kindly kept sending the newsletter to me. Thank you Joop. It is good to read and I enjoy seeing familiar names. Keep up the good work. I would love to have joined you next Saturday, but the tyranny of distance .....Kind regards, *Sandra Stevens*

**Thanks for your message Joop**, re annual Concordia meeting. We are unable to attend but I just want to let you know that we vote for all the current committee members to continue their tasks. They all do just such a wonderful job and without you *Joop*, there would not even be a Concordia, so please stay healthy! Currently it is very hot here and extremely strong wind gusts happening. Hope no fires or other disasters, best wishes *Joop*, please keep well, *Anne & Keiran* Central coast.



**A FRIENDLY  
REMINDER**

**Please send your  
payment today.  
Thanks!**

# NEW MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

## DUTCH SOCIETY CONCORDIA - NEWCASTLE & DISTRICT

Annual Membership Fees are payable between **1st July** and before **31th August** each year

Membership includes 5 copies of our newsletter - Hard copy or by email, your choice entirely.

Tick if this is a new membership

☐

*I wish to apply for a new Membership*

Tick if this is a renewal

☐

*I wish to renew my Membership*

Tick if this is a giftsubscription

☐

*I like to give a gift Subscription*

Tick if this is a donation

☐

*I like to make a donation to Concordia*

*I agree to accept and abide by its constitution*

**Mr. Mrs. Miss. Ms. :**

**CHRISTIAN NAMES:**

**SURNAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**CITY / POSTCODE:**

**TELEPHONE Home/Mobile:**

**EMAIL address:**

**Date(s) of Birth:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**Annual Fee &  
Renewal Fee:**

**\$ 20-00** (inclusive of GST)

**Couple / Family and Single memberships**

**Hereby Cheque/Money Order in the amount of: \$.....**

**Send to: THE TREASURER DUTCH SOCIETY CONCORDIA**

**P.O. BOX 16, CARDIFF - NSW 2285—Please do not send Cash**

**No receipt will be issued unless officially requested or after the relevant bank statements are received.**



# CONCORDIA

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**Keep in touch with the Dutch**