

Some historical events re the DACC  
A personal view. November 2004

1976 I started contributing to 2EA. Found great lack of resources. In the group discussion of a 'resources centre'

1977 Leif Kristensen produces sketch ideas for a Cultural centre. Location unknown.

We feel that future generations want to be able to stay in contact with their Dutch background. So talk about a coffee place with Dutch newspapers, a reference library, a radio studio and even a TV studio.

1981 I visit the statue of Liberty and its migrant museum.

1983 I'm inspired by the migrant museum in Sweden. I also hear that documents relating to the migrant experience are thrown away in the Netherlands.

A committee is formed to discuss the creation of a Dutch Australian Centre in Sydney.

Object:

Preserve history of our migration.

- Exhibitions showing our early experiences in Australia and work by Dutch and Dutch Australian artists.
- Provide a reference library and archives in Dutch and English on our experience and the countries of origin. (Netherlands and the Indies)
- Promote maintaining contact with cultural developments in the Netherlands.

In the late 70's an exhibition is organised in the pavilion of Bondi Beach.

By 1988 the building committee for Abel Tasman Village reserves a place for a 'Dutch Australian Centre' as part of their contribution to the general Dutch Australian Community.

1994 The DAC building is opened officially by the ambassador. It soon stored the famous Dutch Costumes and many worthwhile documents.

The things that we did in the early days.:

- March 1994 Exhibition on the migration from the Netherlands. 'From Clogs to Thongs' with booklet of the same title.
- August 1995 Exhibition on the migration from the Dutch East Indies. 'The other Dutch' with booklet of the same title.
- An exhibition of large paintings reflecting a daughters view on the suffering of her mother during Japanese occupation.
- An exhibition showing the quilts made by Dutch Australians
- Other booklets: 'Dutch Cookery' 1996 (With permission from the dept. foreign affairs in the Netherlands), 'Tulips under the Gum Tree' 1998, 'Klets Kruimels' 1998, 'Oranje Gids' 1999
- In the 90's we also organised Folk art painting, children days where we talked about Dutch traditions and made banketstaven, coloured speculaas poppen, introduce marzipan modelling en Palmpaas hazen etc.

My expectation is that the DACC will continue to service a need. Naturally different to the one we dreamed about. But that is progress!!!!

