

Dutch Australians at a Glance 1606-2009 (DAAAG): Virtual Centre and Portal: Acknowledging the Past. Sustaining the Present and Future.



A replica of the *Duyfken* in Sydney Harbour on 5 May 2001. The original *Duyfken* made landfall in northern Australia in 1606. During the re-enactment of the original voyage, the replica travelled 18 200 nautical miles and spent 289 days at sea, arriving at Texel on 28 April 2002.

Een replica van de *Duyfken* in de haven van Sydney op 5 mei 2001. De eerste *Duyfken* landde in Noord-Australië in 1606. De replica heeft de reis opnieuw gemaakt, daarbij 18.200 zeemijlen afgelegd en 289 dagen op zee verkeer. Het schip kwam op 28 april 2002 aan op Texel.

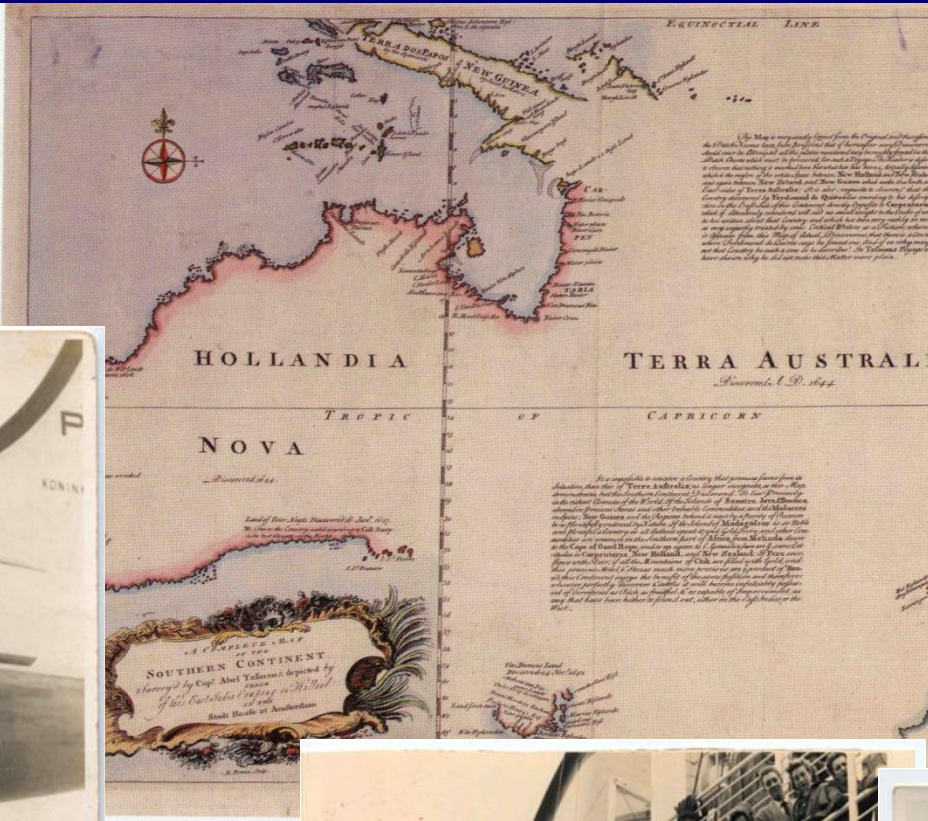
The Dutch Presence in Australia

The Dutch have a 400 years plus connection with Australia that began, officially, in March 1606 when *Captain Willem Janszoon* and the crew of the *Duyfken* mapped around 300 kilometres of the Cape York Peninsula in Queensland. Their charting literally put Australia on world cartographic maps. Since that time the Dutch have had various maritime, military, migration and mercantile connections with Australia. The most significant occurred during WWII when Australia was host to the Netherlands East Indies Administration in exile, and in its aftermath around 160,000 Dutch migrants – hoping for a better life made Australia home. The stories of the 17th & 18th century Dutch East India Company mariners, the 20th century WWII Netherlands East Indies Dutch and Indonesian troops, bureaucrats and merchant sailors, and Dutch migrants are the basis of the Dutch Australian historical/heritage saga. This rich cultural heritage needs to be preserved for posterity.

DAAAG

Dutch Australians at a Glance

Dutch Mariners, the Military, Migrants and Merchant Traders in Australia and the Region 1606 onwards.



KONINKLIJKE
ROTTERDAMSCH LLOYD
ROTTERDAM

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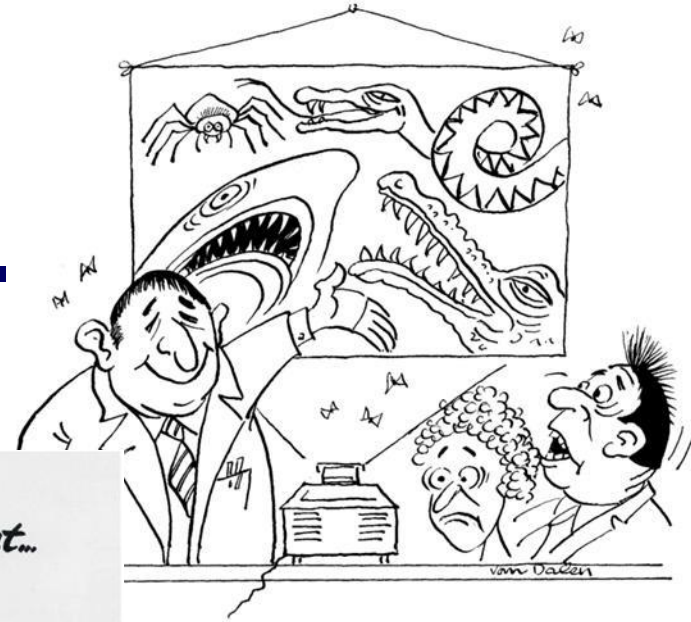
BAGAGERUIM
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Dutch Australians
at a Glance

Dutch Migrants - from Life in the Netherlands to Life in Australia.

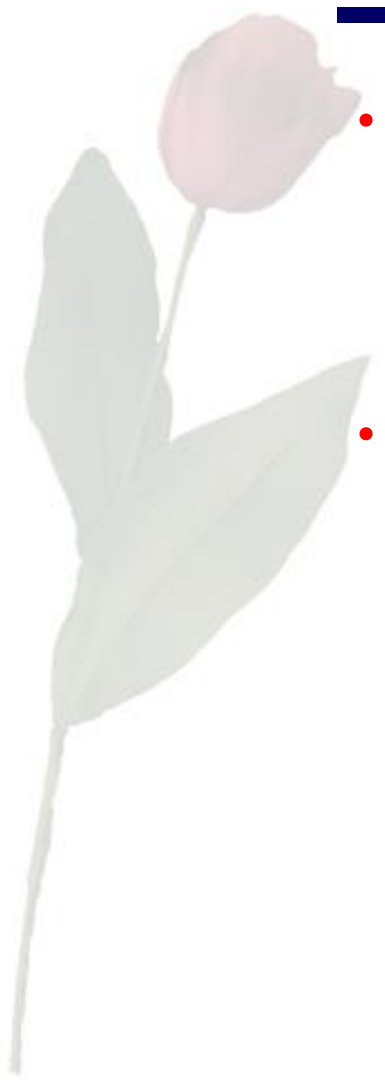


PRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIAN FAUNA.




Preserving History and Heritage

- The history of immigration has in recent times become a rising field for historical reflection, research and commemoration, thus diversifying the landscape of historical studies, historical exhibitions and museums.
- The United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO 2003) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS 2004) have both noted in recent times how the museum world is experiencing noteworthy transformations due to this global recognition of the urgent need to preserve both intangible and tangible heritage resources in the face of the accelerated pace of cultural and economic globalisation; **and the improbability that museums can cope with housing collections that reflect their nation's ethnic diversity- hence the need for DAAAG.**



Aims & Objective



The aim of the DAAAG Virtual Centre and Web Portal is to digitise, to preserve for posterity, Dutch Australians' intangible and images of their tangible cultural heritage for their progeny, for education and for research purposes.

Academics on Dutch history, migration and culture will provide a context for the digitised stories, databases and documents.

The Daaag 'Virtual Safe' will offer all Dutch in the diaspora a place to store their intangible cultural heritage for posterity.

Why DAAAG?

- The Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage, adopted at the 32nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO on 17 October 2003, notes that UNESCO considers the disappearance of heritage in whatever form constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all nations.
- In Australia, British imperialist/colonial history continues as most recognized heritage. Although since the 1980s, heritage places valued by Indigenous peoples have added to the richness of Australian heritage awareness.
- However, as yet the New World heritage of migrants goes largely unacknowledged.



How Can We Change This?

- We can address this omission with DAAAG a multi-layered and accessible resource the proposed pre-eminent virtual centre and portal of excellence to preserve Dutch migrant's cultural heritage for posterity; and by
- Working with national archives, libraries, and museums in Australia and the Netherlands, genealogical organisations and other relevant historical and heritage organisations.



What Will We Need To Do?

- By gathering and analysing research on Dutch cultural heritage in Australia;
- Conceptualising a database of heritage sites,
- Constructing indexes of photographs, documents, artefacts and other exhibition and collections ephemera, research bibliographies, lists of Dutch clubs & Dutch businesses - these can be sponsored by corporations,
- Digitise diaries, oral histories, letters, migrant literature, documentaries & films for educational purposes; and
- Construct a virtual safe where Dutch can purchase a space to store their family's oral and visual history - Daaag's commercial arm.




How the Information Might be Displayed

- A ‘Story Corner;
- A Who’s Who of the Dutch in Australia,
- A Virtual Exhibition space;
- An online journal of the Dutch Diaspora worldwide;
- Bulletin boards for academic interaction; and
- Conference and other event broadcaster.



The Purpose of DAAAG

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- The purpose of the DAAAG Virtual Centre and Portal then is to collate all manner of information; diaries, photographs, exhibitions, documents, oral histories, migrant literature, films as well as profiles of prominent Dutch Australians to display on this Web site for the community at large to experience, enjoy and learn from.
 - In this way DAAAG will capture the vital aspects of the Dutch - maritime, military, migration and mercantile - connection with Australia and Australians from 1606 to the present, that highlights the experiences and impact of the Dutch in Australia.
 - The stories on DAAAG of hard-work and the obstacles the Dutch mariners, troops, migrants and traders had to overcome to chart, defend and populate Australia and develop strong social, cultural, bilateral and trading links, will give profile to the “invisible Dutch” in the Australian, Dutch and international social, historical, cultural and heritage landscapes.

What else it will do.

- The success of DAAAG therefore lies in its versatility as both an academic and public resource because while operating as an easily accessible stimulating public resource it will concurrently function as a conduit for the research of international collaborative partnerships.
- The Web Centre will provide a platform for academics - worldwide - engaged in research on Dutch Australians and on the Dutch and other diasporas for interaction and research findings, workshops, conferences and international collaborations.



Who Will Use It?

The proposed easily accessible format will make it available to:

Journalists,

Academics and students - multi-disciplines


Bureaucrats

Policy makers

Service deliverers

The Dutch public in Australia, the Netherlands and the diaspora



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- The DAAAG innovative initiative acquired VOC support because it is a tangible promotion of Dutch-Australians' history and heritage that will also foster international academic collaboration.
 - DAAAG will therefore house the archive of the *Netherlands Australie 1606-2006* Web site as per VOC request.

Who Else Supports DAAAG

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- Institute Dutch History The Hague, NL
 - Erasmus Society, Melbourne.
 - Emigration Foundation, NL
 - Volkskundige Museum, Leiden
 - National Archives The Hague.
 - Curtin University, Australia.
 - Dirk Hartog Foundation, Netherlands
 - Minister for Culture and the Arts, Western Australia
 - Office of Multicultural Interests, Australia
 - Leiden University, Netherlands
 - Free University Amsterdam
 - Roosevelt Centre Middelburg Netherlands

Commercial Support a Possible Income Stream

- The proposed structure of DAAAG Virtual Web Centre and Portal makes it possible for sponsor to fund ‘specific parts of it’, such as **The Story Corner**, a **Who’s Who**, one of its **Databases**; or
- Purchase a **Virtual Safe** – a place where Dutch Australians can archive digitised family photographs, documents, oral histories and film for posterity the website to be archived with either the National Archives or National Library.
- Importantly, DAAAG will be a **template** of interest to immigrant groups of differing cultural and geographic backgrounds in Australia and elsewhere. Australia has since 1945 received over 6 million immigrants from over 200 different ethnic origins. Nearly a quarter of the current population was born overseas.



DAAAG a ‘Work-in-Progress’ where its at now?

To secure DAAAG’s economic and cultural sustainability I have instigated the following discussions and progresses:

- The DAAAG reference groups in NL and Oz
- DAAAG as a ‘mutual heritage’ activity.
- A DAAAG resource/academic centre.
- UNESCO on digitisation -legal and technical issues.
- DAAAG a commercial, government or combined venture?



DAAAG

Dutch Australians
at a Glance



In the globalised world is where you hang your hat home?