

## BROADCASTING IN THE DUTCH LANGUAGE

**SUNDAY FROM 16:30 TO 18:00 ON**

**Radio Fremantle 107.9FM.**



**W**elcome to the latest exciting news from the Dutch Community Radio

(DCR). I like to share a bit of history with you how it all started, nearly 50 years ago, with reel to reel or cassette tapes and no digital technology as we have it now.

**D**id you know that in 1975 an Ethnic Radio Steering Committee was set up in Perth with the aim to establishing ethnic broadcasting on a permanent basis. The then Federal minister for the Media gave the go ahead for AM & FM low power stations with an urban coverage of up to 14.5km. At that stage the University of WA and the WA Institute of Technology were granted broadcasting licenses. W.A.I.T. advertised to invite the interest and participation of Community Groups. One of the groups established was the Multicultural Radio and Television Association (MRTA). Dutch Community Radio is a member of MRTA from its inception. A Dutch program was transmitted via Radio 6NR, which was produced and presented by Henk Hukema.

The music played on air was mainly from records, which Henk Hukema had brought from The Netherlands, when he migrated to Australia. Henk decided to go back to The Netherlands in 1979 and the program was taken over by Barend and Johanna Viersma until 1980. During that period Gerrit Steketee was also involved for a short time.

In 1980 the program of Dutch Community Radio was taken over by Henk Meeuwese and his wife and Jan and Riet van Tiel. Henk Meeuwese became immediately involved with MRTA and as a council member.

Henk Meeuwese got in contact with Radio Nederland Wereldomroep in Hilversum in The Netherlands and was regularly supplied with music and other programs from The Netherlands, specially made for migrants living in Canada, The United States of America, New Zealand, and Australia. The programs were recorded on the big reel-to-reel professional studio tapes and could only be played on the reel-to-reel machines in the studio, because of the size of reels and the width of the tape, which was wider than the tapes we used at home.

In September 1987, the era of reel to reel was over and Radio Nederland Wereldomroep started with

monthly music cassettes with an half hour program "*Tulpen uit Amsterdam*", presented by Herman Emmink. The last of these programs, number 124 was transmitted in December of 1997.

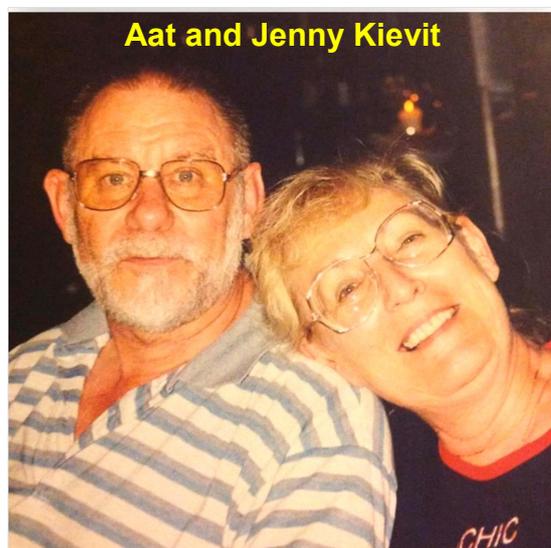
In January 1989 Radio Nederland Wereldomroep issued a music cassette each month with a variety of vocal and instrumental music and cabaret, which played on air every fortnight. Exactly 10 years later - in December of 1998 we transmitted the last program.

In April 1988 Henk Meeuwese & Jan and Riet van Tiel left Dutch Community Radio. Henk Meeuwese approached Alex Udinga, Adrie van der Worm and Robert Wegman and these people became President, Secretary and Treasurer, with Henk Meeuwese being the producer and presenter of the program. Adrie van der Worm helped Henk to announce the local news.

In 1991 MRTA obtained a Radio Licence and established Radio Station 6EBA FM, which commenced broadcasting in December 1991 from a rented location in View Street North Perth. Not only did Henk help in obtaining the broadcasting licence but he was also heavily involved in setting up and refurbishing the premises in View Street.

View Street had always been a temporary studio and soon MRTA purchased the current premises in Fitzgerald Street in North Perth.

In April 1996 Henk Meeuwese passed away, Robert Wegman and Adrie van der Worm continued the program and advertised for people who would be interested to be a presenter for the Dutch program. >



**Aat and Jenny Kievit**

# The Dutch Radio

Consequently an advertisement was placed in the Dutch Weekly, a Dutch newspaper printed in Sydney. After thinking about it for a few days Aat Kievit decided to take up the challenge. Robert Wegman and Adrie van der Worm were presenting the program as well as they could, but it was a relief for both that new faces, better still, new voices appeared in the form of Aat Kievit and Else Boon who joined a few weeks later. Preparing a program took more time than originally thought and therefore Jenny Kievit started off-air, selecting the music - at that stage from cassettes, LP's and sometimes tapes. Aat had still a full-time job in those days and could only dedicate his time on evenings and weekends.

In September 1996, during a meeting from the then Committee, Alex Udinga and Adrie van der Worm decided to vacate their positions as President and Secretary, which were taken over by Aat and Jenny. Robert continued to be the Treasurer and Else Boon became a committee member. A few weeks later Jenny also started presenting. In February 1998 Else Boon advised the Committee that she would stop as volunteer as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of that month.



At the end of April 1998 Peter van der Wedden joined the team. The team then consisted of Aat Kievit (President, Producer and Presenter), Robert Wegman (Treasurer

and Panel Operator), Jenny Kievit (Secretary and Presenter) and Peter van der Wedden (Panel Operator). Recently the team had increased with Theo van de Peppel coming on board as a Presenter and Harry Crijns as Technician. If Jenny and Aat were unable to present the program, there are two ladies, Yvon Kasteel and Nelly Brandsma who volunteer to present the program instead. DCR were very pleased that we can rely on them. Henny Lock had done relief presenting for a few years; and she loved doing the program but sadly she passed away.

All the work for Dutch Community Radio is on a voluntary basis and love doing it. We leave home at approximately 13:00 pm to make sure that you, our listeners can listen every Sunday afternoon at 14:00 pm to 95.3FM and hear "*Daar bij die molen*", the

signature tune that starts the Dutch program. During the next 90 minutes we transmitted music from The Netherlands - performed by Dutch artists or performers, News from The Netherlands, announcements from the Dutch Embassy or Consulates, Federal and Local Government and Clubs, Societies and Associations about events and messages for the Dutch Community in Perth. We finish at 15.30 pm and are home again in three quarters of an hour.

The cost of transmissions was partly paid via a federal government grant and through advertisements from our sponsors. We have a loyal group of people who support us by donating \$10.00, and sometimes more a year, which enables us to purchase extra equipment - e.g., a midi recorder with microphones for interviews, Dutch CD's, and the postage of the Dutch Community Newslettet, to our supporters. Without our loyal supporters we could not afford to do these extra's.

When we started to do the program, Jenny attended an Interviewing Workshop where she received good advice and learned how to do interviews.

The above was written by Jenny Kievit in 2006 and yes Aat and Jenny continued until early 2012 when they decided to stop due to Aat's illness. That's when Karin promised him the radio will continue on and it does. Theo van de Peppel stayed with us till the end of 2015, when changes were made to our format.

The decision made during the DCR AGM in October 2021 to move away from 6EBA FM to Radio Fremantle 6CCR, proved to be a good move.

Through our enthusiastic group of volunteers, past and present, without them, there could not be any Dutch language broadcast. Every week we do this, we will not stop even during the festive season.



So, if you have a passion for music and like to keep in touch with the Dutch? This might be your chance. If you would like to try it out, get in touch with the DCR by sending an email to [dcr@dutchradio.com.au](mailto:dcr@dutchradio.com.au) 'en kom het een keer uit proberen'.

**Peter van der Wedden**  
President DCR.