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Nederland



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



*Yes, its time to  
renew your  
Membership  
2024-2025*

**Concordia is a Dutch - Australian Social Club - Established in 1957**  
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# CONCORDIA INFORMATION CORNER

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*Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.*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

**D**ear readers, Saturday **28th May 2024**, many members and friends came together at the Cardiff RSL, we did so to commemorate our **2024 Remembrance day, Liberation day, Kings Birthday and Mothers day**. It was a very beautiful private room, nicely decorated by **Jopie Ryan** with assistance of other committee members. Well before **11am** we noticed many happy faces arriving at the Cardiff RSL, they couldn't wait to get inside the door!! We were overwhelmed by regular visitors and some new faces. Some turned up for the very first time to experience an unique and unforgettable afternoon. The RSL was filled with laughter and chatter. There was a great cosy atmosphere and everyone was in a very positive mood, most were decked out in **Orange, Red, White and Blue**. What else did we need to have a successful occasion?

**We experienced a very moving remembrance** section, *in silence we viewed the tragedy of many past and current bitter wars, we certainly memorised all those that gave their lives for us. This part was followed by **Liberation day and Kings Birthday**. We didn't forget our Mothers for the belated **Mothers Day**, all received a small present. At **4pm** we could not get some people out of the club when it was time to go home. They wanted to wait for our next show on the **20th July**. Overall it was a great day for all those attending and if you missed this one, book the next one, **20th July**.*

**Now on a different subject**, *having been associated with Concordia in this area for **41years** was one of the most satisfying roles I was ever involved in, after all, for most part our Concordia directive is showing a community service to all our members in their wants and needs. During the past **41years** I had my hands well and truly full in keeping most of our members happy, creating a great atmosphere during all our functions. I understand that we cannot please everyone all of the time but we must also remember that we are all very unique individuals which makes the mix of all our people so very special and certainly not boring. Enjoy the winter season by making some great Dutch winter food, when you are finished, call me !*

*Editor Joop*

**Grandmothers truly are gifts. Whether they spend time with us on special occasions, spoil us with gifts, or sneak us extra cookies while our parents aren't watching, they are a joy to have in our lives.**

## *From the Presidents Desk - Toni Somerville*

**D**ear Readers, Winter is with us, not my favourite season of the year, I feel the cold. Memories of cold days, snow and ice as a child in the Netherlands are happy ones. We made huts out of snow, had very cold hands inside wet gloves and could not wait until the ice was hard enough on canals so we could skate. We did not notice the cold then. Seasons have changed in the world, very rare now that people can skate on frozen canals in the Netherlands. The winters are not cold enough anymore.

**I often wonder** how our mums coped during those winters, no washing machines, no clothes dryers and other conveniences we have today. My mum told me that everyone was in the same boat and knew no better.

**We had a good crowd at the May function** and it was most pleasing. We welcomed 3 guests and our ladies received a belated Mothers Day gift of a special 3 way pen. A chocolate heart was donated to the ladies by **Jopie Ryan**. She also decorated the tables again, this time with dolls in Dutch costumes holding Dutch flags. Much appreciated, as always **Jopie**.

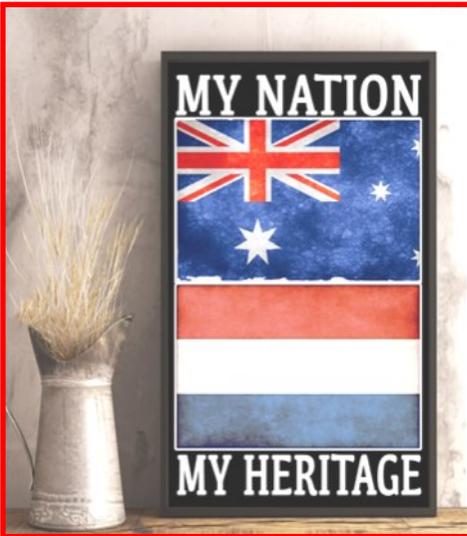
**Michael Montgomery** was ill on the day he was to entertain us. He suggested to **Joop** that we have **Anita Hardman** as a singer/entertainer. **Anita** was able to come at short notice and we enjoyed having her. Thank you **Anita**.

**Memberships are due in July**. If you have already paid then our most sincere thanks. Also we again thank the members who donated a raffle prize or a donation. We really appreciate your generosity.

**Our members, Connie Versteegen** and **Margaret Hayle**, celebrated their 90th birthdays some weeks before. They were delighted to receive a belated gift of a flower arrangement.

**It will be good** to see **Norm Bakker** back to entertain us at the July function. **Norm** is happy for us to sing along with the songs we remember from yesteryear.

**Come along on July 20**, one week earlier this time, for another super day, meeting up with friends, an all you can eat smorgasbord lunch and entertainment by **Norm Bakker**. Until next time, take care, keep well and stay warm. **Toni**.



## *Keep Cash Alive*

**Without cash there is no**  
**Car boot sales / Garage sales /**  
**Markets / No piggy bank / No tooth**  
**fairy / No saving for a rainy day /**  
**No tipping a waiter / No giving to a**  
**homeless person / No giving to a**  
**busking musician / No selling**  
**unwanted items for cash / No buying**  
**anything without privacy / No secret**  
**stash for emergencies.**

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*Ik hou van lange romantische wandelingen...Naar de koelkast*  
*I love long romantic walks...to the fridge in de kitchen.*



*Uit de oude doos - The Concordia 'Twilight Singers'*

**ALS JE DE GEUR  
VAN DE ZOMER  
LEKKER VINDT**

**STOP DAN  
TWEË AARDBEIEN  
IN JE NEUS**



*We have some great memories in this issue - our May Concordia function*

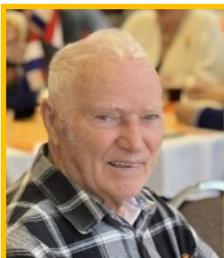


*Just catching up*



*Some great prizes to be won...and the number is?*

*Always keep in touch with the Dutch!*



*Our committee  
Member Henri*



*The opening of our  
last function in the  
Cardiff RSL  
by our President Toni*



*Our faithful  
Member Barbara*





To Concordia & Choral Society's Members & Friends

It's with great sadness to announce the passing of our  
Esteemed President and Patron of the Multicultural Choral Society  
Newcastle & Hunter

Vityaly Lupish

Known as Victor - aged 88 years - late of Adamstown

Victor passed away on Sunday 9th June 2024.

Victor will be very much missed by all those who touched his life

Victor's funeral service was held at **St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church - Wallsend.**

Tuesday 18th June 2024 - **A burial took place at Sandgate Cemetery** - on Friday 21st June 2024

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

Concordia sends its heartfelt condolences to the family and all those that touched Victor's life.  
Victor was a very valued Patron and President of the Multicultural Choral Society, Newcastle and Hunter.



Joop de Wit - Acting President - Newcastle & Hunter Multicultural Choral Society



*To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die*



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

### *Some interesting family funnies*

**Little Susie**, a six-year-old, complained, *"Mother, I've got a stomach ache"*  
*"That's because your stomach is empty"* the mother replied. *"You would feel better if you had something in it"* That afternoon, her father came home complaining that he had a severe headache all day. Susie perked up, *"That's because it's empty"* she said. *"You'd feel better if you had something in it!"*

**A husband** got his wife a cemetery plot for her birthday. It came with a coffin, tomb stone, the works. Next birthday comes by and the husband gets her nothing. When the wife asks her husband, *"Why didn't you get me a gift?"* the husband says, *"You haven't used the one I got you last year!"*

Traditional Dutch Recipe

*Dutchies*  
SNACK FOOD



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SAFE

T. G. G. G. G.



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*It's all Dutch en heel lekker*



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# CONCORDIA

Your personal Invitation

*Our winter function on Saturday 20th July*

*Concordia Presents a special **variety** afternoon.*

***Norm Bakker**, will entertain us at the Cardiff RSL.*

*Anyone is welcome, just book and enjoy our show*

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

**Join us for an all you can eat food and a great entertaining afternoon.**

*(We don't like to disappoint - always book early)*

*Please pay at the door **\$20.00pp** for an all you can eat Eastern Tiger banquet, followed by some cosy great memories.*

*Ons hele leven speelt zich af tussen twee advertenties...*

*Met blijdschap geven wij kennis van de geboorte van...*

*En bedroefd geven wij kennis van het overlijden van...*



**LET'S RUN AWAY... I'M NOT GOING TO END  
UP IN A HOSPICE AND YOU IN A SHELTER**



***We sometimes need a smile to get through the day***

**I** took my 90 year old grandfather to find out about a hearing aid. When told it would cost around a thousand dollars, he thought it over, than said he didn't want one. When he was asked why not, he said, ***"In all my years, I've never heard a conversation worth a thousand dollars."***

**During the wedding rehearsal**, the groom approached the minister with an unusual offer. ***"Look, I'll give you \$100 if you'll change the wedding vows. Just leave out the part about me promising to 'love, honour and obey' and 'forsake all others, being faithful to her forever"*** He passed the minister a \$100 bill and walked away satisfied. It is now the day of the wedding, and the bride and groom have moved to that part of the ceremony where the vows are exchanged. When it comes time for the groom's vows, the pastor looks the young man in the eye and says: ***"Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life and swear eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will never look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?"*** The trapped groom gulped, looked around, and said in a tiny voice, ***"Yes!"*** After the wedding, the groom pulled the pastor aside and hissed, ***"I thought we had a deal."*** The pastor put the \$100 bill into the groom's hand and whispered back, ***"She made me a much better offer"***

**A blonde girl** began a job as an elementary school counsellor and she was eager to help. One day during recess she noticed a girl standing by herself on one side of a playing field while the rest of the kids enjoyed a game of soccer at the other. The blonde approached and asked if she was all right. The girl said she was. A little later, however, the blonde noticed the girl was in the same spot, still by herself. Approaching again, the blonde offered, ***"Would you like me to be your friend?"*** The girl hesitated, then said, ***"Okay!"*** looking at the woman suspiciously. Feeling she was making progress, the blonde then asked, ***"Why are you standing here all alone?"*** ***"Because"*** the little girl said with great exasperation, ***"I'm the goalkeeper!"***

**Bloke gets home to find his wife in bed** with the next door neighbour. ***"What the hell do you think you're doing?"*** demanded the husband. The wife said to her bedmate: ***"There you are, I told you he was stupid."***

**Hoe komt een drol naast de w.c.? Antwoord: *een drukfout.***

***The internet is down. The children have come out of their rooms. My God, how big they have grown!***



*Anyone celebrating a special event like an Anniversary, Birthday or some other special occasion during the next 2 months. We wish you a very special good time with all your family and friends.*

*Our sincere congratulations to you all, your **Concordia** Family.*

*Dutch people always sit in a circle at birthday parties.*

*The circle is getting bigger, until you can only speak to the person on either side of you. No one knows why. One of the Dutch great mysteries.*



*Een verjaardag?  
'gezellig' zittende  
in de woonkamer met  
koffie, gebak en een  
borrel met wat  
'hartige hapjes!'*

**Gezelligheid kent geen tijd**



**A cosy get-together  
knows no time**

***Come and meet Norm Bakker at our next function in the Cardiff RSL on Saturday 20th July, Norm will be entertaining us during the afternoon. Please don't miss it, be there or be square!***



**Having had to travel by train** to Sydney on 2 occasions last month, sitting in a quiet carriage, I was very annoyed about a number of people not adhering to the new rules of the **'quiet carriages'** on all trains in **NSW**.

It made me think of the following story.

Perhaps I should have done the same in this instance.

**After a tiring day**, a commuter settled down in his seat and closed his eyes. As the train rolled out of the station, the young woman sitting next to him pulled out her mobile phone and started talking in a loud voice: **"Hi sweetheart. It's Sara. I'm on the train". "Yes, I know it's the six thirty train and not the four thirty, but I had a very long meeting". "No, honey, not with that Kevin from the accounting office. It was with the boss". "No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life". "Yes, I'm sure, cross my heart!"** Fifteen minutes later, she was still talking loudly. When the man sitting next to her had enough, he leaned over and said into the phone, **"Sara, hang up the phone and come back to bed."**

***Sara doesn't use her mobile phone in public any longer.***

## Special dates for your Australian calendar - 2024

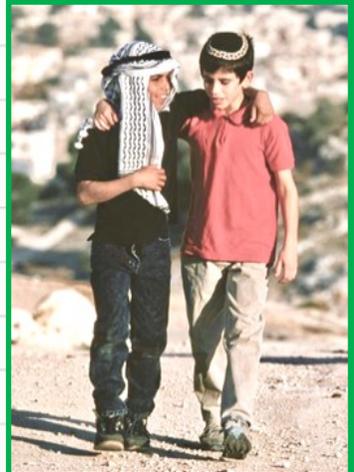
### New South Wales Public Holidays 2024

This page contains a calendar of all 2024 public holidays for New South Wales. These dates may be modified as official changes are announced, so please check back regularly for updates.

Date	Day	Holiday
7 Oct	Mon	Labour Day
25 Dec	Wed	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Thu	Boxing Day



7 Oct	Mon	Labour Day
25 Dec	Wed	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Thu	Boxing Day



*Could this one day be possible please?*

### Public School Holidays

**NSW 2024 - 2025 - Eastern State**

**Saturday 6th July  
To Sunday 21st July 2024 - Winter**

**Saturday 28th September  
Sunday 12th October 2024 - Spring**

**Saturday 21st December  
Thursday 6th February 2025 - Summer**

**Saturday 12th April 2025  
Thursday 24th April 2025 - Autumn**

### CONCORDIA FUNCTIONS 2024

**Saturday 20th July**

**Saturday 21st September**

**Saturday 21st December**

**AGM October date  
to be announced later**

**Please renew your  
Membership for the next  
Financial year 2024 - 2025**

Na regen komt zonneshijn.....  
Van Harte Beterschap

*Thinking of all  
our readers  
who are  
not feeling well.*



*We wish you a full  
and speedy  
recovery, and our  
sincere best wishes.*

*The most favourite snack in Holland in 2023  
Hot Chips with Mayonnaise...called 'Patatje met'  
It once again topped the list last year!!*



*We wouldn't like to miss it in the world*

*Wife discussing her husband, "He is forty-five...  
but he has the energy of a man twice his age."*

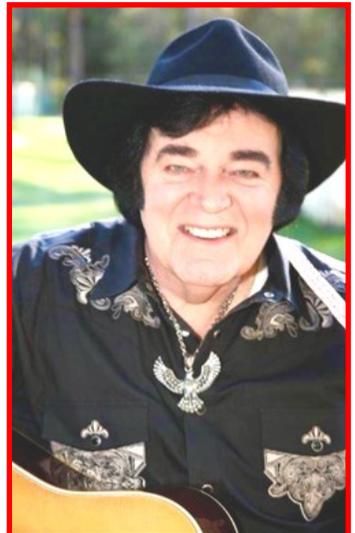
***Norm Bakker, presenting the melodies from yesteryear.***

**T**he experience started for **Norm Bakker** many years ago when a sound engineer heard **Norm** sing at a major **Sydney** venue and suggested that maybe he should do a show as his onstage antics and looks are so uncanny and surprisingly like a seasoned artist.

**So started the birth** of a new production show called '**A Solid Rock Salute**'. Even though **Norm** has been singing for a number of years prior, this was one big challenge but nevertheless a dream come true to be able to perform a tribute to one of his idols...the king of rock'n'roll '**Elvis Presley**'.

**Come on down Saturday 20th July** and enjoy live music from **Norm Bakker**. Whether you're a fan or not, it's going to be a one entertaining afternoon! You could say **Hornsby** is always on **Norm Bakker's** mind, because it's not only where he did his first shows as an **Elvis** tribute artist, but it's also where he married his wife **Michelle**. The ceremony took place in 1990, the week of the anniversary of Elvis's death. In true **Elvis** style it was **Hawaiian**-themed, and 700 people packed in to celebrate it. Its nice to know that **Norm** was born in **Amsterdam** before migrating to Australia. Don't miss this special show in the **Cardiff RSL!**

*Let's get together in harmony to celebrate this special event.  
Our guest artist **Norm Bakker** will entertain us in good old fashion  
to jolt your many memories of the past **Book early!***





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***A look back at our Dutch Association "Concordia" founded in 1957 by Pierre Hanssen translated and updated by Joop de Wit***

**I**n the early years of emigration, many Dutch emigrants settled near Newcastle. The reason for this was probably the employment provided by the then **B.H.P.** steel & blast furnace factory and gave many Dutch emigrants a fairly secure job. Soon these Dutchies came together and some of them built up a kind of **Dutch-Australian Association**. Names such as **Aart Schelling** and also the Australian **Don Thompson** were the leaders in those days who made it a bit more pleasant for the **"Dutch People"** to get through a most difficult time. They paid 2 Shillings (**A\$1.65**) and then you became a member for life, which I personally found a bit naive/incorrect and if you look at it now, I was indeed right. In a room in **Wallsend South** where party evenings were regularly organised and with a tub full of ice and beer, a record player that played Dutch music, the worries and the sometimes-acute homesickness were forgotten for a while. Transport difficulties were solved by having people sometimes collecting the visitors even a few people that had motorbikes etc.

**In 1956 Mr Paul Mansfield** got it into his head to start a drama club and after the first play **"Shed on Board"** the enthusiasm was so great that more would follow. After a major disagreement with the then board, the theatre club separated from the main group and when the Australian Dutch club ceased to exist in 1957, the current **Nederlandse Vereniging CONCORDIA** was born from the theatre club. I remember very clearly the trip I made in July 1957 to Sydney to the office of the Chief Secretary's Department, a state office responsible for foreign associations. This was to present our bylaws and thereby obtain an application for approval as a registered association. Thus, we were officially registered as a **"Charitable organisation"**. Concordia was officially given the right to call itself **"THE DUTCH SOCIETY CONCORDIA"** and still does so today.

**The activities of the association** mainly consisted of theatre evenings, followed by about 2 hours of dancing after the performance. In 1965 the theatre club was unfortunately closed as the supply of young players stopped because the emigration from the Netherlands fell to almost zero. It was already said then that our **"Dutch club"** would not exist for long, now many years later the club is still as alive as when we started in 1957. Of course, there are also many perilous moments in the existence of the club and there were times that I personally have

*(Continued on page 19)*

(Continued from page 18)

felt at times to put it down, but the trust I have always had in my fellow committee members and in the Dutch people in general have become the reason that we are still here today. The lean years were mainly after the disbanding of the drama club. At that time, the club only consisted of dance evenings. The much-needed finances of our association had to come from the still very young emigrant families. Most of these families were therefore also stuck with young children, so that it was not always possible to visit a pleasant dance evening. The income from these dance evenings was not always enough to cover the expenses for such an evening. We then organised weekly **"Bingo"** evenings in order to get a little money in the till. At that time, the **Grootjans family** and also the **Van den Heuvel family** always made their homes available, and the association sometimes made a beautiful profit of 11 to 12 dollars on such an evening. I was happy that the calling out of the bingo numbers was over for me after we stopped.

**During the late sixties** the **K.L.M.** started group travel and charter flights to the Netherlands, it became a bit of **"The Golden Age"** for Concordia. The people who wanted to fly had to pay half the cost when booking to be paid at the association and the rest 14 days before the flight. Concordia needed however, sending the money only 14 days before the flight date so we always had a large amount in the bank, which in turn deposited a nice sum of interest in the association cash. We also received a small commission for every flight sold from the **K.L.M.** that was a very good and profitable time.

**There have been several subdivisions** in the club over the years such as the Theatre group which has existed for about 8 years under Concordia and has given us 32 plays. We had a football club that had to close after 3 years because of the very high costs. There has been a Dutch dance group that has existed for about 5 years, which I found to be one of the main groups that brought out our Dutch culture. Unfortunately, due to not having too many members participating it had cease to exist. We also had a card club that lasted much longer, I'm sorry I can't say exactly how long. We have known 3 Instuif groups in the past, all of them no longer active today, the last one was the **'Marmong Instuif'** This group was under the leadership of **Foppe** and **Aaltje Brouwer**, both are now deceased. The Marmong Instuif was taken over by **Lucia Reynders** with assistance of others. Due to declining numbers, it was disbanded, a great loss for many that

(Continued on page 20)

*(Continued from page 19)*

enjoyed being together on a weekly basis. Thanks to all those that were involved in the past.

**We also had a carnival group** which has existed for 12 years, it had a very successful life. This cosy group was not able to supplement its continuation, due to a shortage of members this also had to cease to exist. Then there is also the Dutch singing choir **"The Twilight Singers"** Founded in 1986 and is sadly no longer active after 2010. For all those years, it has also propagated the Dutch culture to the outside world and has therefore become the longest-standing subsection of our Dutch association since its inception. Personally, I was their conductor for all that time. It was our **Tony Kirchner** who took my place in my absence to visit my very ill daughter in the Netherlands for 12 months. **Pierre** officially started as president of Concordia in 1957, I am proud to say that I have now held a leadership role in our beloved club for 50 years. That is why I resigned from the board when I turned 75 years old. For 24 years I was active as the conductor of our choir **'The Twilight Singers'** due to the large reduction of singers and health reasons of several members, we had to give up in 2010. This was unfortunately the end of the story. The pleasant gatherings that we faithfully provided for a large and different audience and with great listening pleasure also came to a sad end. **"Ja lieve mensen aan alles komt een eind in het leven!"**

**In recent years**, the activities of our association have become much less, less than was organised in those earlier years. It is also very understandable because our core of regular members has grown older and many have lost their partners, which means that the visits to our dance evenings have become less frequently attended. Unfortunately, this aging group no longer wanted to go out on the road in the evening and certainly because the dreaded **"Booze bus" (alcohol control)** came into effect, some of the members didn't dare to take the chance. In addition, the rent for the hall was increasing enormously. Public liability insurance costs were also pushed up and the cost of putting an orchestra on stage had become prohibitive. It was our then secretary **Joop de Wit** who took over the dance nights with pre-recorded music from records, cassettes, and later CDs.

**The afternoons** that were being organized in the **Cardiff Workers Club** and the **Cardiff R.S.L.** are very well attended and seem to be very popular with members, friends, and acquaintances. Since 1999 we

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booked most of our functions in the **Cardiff RSL**. A word of thanks to the current committee is certainly in order and especially to our secretary and editor **Joop de Wit**, who always comes up with a nice and pleasant program. **Joop** has also been taking care of our Concordia bi-monthly newsletter after taking over from **Betty Cook** in 1984 who could no longer do the job because of ill health. Concordia is now the only Dutch Club in Australia that is a growing concern, which was unique in the history of Dutch clubs abroad. **Joop** was also the provider of the Dutch-language radio program on our local radio station of the University of Newcastle commonly known as **2NURFM 103.7**. At the end of 1983 Joop started to replace **Ankie Dupree** who was often not able to attend. The Dutch program management was then led by **Henk de Jong** with the assistance of **Ankie Dupree** and **Rinus Lagerwaard**. Late 1984, **Joop** provided the Dutch-language program on his own. It's so much fun to listen to all those nice familiar Dutch melodies on the Newcastle University Radio Station. My wish and hope is to be able to enjoy them for a long time yet, thanks **Joop!**

**Unfortunately, Joop** had to stop the Dutch program after 30 years at the helm. After the radio station moved the Dutch program to the Saturday nights was becoming a time related issue. **Joop** had to be in the studio by 7pm, did his program at 8pm, had to wait till after 11pm to switch the next program from the **BBC** in London, after **BBC** was connected and was working okay he could go home. Because the Dutch program was now on a Saturday the studio had to be at all times attended by a qualified volunteer, none of the management and/or full-time presenters were at the station on weekends and public holidays. The Dutch program was an issue that could not be resolved. If the program was still on the Tuesday nights, **Joop** would have been very happy to continue but management was not moveable therefore

(Continued on page 22)

**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. Time to pay or make a donation, every extra is very welcome.**

*(Continued from page 21)*

**Joop** decided to let the program go having 30 long years of producing the well-known Dutch melodies including the latest news from the **Netherlands** and **Concordia**. It was so enjoyable to listen to the music from the past which we all remember with fondness.

**If I now think back** over the past years since the start in 1957, I must think of the many people who have had a leading position in our association. Many are no longer with us but have accomplished a very important task in the club. My opinion is that if we forget them now, we are making an unforgivable mistake that cannot be corrected as they all had a relationship in serving our members. They all had had the privilege of contributing to the well-being of our Concordia in the past and also for the future.

**There have also been many highlights**, too many to remember them all, but most of all I think of the great **St Nicholas** parties which I think we started to organise during 1963 and which the first one was held at **'Tyrell House'** in Newcastle. The **Sinterklaas** party is one of the most beautiful events that we were holding every year till **Covid** arrived. After **Covid** we could not muster enough volunteers and, sadly to say, the situation was not warranted to have our annual **St. Nicolas** function in the park. **St. Nicholas** and his many helpers could no longer be invited to personally see the many anxious children in the park. Our current **Saint** makes a quick presence at the adult Christmas night which has been a great success during the past few years. Looking back, no Dutch child, member or not, has some beautiful memories. Every year around 300 to 350 people were in attendance enjoying a great day out in the park. The highest number of booked children ever was 191. We thank the **Sinterklazen** who are always ready to surprise the children whatever the weather event. The current Concordia committee is working as hard as possible to drive our Club forward, it's nice to realise that some of our committee members today were still **'Teenagers'** when Concordia was born. This is something that gives us the most joy and gives the greatest confidence for the future.

**At the time of writing**, I was almost 90 years old and would still like to see us enjoy our club because then I can say with joy.... **"It has been worth it"** I still look forward to many more pleasant afternoons and wish you all to have plenty of fun for the future. *Pierre Hanssen*

**Everything is going to be okay in the end, if it's not okay, it's not the end.**

**PS:** Unfortunately, **Pierre** passed away on Thursday December 3rd, 2015, at the blessed age of 92 years. He died the day after the funeral of his wife **Lenie** who died on Friday 27 November 2015.

**FOOTNOTE:** The above story has been totally edited and updated by the current secretary **Joop de Wit** since the passing of **Pierre**. I have also translated **Pierre's** Dutch version into the English language.

**There are currently 2,171 Dutch citizens** in the Newcastle region which officially placed us as the number 10 in our local ancestry of citizens. This information was taken from the latest Census which was held in 2021.

**Numbers of Dutch citizens: 2,171**

**Percentage of all citizens: 1.3%**

**Regional percentage of citizens: 1.4%**

**Change since the last census in 2016: 381** new Dutch additions in our region as per the **2021** census. *With Thanks, Joop de Wit*



*Pierre and his wife Lenie Hanssen*

*You can take me  
out of the  
Netherlands.*

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



**Echte Winterkost, zuurkool met rookworst en  
natuurlijk aardappelpuree, smullen maar!!**

## *Life can be a fleeting moment*

**A lot of our members are in the last quarter of life.** I share without politics, religion just some gentle thoughts: You know, time has a way of catching you off-guard about how quickly it travels. It feels like just yesterday that I was young and ready to start adult-life. And in a way it feels like years ago, and I wonder where the years have gone. I know and also realised that I lived them all in love and caring.

**I remember all my hopes and dreams.** *I remember the plans I made. And suddenly, here I am in the last quarter. How did I get here so fast? Where have the years gone and where did my youth go? I can recall looking at older people, thinking how long it will take for me to get where they are. That I am still in my youth, that I have many years ahead. At that time, I could not even think of being where I am now. And yet, here I am. My friends are retired, they all have grey hair, they move much slower than they did and when I look at them, I see older people. Some are in a better and some a worse condition than me. But I see the big difference. They are no longer the youthful, carefree, full-of-life friends. Just like me, age shows. We are now the older people we used to look at and thought it was still a long way off.*

**I find that these days,** taking a shower takes its toll on my movement and energy levels. An afternoon nap is not just a treat, it can become a necessity. And if I don't, I find myself sleeping in the same chair I started reading or watching television in. Now I have entered this new season of my life, totally unprepared for the discomfort, aches and pains, loss of energy and strength and ability to do what I could do before, yet sometimes didn't. At least I know that, even though I am in the last quarter, I have no idea how long this quarter will be, when my time on earth is over, hopefully a new adventure awaits me.

**Yes, I do have things I wish I had never experienced before.** *Yet so thankful for those I did. It is all in a lifetime, and if you are not in the last quarter yet, I want to remind you that it comes faster than you could anticipate. Do the things you still want to do as soon as possible. Do not procrastinate. Life runs on fast legs. Do today what you can. There is no promise that we will all see the seasons of life. Live for today, for now*

(Continued from page 24)

say the words to the ones you love. Hopefully some will appreciate the things you did for them. And if they don't, it is also okay. Life is truly a gift. Just be happy, it's after all your choice to be happy or not.

**Never forget and please remember that health is a treasure**, not wealth, gold and silver, property, or your bank balance. You may think that going out is the best but believe me – coming home is better. You may forget names and that is okay, because some have already forgotten that they knew you. The things you cared about previously, you may lose interest in. If you fall asleep in your favourite chair, stay there. Growing older is wonderful. It is comfortable. It is loaded with memories that you never grow tired of. It is an absolute treasure. But never forget to look after yourself. This article is with thanks and edited by your *Editor*



*Liefde is gratis, jammer dat sommigen er zo zuinig mee zijn*



*Don't judge the choices of others  
If you don't understand their reasons.*

*Who mentioned climate change in the Netherlands?  
If it's all true, the North Sea will be reaching Amersfoort!*



*Some photographic memories of our last May function  
This get-together was a great overall success,  
and by golly it was a fantastic day for all those attending.*



**Settling in before the afternoon starts.  
Our next function is an all you can eat  
meal & entertaining for only \$20.00 pp  
Everyone is welcome.**

*a Taste  
of Dutch*



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"Eet  
smakelijke"



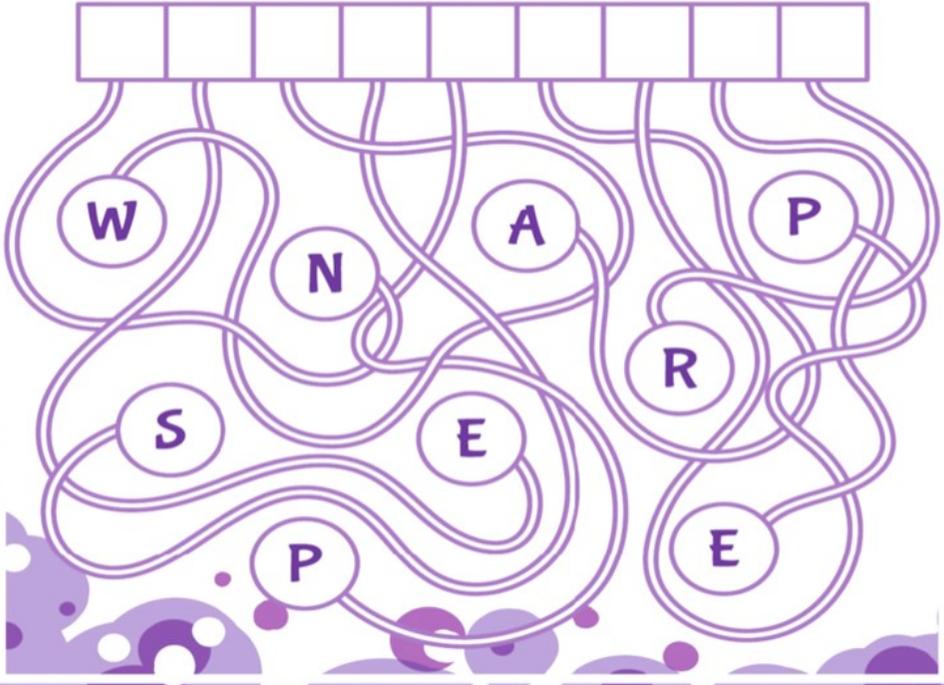
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*Het is niet ons land, het is onze planeet  
waar we zorgvuldig mee moeten omgaan!*

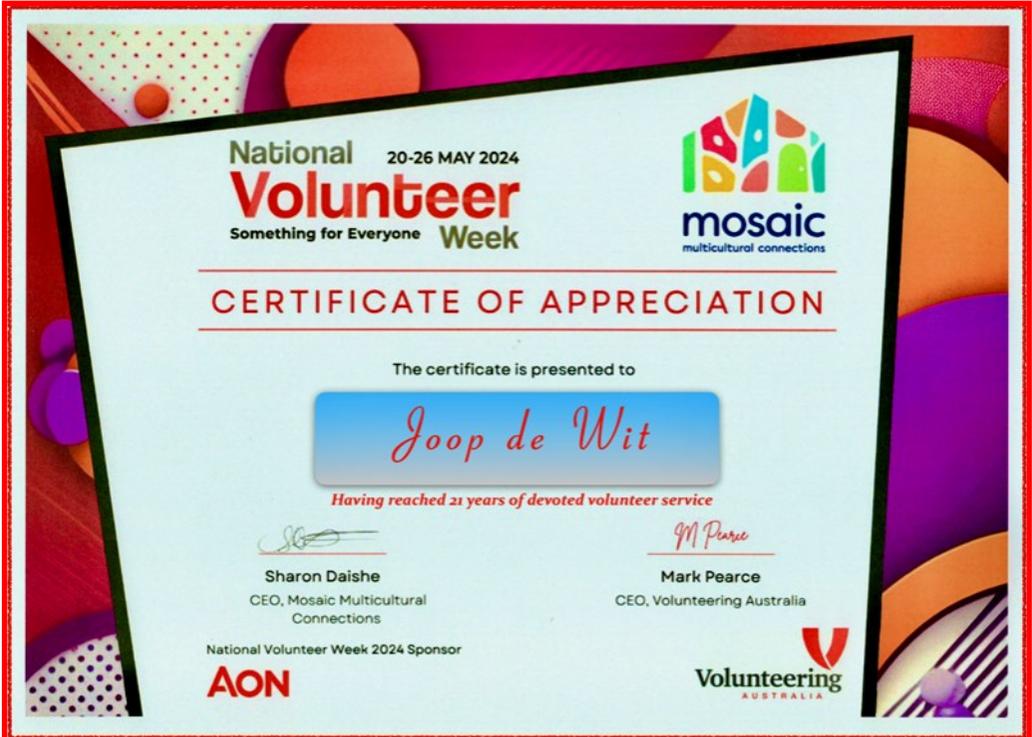


*Make a word out of the letters by following the lines into the squares*



*In 2024 I devoted 41 years of association with our Concordia. 21 years with a variety of Multicultural Connections. All this has offered me many rewarding experiences. Lots of new challenges, stimulation, and a renewed sense of purpose.*

*Person asking for a job interview at the local bank:  
 “I understand the bank is looking for a teller”  
 “I thought they hired one a month ago”  
 “He is the one they are looking for”*



*For all those on a diet.....*

**F**or those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies:

- ◆ The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
- ◆ The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the Australians, British, or Canadians.
- ◆ The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
- ◆ The Italians drink large amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
- ◆ The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.
- ◆ Russians drink a lot of vodka, eat a lot of perogies or cabbage rolls and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans, Australians, British, or Canadians.

**CONCLUSION:** *Eat and drink what you like.*

**Speaking English** *is apparently what kills you!!*

*Ervaring is de optelsom van alle vergissingen die je hebt begaan.*



*A cheese shop in Holland*

*Lekker smullen kunnen  
ze nog steeds in NL*





*We meet and greet our guests*



*Happy and content.  
Another very successful  
afternoon in the RSL*



*Thank you for the music Anita*



*Tony dancing with his daughter Gabby*



*Listening intently to our entertainer, Anita Hardman*

# S@MEN



SINDS 1957

Concordia  
Still going strong  
Thanks to you!

## DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE:

For our SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER issue is the 10th August 2024.

*Copy received after this date will be included in the*

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY - 2025 issue.**



**Tony & Irene - het was weer zo 'Gezellig'**



**Being serenaded too was appreciated.  
Thanks Anita!**



*En dat we toffe jongens zijn dat willen we weten  
Daarom komen wij - Daarom komen wij  
Daarom komen wij overal - bij Concordia!*

*We just need more  
chairs for the  
extra guests today.*



*Toni & Jopie  
creating many smiles*



*Greetje never  
misses our shows*



*Een vriend is iemand  
die ook bij je komt  
als hij niets  
van je nodig heeft*



*Matthew our treasurer and  
Lucia the assistant back-up*

**All the problems in the world  
can also be a topic of discussion**



**Your 2024-2025 membership  
can be paid at the next  
function on the 20th July.**



**It sure was a great afternoon.**



**Vol verwachting klopt ons hart**



**Our committee member  
Ingrid having a break**

## NEW MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

### DUTCH SOCIETY CONCORDIA - NEWCASTLE & DISTRICT

*Annual Membership Fees are payable between **1st July** but before **31th August 2024***

*Membership includes 5 newsletters per annum.*

Tick if this is a new membership <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I wish to apply for a new Membership \$.....</i>
Tick if this is a renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I wish to renew my Membership \$.....</i>
Tick if this is a giftsubscription <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I like to give a gift Subscription \$.....</i>
Tick if this is a donation <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I like to make a donation to Concordia \$.....</i>
<b>for the period <span style="color: red;">2024 / 2025</span></b>	<b><span style="color: red;">I agree to accept and abide by its constitution</span></b>
<b>Mr Mrs Miss Ms :</b>	
<b>GIVEN NAMES:</b>	
<b>SURNAME:</b>	
<b>DATE(s) OF BIRTH:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	
<b>CITY &amp; POSTCODE:</b>	
<b>TELEPHONE Home / Mobile:</b>	
<b>EMAIL address:</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	
<b>Annual Fee / Renewal Fee:</b>	<b><span style="color: red;">\$ 20-00 Couple (inclusive of GST)</span></b>
<b>Annual Fee / Renewal Fee:</b>	<b><span style="color: red;">\$ 10-00 Single Person (inclusive of GST)</span></b>

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

*Send to: TREASURER DUTCH SOCIETY CONCORDIA P.O. BOX 16, CARDIFF - NSW 2285 - do not send Cash.*

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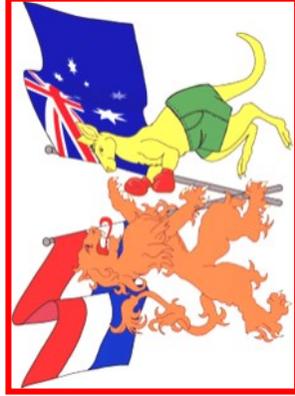
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**Keep in touch with the Dutch**