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Issue 241

# Australia Nederland



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SOCIETY CONCORDIA - HUNTER REGION NSW



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***We invite everyone to all our functions. "Gezelligheid kent geen tijd"***

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***Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.***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

**D**ear readers, a sincere welcome to our first edition of the Concordia newsletter for the year **2026**, I hope this finds you well.

**Christmas 2025, Australia Day & Valentines Day 2026** have all but gone since our last issue, we are now looking forward towards **Easter**. It's hard to believe but I enjoyed a short break from my editors duties. January - February is a timely reminder to wake from this short break illusion to prepare a brand new issue, hopefully it should be filled with interesting reading. Copy right issues etc. can play an important part in the production of the newsletters. A lot of information I convey to you is not always known in general terms including who actually wrote a certain article, this makes it very difficult to mention the person(s) of the original work. It is becoming increasingly difficult to trace certain information and sometimes my task as editor is more about searching & researching than the time it takes to produce an issue for all our readers, that includes the many readers around Australia and the world.

**Today** I have the unpleasant task in informing you of one of our longstanding advertisers **Bibina** who wishes no longer to be part of our Concordia newsletter. They have decided after a number of takeovers and various changes that they no longer need to use our media. I have to admit, the store is well presented and has some interesting worldwide articles in their selection of foods and condiments. I always visit them and will continue to do so. Thanks to the current proprietors of **Bibina** for their business in the past.

**Our first get-together** is on Saturday **28th March** in the Cardiff RSL. We have a beautiful life performance of **Norm Bakker** for all to enjoy. Come and meet all your friends at this very special first function of the year **2026**.

**Wishing all our readers** a very happy and **Blessed Easter**. Don't forget to book your seats for **Saturday 28th March**. **PS PLEASE NOTE**, I will not be available from **17th February till the 18th March**. You may book your seats before I leave or when I get back. hope to see you all in great spirits as we look forward to another **Concordia** year. Remember, life is too short not to enjoy it, **Until next time.... your editor Joop**

**D E A D L I N E N E X T I S S U E:**

**For our MAY-JUNE issue is the 10th APRIL 2026**

**Copy received after this date will be included in the July-August 2026 issue.**

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

**Dear Readers**, it's early January as I type this report. Joop is going on a well-earned break so you will receive this issue a little earlier.

I hope our readers have enjoyed the Festive Season. My best wishes to you and everyone you hold dear for a healthy, happy and safe 2026. What will it bring us this year? Wouldn't it be great if it was peace on earth? We are fortunate to live in Australia though it seems at times that some people don't realise it.

**Many members and guests** enjoyed our Christmas function. **Jopie Ryan** decorated the tables as usual, this time a Christmas scene with lights. So lovely and tasteful. Our committee is saying thanks to everyone for your support, we are very grateful for the generosity of donations, the buying of tickets and a few raffle prizes received.

We are also sincerely thankful to **Jan** and **Monique** owners of '**t Winkeltje**' in Sydney for the kruidnootjes. How special and kind you both are for another generous donation. They were the best, **Bolletje**, and so delicious. I was very surprised and delighted when **Joop** dropped 8 kilo off to me so I could bag them up for **Sint** and **Piet** to give to the members. Everyone loved receiving them.

**St Nicholas**, **Terry Moonen**, and **Piet Jib**, were again very happy to play their part. It's always a treat to see them walk in while **Joop** plays the well-known **St Nicholas songs**. Thank you both. Lovely to see three, I think, young children walk up to the Sint and receive a gift. The parents showed them a different Santa, wish that more parents would keep our tradition alive.

**Easter** will be with us before we know it. **Norm Bakker** is coming again to entertain our members at the ***Easter Function, Saturday 28th of March***. It's always a pleasure to sing along with **Norm**. Come along and enjoy the usual smorgasbord plus entertainment. We can all catch up with our friends on the day, and the cost remains unchanged....all for just **\$20.00** just bring yourself, your family or friends, they don't have to be Dutch to enjoy it.

**Until next time**, Have a very happy family Easter, if driving, take care, and stay safe. **Toni**

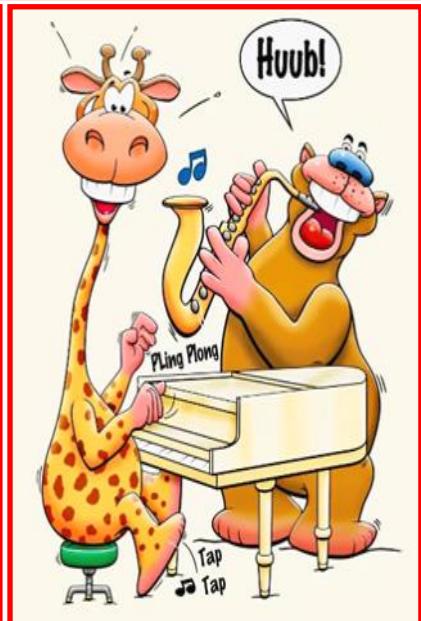
***Naarmate je ouder wordt verlies je drie dingen***

***De eerste is je geheugen, de andere twee ben ik vergeten.***



*Winter 2026 was one old fashioned winter that haven't been experienced for over 20 years in the Netherlands.*

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



*We are keeping our former traditions alive at Concordia*

## ***The effects of growing older***

**1. Health.** Many people resent the health issues that growing older brings. And they live as victims regretting decisions they made about health when they were younger. Most of us exercised, eaten right and done things to build health naturally without drugs. And sure, today, most don't have the strength or endurance they once had. Yet, we still should be healthy and grateful.

**2. Happiness.** Many people grow depressed as they grow older. They regret things they did in the past and worry about their shortening future. I learned long ago to do the best I could with every day. Then don't regret the past or worry about the future. Instead, live in the blessings of each day and moment, we really should be very happy and grateful.

**3. Love.** Many people grow lonely as they grow older. Some are divorced, estranged from children, have lost loved ones and disengaged from relationships. Some have been married for decades, had close relationships with their children and grandchildren. We have more time to get together with lifelong friends. Our life is filled with love and are happy and grateful.

**4. Abundance.** Many people as they grow older regret choosing convenience over challenge, safety over success, comfort over sacrifice and fun over their future. And have no chance to change. We made choices about our future that were not always fun, easy, convenient or safe. Yet, were what we dreamed our lives could be. Today we're living our dream. And we should all be happy and grateful.

**5. Spirituality.** Many people as they get older pause and realize they're closer to the end than to the beginning. And it fills them with dread and worry with no seemingly peaceful resolution. Some made a choice long ago, some did so after a spiritual experience, having faith even in times of doubt. And to believe even in times of questioning. Today we should have confidence, and be happy and grateful.

**I've learned life goes by startlingly fast.** Thankfully, we can make choices so we should be happy and grateful. Growing older is a fact. Growing older with happiness and gratefulness is a choice. *Editor*

### ***Breaking News...***

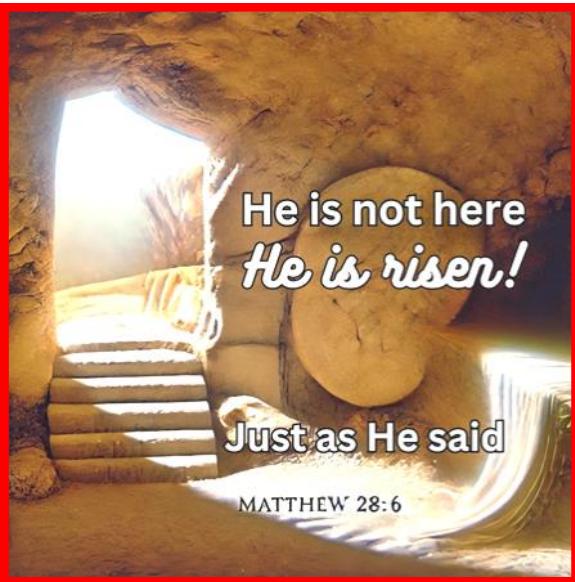
***Common sense is now an endangered species.***  
***Stupidity has taken over the world and....***  
***Unfortunately there is no known cure.***

## Netherlands Embassy and the Consulate General in Australia



On Tuesday afternoon, Consul-General Hugo Klijn and Deputy Consul-General Annelies Loeff laid a wreath at Bondi Beach. Representing the **Kingdom of the Netherlands**, a tribute to the victims of this terrible attack. **The Netherlands** stands in solidarity with **Australia** in these difficult times.

## Witte Donderdag, Goede Vrijdag & Paasmorgen in pictures





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

# MEMBERSHIP Renewals

2026-2027

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



*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!*

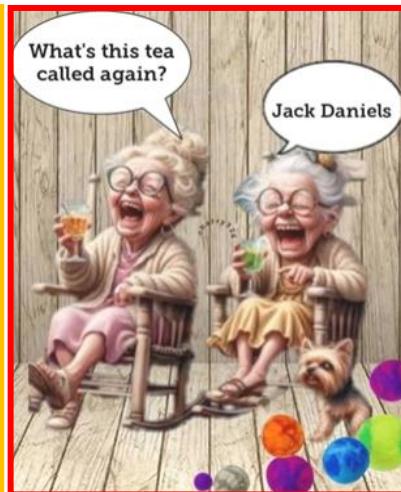
***In the Netherlands, even hospitality has its own quiet rules one of the most recognizable is coffee with exactly one cookie.***

**W**hen you visit a Dutch home, you are almost guaranteed to be offered a cup of coffee. Alongside it comes a single biscuit, carefully placed on a small plate. Not two. Not a handful. Just one. To outsiders it may seem almost humorous, but for the Dutch it reflects something much deeper than stinginess. This tradition is rooted in values of modesty, practicality, and social equality. Historically, especially in Protestant households, excess was discouraged. Offering one cookie was polite and welcoming, without being extravagant or showy. It created a moment of hospitality without pressure, debt, or expectation. Everyone received the same, and no one felt obliged to overindulge. Over time, the habit became cultural instinct. Even today, in modern living rooms with espresso machines and designer mugs, the ritual survives. Coffee. One cookie. Conversation. The focus is never on the food itself, but on the time spent together. The cookie is a gesture, not a feast. The Dutch way of hosting is quiet, efficient, and honest. No excess, no performance just warmth expressed in moderation. And somehow, that single cookie says more than a full table ever could. *Editor*

***To all our readers, a happy Valentine's day!***

***Though our wish maybe a little late, it's just as warm and sincere***

***Hope your Valentine's day was wonderful and full of happy cheer.***



*Your special invite for Saturday 28th March  
Concordia Presents.... a special start of the year program.*

**Norm Bakker will be entertaining us this afternoon**

**Norm is celebrating his 80th Birthday the following day**

**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**

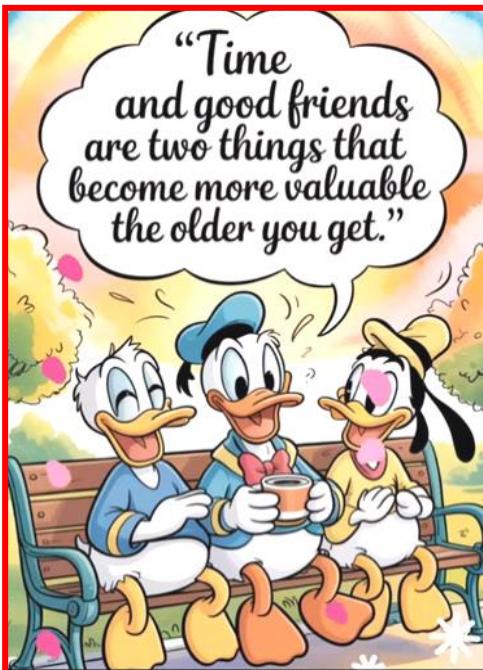
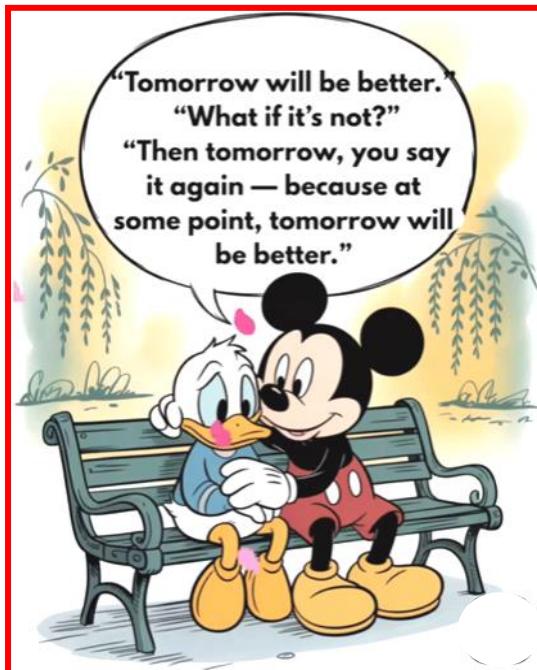
**BOOKINGS: Contact *Joop* after 18th March 2026 on 4954 5227.**

**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.**

**Come and join us enjoying our special Live Performance Function.**

**Everyone is welcome. Norm, alias *Elvis* knows no boundaries.**



## ***The Retirement Consequences***

**After I retired**, my wife insisted that I accompany her on her trips to the local grocery store. Unfortunately, like most men; I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunate, my wife is like most women - she loves to browse. Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter, from the local store manager: Dear **Mrs. Harris**: Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion, in our store. We cannot tolerate this behaviour and have been forced to ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against your husband, **Mr. Harris**, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

**June 15:** He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.

**July 2:** Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.

**July 7:** He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.

**July 19:** Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, '**Code 3**' in Housewares. '**Get on it right away**'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money. We don't have a **Code 3**.

**August 4:** Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of **M&Ms** on layby.

**August 14:** Moved a, '**CAUTION - WET FLOOR**' sign to a carpeted area.

**August 15:** Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.

**August 23:** When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, '**Why can't you people just leave me alone?**' Security was called.

**September 4:** Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

**September 10:** While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.

**October 18:** Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled '**'PICK ME! PICK ME!'**

**October 21** Took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked where is the fitting room? Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile; then yelled very loudly, '**'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.'** One of the clerks passed out.

***You can see why we made the above decision, we had no other option.***

## ***Starting the new year on a serious note! Some Unusual Remarks People Have Put in Their Wills***

**T**here is nothing quite as confronting as having to deal with a loved one's will and testament when they depart... And let's be honest, whilst the passing of someone is hard to come to terms with, having to deal with rude relatives and harsh lawyers is no walk in the park. From insensitive suggestions to wild propositions, we have collected the most shocking and confusing will and testament stories from across the web. Pretty much, here lies a list of what not to do when you are writing your will and testament...

**For many people**, the idea of saying goodbye to a parent is a horrible and unfathomable thing to try and comprehend. But whilst some people have a good and stable relationship with their parents, that isn't the case for everyone, even estranged family members need to be mentioned in the will.

**We're not sure** what happened between these family members, but the fact that these parents left everything to their daughter and only \$1 to their son is pretty brutal. Clearly, something pretty serious happened in this family dynamic, but these parents knew what they were doing by leaving their son such little money...

**In life**, it can be really hard knowing what possessions are worth keeping in the long run and which aren't... Every family has a story of a piece of furniture, a property, or a gold necklace that they didn't keep that would now be worth a lot of money. Well, this heirloom might not be a house, but this person had the right idea.

**Everyone knows** that when it comes to mothers and daughters, often things can get a little bit complicated. Sure, some of these relationships run smoothly without too many hiccups or anything along the way, but that isn't the case for the majority of people out there.

**The fact** that this woman doesn't even want one of her daughters to know when she dies is intense. We understand not leaving her anything, but not warning her about the death until a week later seems like a big deal. But hey, each family has their own reasons and their own stuff to deal with...

**When it comes** to parting with our loved ones, it is never an easy thing to do. However, there are some ways that these people can somehow live on through others... With organ donation, people who are no longer with us have the ability to share their organs with others that desperately need them.

(Continued from page 12)

**Seeing** as this person's mother-in-law is already an organ donor, she knows the benefits of what this could mean for someone else. But when it comes to her eyes, she has given strict instructions not to let anyone near them. Because even though she might be gone, she still wants to see where she's going...

**One of the hardest things** about marriage is the idea that you are meant to be with the same person forever. And whilst there are many wonderful things about this concept, there are also difficult things. Because if you aren't honest with each other, you never know what the other person is thinking...

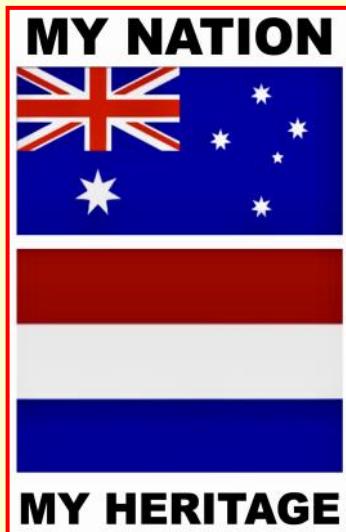
**This man's wife** thought that he had no idea about her affair throughout the years. But it wasn't until he wrote his will that she became aware of just how much he knew... Sure, she might have been pretty upset about this outcome, but it seems like her son was probably more deserving of this money.

**Is there anything** more annoying than when someone owes you money and just never gives it back to you? People always act like they will repay what they owe you, but it never turns out like that in the end. One way or another, one person is always begging the other for the money back. Seeing as this woman never got her **\$20** back from her daughter, she decided to leave her a little surprise in the will. We're not sure if she only left her daughter a total sum of **\$20** or gave her more money throughout the agreement, but all we know is that this would have been a funny thing to witness. **Editor**



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

- 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**

**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**



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



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NORM  
BAKKER**

**Contact Norm Bakker on 4981 8486**

*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 very 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 many idols...the king of rock'n'roll '**Elvis Presley**'.

**Come on down Saturday 28th March** and enjoy live music from **Norm Bakker**. Whether you're a fan or not, it's going to be a one entertaining afternoon! Its nice to know that **Norm** was born in **Amsterdam** before migrating to Australia. Don't miss this special show in the **Cardiff RSL!**

**PS:** Please come along as **Norm** will be celebrating his **80th** Birthday the following day **29th March**. Lets give him a very big Dutch treat at our **Multicultural Concordia afternoon** in the Cardiff RSL. **Everyone welcome**

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

## Love is a wonderful thing - A real life story

**G**t was a normal, busy morning, about 8:30 when, **George**, an elderly gentleman, well into his 80's, arrived at a local hospital to have some stitches removed from his thumb. **George** told me that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at **9:15am**. I weighed him and took his blood pressure and invited him take a seat in the waiting area, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy evaluating his wound again. On examination, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the Doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound.

**While taking care of his wound**, I asked **George** if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. **George** told me no, but that he needed to go to the Nursing Home to have breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she suffered from **Alzheimer's disease**. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a little late. **George** replied that she no longer knew who he was and that she had not recognised him in five years. I was surprised, and asked him, **'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?'** He smiled as he patted my hand and said, **'She doesn't know me, but I still know who SHE is.'** I had to hold back tears as **George** left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, **'That is the kind of love we all want in our lives.'** *Editor*

GEFELICITEERD



LANG ZAL JE LEVEN!

IN DE GLORIA!





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- Suburban
- Evakool
- Waeco
- Truma
- Swift
- Aircommand
- Suburban

*Can't see the brand of your appliance here?  
Give us a call to see what we can do for you!*

### Contact Us

#### Opening Hours:

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Wednesday: 8am - 4pm

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Friday: 8am - 4pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

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## *Teenagers and the way of manipulating the facts*

**Tom asked his father**, who is a pastor, if they could talk about using his car. The father said to him, *"I want to make an appointment with you. If you improve your grades, study your Bible a little, and get a haircut, then we'll talk about it."* A month later, the boy returned and asked his father if they could talk about using his car. His father said, *"Son, I'm really proud of you. You've improved your grades, you've diligently studied your Bible, but you haven't gotten a haircut."* The young man paused. *"You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair."* His father replied, *"Yes, son, there is a difference, they walked everywhere."*

*Er is altijd een geweldige Hollandse sfeer in 't Winkeltje*



## *The reality of Alzheimer*

**When I go astray**, Let me go then, don't force me to sit, let me walk and stand.

**When I ask for mommy**, don't tell me she died, hold me tight, reach out to my hand, and ask me her name.

**When I am angry** I don't want medication. Listen to me, hear my voice, take your time and make me laugh.

**When I don't want to eat anymore**, isn't that because I'm not hungry I forgot how to do it, help me remember, show me how you do it.

**When I don't want you to help me**, with washing and getting dressed Is it not because I want to be dirty, but because I forgot your offer.

**When you keep repeating** what you're going to do, warns me what's about to happen, without complaining about my resistance, you might get a kiss later!

**When you live inside me**, patiently figuring out what I mean, who knows, you'll find out, how I really feel.

**I have a disease**, as you know, Alzheimer's seems to be called. Now I remember that, tomorrow I've already forgotten. **M.C. Eberhart**

**I am working from home  
today...**



**Some photographic memories of our last DECEMBER function**  
**If you weren't there, you missed a great show and "Gezelligheid"**

**Sinterklaasje kom maar binnen met je knecht...**



**Never get so busy making a living... That you forget to make a life.**







**Connie Verstegen sends her love  
from Arcare in Warners Bay.**

***My patriotic heart beats Red, White & Blue  
We are keeping our former traditions alive at Concordia***



***A great atmosphere is our business card, come and join us soon!***

***The best weight you'll ever lose...  
Is the weight of other people's opinions***

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.*

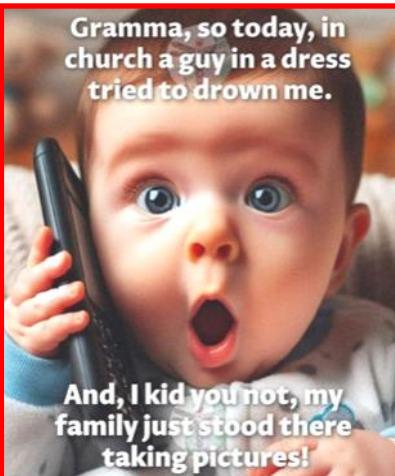
Concordia

S@**MAEN**

SINDS 1957



*Namens het bestuur van Concordia  
Wij wensen u zeer prettige Paasdagen toe.*





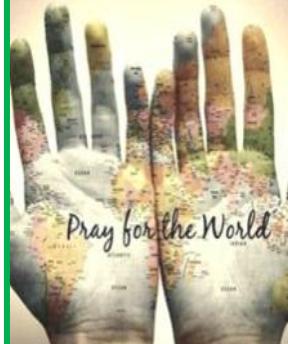
## 8 Find differences

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



Nothing in the Nature lives for itself.  
Rivers don't drink their own water.  
Trees don't eat their own fruit.  
The Sun doesn't shine for itself.  
A flower's fragrance is not for itself.

Living for each other is  
the rule of nature.



## **New General Manager Hunter Multicultural Communities.**

**It's with great privilege**

I introduce myself as the new

**General Manager of Hunter**

**Multicultural Communities.**

**HMC** has a long and respected history of supporting culturally and linguistically diverse communities across the Hunter, and I am joining the organisation at a time of both

opportunity and change. At a time when there are efforts to divide communities, multiculturalism remains essential. It is about respect, inclusion, and ensuring that everyone belongs. As a Multicultural NSW peak body, I see **HMC's** role as supporting understanding and bringing people together across the Hunter. Over the coming months, my priority will be to listen and learn from clients, staff, volunteers, members, and partners, and to work with the **HMC** team to strengthen our services, clarify our role as a peak multicultural body, and ensure we are well positioned for the future. Thank you for your continued engagement with **HMC**. I look forward to working with you.

**Kind regards: Fadi Baghdadi**

**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.

**June 30 - 2025 was the official end of Concordia's last financial year.** We allow our members a period of 2 months to pay their new membership. If you have a red address label, please take action. Those already paid we thank you. Refer to page 35 for information. Some memberships are still overdue for 2025-2026!



**The emptiness** you left behind is unbearable, only filled with beautiful memories to cherish. What is left are some photo's to look at filled with emotions by thinking back to the beautiful person you are.

Heden is na een lang ziekbed toch nog plotseling van ons heengegaan onze lieve moeder en grootmoeder..

**Antonetta (Nettie) MARTEN - Aged 82 years**



Dearly beloved wife of **Vaughn**. Much loved mother and mother in law of **Michelle** and **Michael, John, Monique** and **Mylon, Raymond** and **Kylie**.

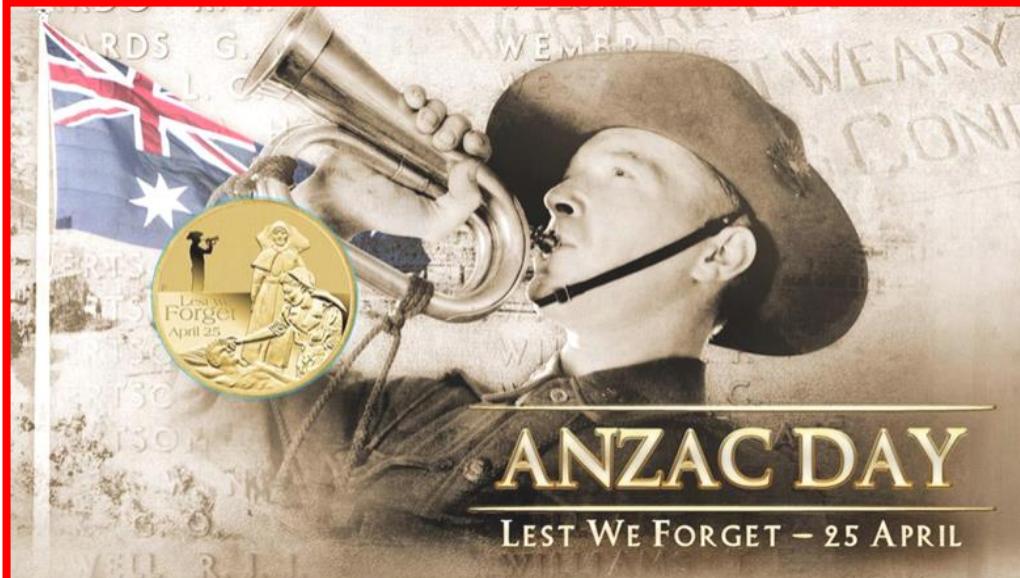
Loving Nan of Lauren, Olivia, Natalie, Katie, Benjamin, Stephanie, Alexander, Luka, Jake and Hollie. Loved sister of Toosje (**dec**) and Neeltje.

A funeral Mass for the repose of Nettie's soul was held on **Thursday 8th January 2026** at **St. Kevin's Catholic Church, Cardiff**.

**On behalf of the Concordia Committee we convey our sincere condolences to Nettie's family and all those who were close to her.**

**Rust in Vrede - Rest in Peace - Requiescat in Pace.**

**There are some who bring a light so great to the world that...  
...even after they have gone, their light remains forever.**



Traditional Dutch Recipe



Dutchie's  
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**  
**Sutcliffe Meats - Erina Fair**  
**Cresthaven Meats - Bateau Bay**

*It's all Dutch & 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

## ***The Story of an Early Emigrant***

**It was snowing** when I left the Netherlands, in the year of fifty two, I hoped that I like this land, that I was coming to. Out in the suburbs with the heat, the flies and fleas. Oh, no! I'm not whining, but please take me home again! Well, I knew I couldn't go back, so I settled down to find that the people of Australia were really very kind.

**It wasn't long before** he said, "*we're on the move again.*" we were going to live in the country and out on the plains. Well, I travelled with my children, at the time I had just 3, I was pleased to find no natives camped under every tree. So way up on a dirty road in a forest stood the camp. Up there was no electricity, so we used the kero lamp. The fireplace across the room, no stove that I could see, a camp oven was what I used, whenever I cooked tea.

**At first there was no water**, so I dipped it from the creek. I knew then that I was strong, it was no country for the weak. The toilet was another thing I had to get used to it was called by other names, the dunny or the loo. I don't mind the trip there, at least while it was light, it was a test of bravery, to go there in the night. There were spiders, snakes, possums and the kangaroo. Also wombats and goannas that I had to get used to.

**And every Friday afternoon**, as strange as it may seem, I cart my washing to the mill and there I get it clean. They cut a drum in half for me, so two large tubs I had, The steam hose made the water hot, of this I sure was glad. When I did my monthly shopping, into town by logging truck, I prayed that God would get me safely back with any luck.

**I remember too the yabbies**, my son caught with string and meat, when he brought them home, I'd cook them as they really were a treat. At first we had a meat safe, with wet bags hanging around, then later on a "*silent knight*", such luxury I found. We decided two years later, into town we had to go, But I'd learnt first hand, the hard life of all those women long ago. *Editor*

**A man was just coming out of anaesthesia** after a series of tests in the hospital, his wife was sitting at his bedside. His eyes fluttered open, and he murmured, "*You're beautiful.*" Flattered, the wife continued her vigil while he drifted back to sleep. Later, her husband woke up and said, "*You're cute.*"

Startled, she asked him, "*What happened to 'beautiful?'*"

*"The anaesthetic is wearing off"* he replied.



Around the year 2040 retirement village residents will be playing a new game of "Guess what the tattoo used to be!"



### *Let's break the fall*

**As many as one in three** older people living in the Hunter will fall this year. Many will be injured, and some may even die. It's an alarming statistic that has prompted Hunter Health to take action. The people of the Hunter are being urged to take action as well.

**The most common reason** that older people are admitted to hospital is following a fall. Injuries include lacerations, bruising, and broken bones. And even if they are not injured seriously, the shock of a fall can cause many older people to lose confidence they become afraid of falling again, and it can affect their whole way of life. Falls are a threat not just to your body they are a threat to your independence.

**Most falls occur in the home**, and most can be avoided. Preventing falls has been identified by the NSW Health Department as one of the most important issues for improving the health of older people. We need to make older people aware of the range of things they can do to reduce their risk of falling.

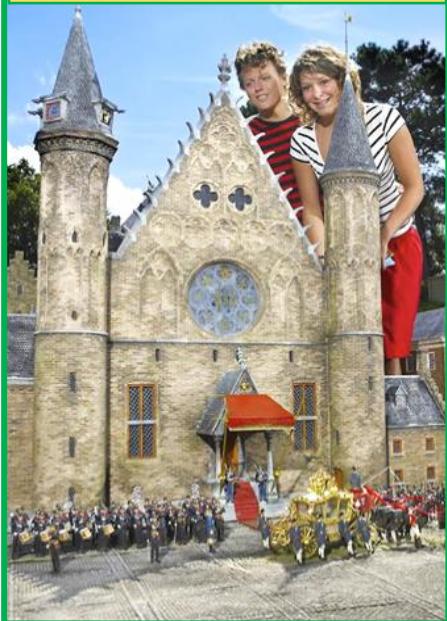
**The Hunter Centre for Health Advancement, says:** *"There are many things you can do around the home to help prevent falls. Installing grab rails and having non-slip flooring will make your home a safer place". "Getting regular exercise and wearing sensible shoes can also help to reduce your chance of falling."* Many people don't think about a fall until they have one - by then it might be too late. Even fit and healthy, younger people should act now to make their homes safer. **Prevention is better than cure!** *Editor*

# Harder than you think!

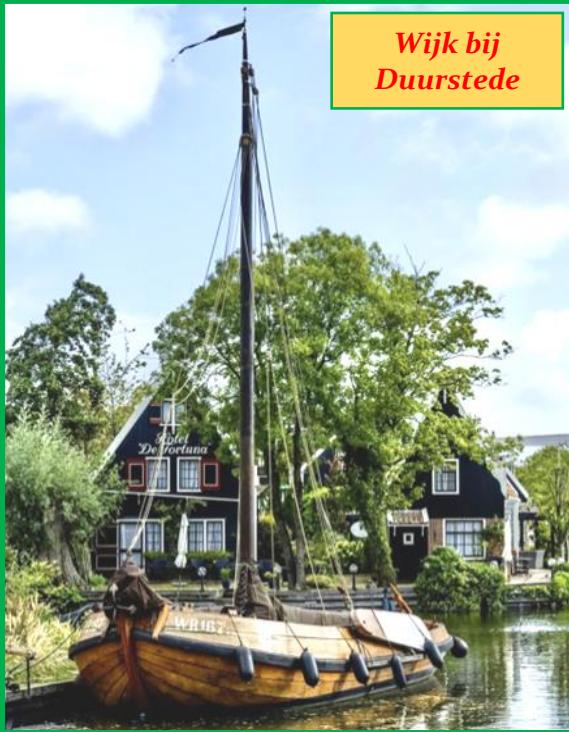


## Nederland oh Nederland wat ben je toch mooi

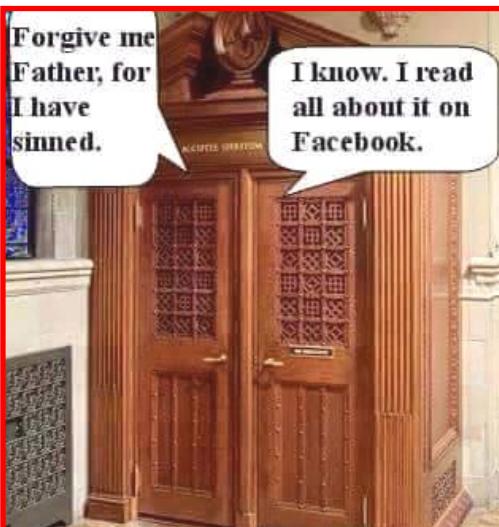
### Madurodam. Netherlands Highlights and Heritage



Wijk bij  
Duurstede



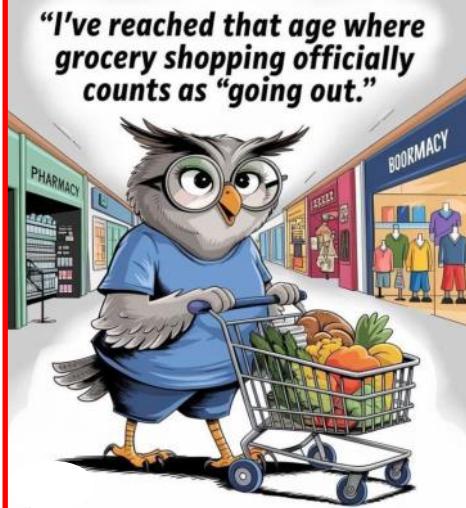
Come and join us for a great day out with family and friends.  
Life entertainment - Saturday 28th March - Everyone is welcome.





*Without respect, relationships are lost. We are all different and if someone can't value your differences and respect your values and beliefs, then they don't deserve a front row seat in your life.*

**"I've reached that age where grocery shopping officially counts as "going out."**



Does your family say a prayer before you eat your food?

 Nope, we're Dutch. My Mom knows how to cook!



### Letters to the Editor

**Hello Joop,** Thanks once again for the newsletter. I enjoy seeing some familiar faces in it, some excellent jokes and the **Dorothea McKellar** poem which has been altered very cleverly. You missed our Mum on the **100+** list - **Anne Stevens** - passing in August 2022 at age 100 (**and 2 months**). You did ask us to let you know! I would love to be an active member of the club but don't drive to Newcastle any more. I very much enjoyed attending the functions over the years, though, with Mum. Heel gezellig! **Zalig Kerstfeest, Joop**, and to **Toni** and **Lucia** too. Love and hugs to you all. **Sandra Stevens.**

**Dear Sandra,** Wow what a bad mistake on my behalf, I need to sincerely apologise for this oversight. We all know how important Mum was to all of us. I was most likely relying on my memory too much perhaps, regardless what, I am very sorry. I have made the following adjustment in the official **AGM** report. I will also pass this email to **Lucia** and **Toni** as you mentioned them in your Christmas message. **Editor Joop**

**Concordia Members** that have reached **100** plus years to date were:

**Anton Davelaar - 24/07/2017** aged **101**

**Johanna Maria Stevens - 28/08/2022** aged **100**

**Martha Mulder - 22/04/2023** aged **102**

**Lena van der Lely - 20/08/2024** aged **100**

Can anyone beat this list, do you know of someone that has reached **100plus years** since the start of Concordia in **1957**? **Please let us know.**

**Thank you Joop.** It was yet another great gathering of the Dutch crew and offspring at Concordia's last Christmas function. Top notch entertainment, as usual. A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to you. **Justin Wolthers**

**Walter & Ellie HESS.** Dat was weer eens een gezellige Sinterklaasviering. Dank je wel **Joop**, ook aan het Concordia team.

**Lieve Joop** voor jou superfijne kerstdagen toegewenst ook voor **Jib** doe haar de groetjes van mij. Het laatste Concordia boekje was ook weer tops, wat moeten ze toch zonder jou? Trots op jou hoe je dat allemaal doet. Dikke knuffel **Eef en Harm**

**Thank You and "Hartelijk dank Joop de Wit,"** Merry Christmas and best wishes for **2026** to all of you in Newcastle and the Hunter area. We have moved to Nambucca Heads to an Aged Care centre, **Riverside Gardens** after selling our house in **Pearl Beach, Central Coast** where we lived for **24** years. It's quite a good centre but what is missing is young people. Not surprising really but it is experienced as such nevertheless: We are keeping informed

(Continued from page 33)

via the **Dutch Australian Cultural Centre** which now reaches many more people than ever via the website which is kept very well up to date by **Paul Budde** and his team in Brisbane. However, our Library material is still kept in the **Abel Tasman Centre** in Sydney. **Klaas and Aafke Woldring**.

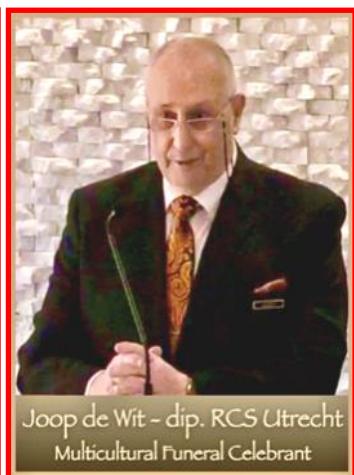
**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** to you too, **Joop**. Also to the Concordia family, **Gerry Smolders**.

**Hello Joop**, I also wish you a happy New Year. **Pieter** is in **RFBi Lake Haven Masonic Retirement Village, Stapleton House, Room 60**. He sleeps quite a lot. He is usually up in the loungeroom until lunchtime sleeping in a chair. **12** o'clock he has lunch then he is in bed after **1pm** for his afternoon nap. They then get him up for his shower around **3pm** and his dinner at **5pm** then he looks again for his bed. Thank you for your wishes. I have a new email address that I am using, I have that one on my phone as well so can check it more often, **Glenda Hofland**.

**Dear friend Joop de Wit**, you are just so official. I'm still completely snotty and moved. What a loving, personalised farewell this was. I won't forget this! This speaks to your heart, your soul, your precious memories, your whole self. This is so beautiful and warm **Joop**. I have never experienced this before. You take everyone along in how it is meant to be, human with each other and put it into words. **Joop**, thanks! I still have a lump in my throat. How different things are here. This is so beautifully focused on the person. And how clearly you speak. Also a plus. Thank you for letting me experience this. And then, at the end the photos and memories. And then, at the coffin the last farewell. Thank you dear friend. Lots of love and hugs, **Dieuwke van Rossen**.



The reality of living.  
- Life is often a laugh and a tear.



Joop de Wit - dip. RCS Utrecht  
Multicultural Funeral Celebrant

# 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.*



Keep in touch with the Dutch