

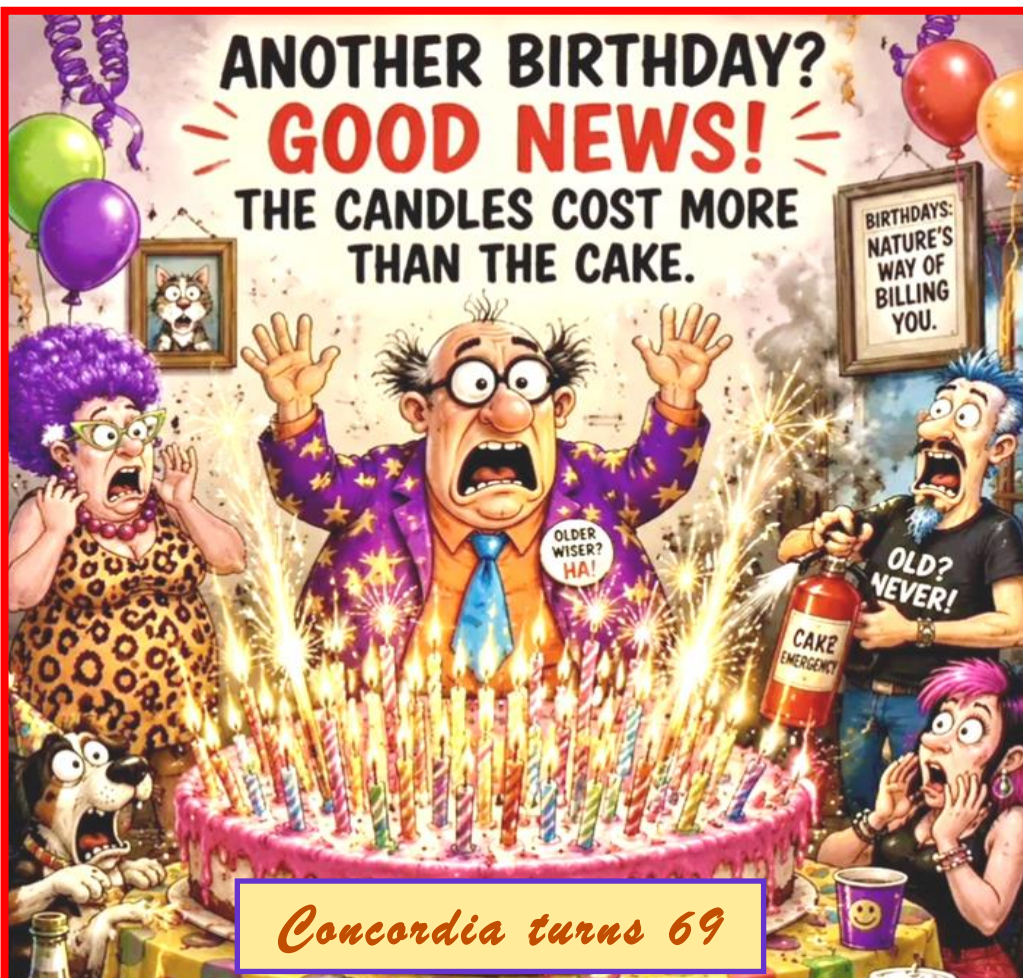


September - October
November 2026
Issue 244

Australia
Nederland



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



Concordia is a Dutch - Australian Social Club - Established in 1957
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Mary King	4955 6451	Lucia Reynders	0484 679 178
Ann Beckers	0448 311 147	Joop de Wit	Federation Representative

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE DUTCH SOCIETY "CONCORDIA"

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Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.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

Winter this year was in general similar to the many winters we experienced before while most of Europe is sweltering in the hottest summer on record. The world is still turning around and reinventing itself. We luckily cannot control the weather, we only need to accept it as part of life. I am more concerned about the many wars in our world which we as mere individuals cannot seem to stop.

Our Concordia Club will experience a very exiting time during the next few months. **Saturday 26th September** we are celebrating our **69th anniversary**. *I hope many of you will be there, not only to get our tummy full with nice food but also to help us making it a friendly get-together of a big Dutch-Australian Family.* Concordia celebrates it's **69th Anniversary** celebration, it promises to be very special with a mostly musical afternoon and again with many nice surprises.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will give you the chance to let you know how well we are doing and in setting the course for the following year including our **70th Anniversary**. We hope that all **Dutchies** and all those with a **Dutch** heritage are able to attend all or part of our busy program. We look forward in seeing you at all our **special events** as a sign of **Dutch** solidarity and friendship.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday **31st October**.
See page 18 & 19 of this issue. Your attendance would be appreciated.

As I was preparing this issue I was also informed that my eldest brother, was admitted to a Hospice facility in **Waddinxveen ZH**. Wim sadly passed to greener pastures on **Friday 14th August**, aged **90**. I was working between this latest issue while at the same time trying to bring closure to my brother. My heartfelt condolences to his wife **Teuni**, his family and many friends.

Looking forward in celebrating our **69th birthday Saturday 26th September**, at the **Cardiff RSL**. Write it down and book early to assist the **Cardiff RSL** and the **Eastern Tiger** restaurant for setup purposes and food ordering. They appreciate the cooperation that exist with Concordia.

For those who are sick... a get well wish. **For those who are sad.....keep smiling. For those who are cranky....look into the mirror and make a face..!**

Until next time.... your secretary/editor *Joop*

We are keeping our Dutch traditions alive at...Concordia

From the Presidents Desk - Toni Somerville

Dear Readers, it is still winter as I write this, the sun is out and it is a beautiful day. **Saturday July 25** was a very special and successful function with **Michael Montgomery** entertaining members and guests for an hour after lunch. Some Christmas songs were sung as well. **Joop** provided the entertainment for the second part of the afternoon.

Jopie Ryan, our very clever committee member once again decorated the tables beautifully with **Christmas in July** stickers on the tables and a winter scene. It was amazing, I was told. Unfortunately, due to an operation I was unable to attend that day, so **Joop** had 2 hats on, and committee member, **Mary King** kindly took over some duties from me that day. Thank you both very much.

Jan Mees who was our **Dutch Federation Representative** for many years until **Joop** took over, passed away at the age of **97 and 8 months**, amazing years. Sincere condolences to the family, relatives and friends of **Jan**.

Our next function is on **September 26th**. It will be **69 years** since Concordia started in **1957**. Although many members have since passed to greener pastures, or are aged or no longer able to attend any longer, we are still surviving. We hope that we continue to have your support as we move forward. A sincere thank you to **Joop** again for all he does and for the newsletters, also to **Mathew**, our treasurer.

Please join us for another super function, all you can eat, catch up with friends and entertainment for still **\$20.00 PP**

Until next time, take care, keep well and stay warm. *Toni.*



**What is the meaning of the name
Concordia in history!**
**Concordia is a Latin name meaning
'HARMONY' - 'UNITY' or 'PEACE'**

Your special invite for Saturday 26th September

Concordia Presents.... a special birthday program

We also celebrate Fathers Day

All this, and more at the Cardiff RSL.

Don't miss it! Bring your family and friends.

Anyone is welcome - Enjoy a day out - Booking essential

FOR BOOKINGS: Contact Joop on 4954 5227.

Doors open 11am - Finish 4pm

Join us for an all you can eat Banquet, followed by our entertainment

Please pay at the door, only \$20.00 pp Meal & entertainment.

Eastern Tiger banquet followed by a cosy sentimental afternoon.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



**HAPPY 69TH BIRTHDAY
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY**

**25202
DAYS OLD**

BUT WHO'S COUNTING?



SINGLE BLACK FEMALE

Seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good girl who **LOVES** to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your car, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire. candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me.

Call 8756420 and ask for Daisy, I'll be waiting....

Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the RSPCA about an 8-week-old black Labrador retriever.

Man and a turtle are very much alike.

Neither makes any progress without sticking his neck out.

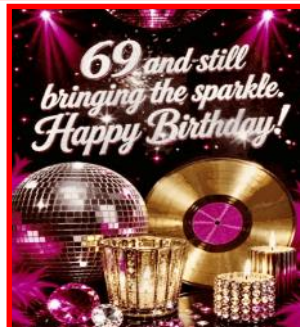
One way only

There are eleven people hanging on a rope that comes down from an airplane. Ten of them are blonde and one is a brunette. They all decide that one person should get off because if they don't, the rope will break and everyone will die. No one can decide who should go, so finally the brunette delivers a very touching speech ending with the words ***"I'll get off"***. The blondes are all very moved by her speech and start clapping. ***Problem solved.***

Please book your seats for the next Concordia Function.

Together we celebrate a special cosy spring afternoon

Join us on Saturday 26th September, Cardiff RSL - Everyone is welcome



"We Come Empty, We Leave Empty"

No matter how much we earn,
how much we achieve,
or how much we collect in
life...

We come into this world with
nothing,
and we leave with nothing.
The only thing that matters
is the love we give,
the kindness we show,
and the memories we leave
behind.

So live fully, love deeply,
and give generously—
because in the end,
all that follows us
are the footprints of our heart



We are not old.



We are recycled teenagers.

'Henny, kom eens bij je vader. Waarom heb je je verloving met Victor uitgemaakt?'

'Omdat hij me voor de gek heeft gehouden. Hij had me verteld dat hij een lever- en nier specialist was... Ga ik gisteren voor de eerste keer naar hem toe, heel onverwacht en staat ie in een slagerij te werken...!'

Dutch News

News And Current Affairs, News - Overseas



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

MEMBERSHIP 2026-2027 Renewals

If someone makes you happy....make them happier



Get well soon!



Feeling better already!

*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!*

Our 69th Anniversary...in hindsight

With great interest did I read one of my earlier editorial stories that I wrote as editor 25 years ago. I observed the many mental hurdles that people had to face in resolving decisions to denounce their Dutch Nationality to become Australian Citizens. I for one have no problem with this issue. I have never been a strong nationalistic person. Past history has shown that having a fanatical or nationalistic mindset only created division and wars. Just look around the world today. It is this nationalistic approach that keep on dividing people all over the world. We all live under the same heavens, we all face the same issue's regardless who we are, where we come from or where we are going. We might have different coloured skin, but all blood is red, only blood creates the living being. Everyone has the right to make a personal choice about what one would like to do with their lives, I don't have an issue with that. However we must approach the subject of naturalisation with great love, understanding, goodwill, flexibility and kindness.

Holland after World War 2 *was a country in turmoil, World War 2 had a devastating effect on the morale and the outlook of many people. Holland was a country which had an incredible ability to rise from the ashes of a devastating war and in turmoil. A nation of people of adventure, adaptability, dependability, hospitality, survival and a sense of belonging to name just a few. Of course we all must take in consideration that the Netherlands has changed over the years, just as Australia has changed since we arrived.*

A vast renewal program was commenced and the Dutch people not only had to rebuild most of their country, destroyed after 5 years of relentless warfare, but also had to rebuild their personal lives. This and many other issues made many people think outside the square, searching for a better life. Many started to look for a quick fix. Australia, Canada, America and South Africa became the target for a number of people. Most couldn't wait to start a new beginning. Waiting for the Dutch Government's rebuilding program was a frustrating experience for a lot of people. The housing crisis was a 10 year wait for some, even more for others.

Countries not devastated by war *jumped the political bandwagon and advertised heavily in many overseas newspapers and periodicals. It painted a picture of wealth and prosperity, sunny day's and miles of golden beaches, a certain holiday for life. For many people that was an attractive proposition.*

Slowly but surely we build a picture of great adventure, a new life, with

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

none of the problems like home. The Dutch enterprising spirit took hold and wasn't to be stopped. The biggest hurdle most prospective migrants had to overcome was probably the determination and courage to leave behind your most prized possessions, **family and friends**. I keep on thinking how difficult it was for me to leave all my family and friends behind in order to start a new beginning in a very different world. Yes, I made this choice and many others before me. It was perhaps the most difficult decision I ever had to make.

What attracted us to leave our past behind and start all over again? The climate and the wide open spaces? The many new opportunities? Everyone has a different story to tell. I vividly recall the Australian propaganda machine spending vast amounts of money, advertising in many Dutch Newspapers and various magazines, procuring people to get this continent the workforce it needed in order to survive, yes my friends, we were asked to come to help Australia survive and prosper in a slowly awakening competitive world. Whatever the other reasons, we made a choice, this choice was an issue of selling yourself the idea that there was no longer a future in your country of birth. For many migrants it was the belief that Australia was a land of milk and honey and a certain promise of success. I have since my arrival discovered that Australia is a country that grows on you over time, I felt that our acceptance in this continent is mainly brought about by many sympathetic Australians and many others. It was the millions of migrants together with the Australians that brought prosperity and wealth to this country. Everyone benefits, it was this mighty effort of many cultures that made Australia what it is today despite the many current issues.

On the negative side, I feel, even today, a certain form of discrimination by a small number of people. Not a very good trait or attitude. Some of those even proclaim to be good believers, some happen to be born here and don't want to grasp the real problems of migration and its consequences. Would they like to pack up, leave all their loved ones behind to start a new life on the other side of the world because Australia is facing an uncertain future? To be treated like a second class citizen? To everyone reading this, think about it carefully, practice some understanding and flexibility to those who came here to rebuild their lives and to help this great nation prosper. If migration was stopped a few centuries ago those people who practice discrimination would not have been here either. This is precisely my point dear readers, there is still a lot to be done, **YES**, there's plenty of unfinished

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

business. All **Citizens in Australia** must remember that this is a country among very few, has become a good home to millions of people. Everyone reaps the benefits of very hard work and personal efforts to gel this country together whatever our nationality, personal believes or past culture,

Abiding by Australian laws must always come first. *Joop*

Another Financial year has come and gone!

Your valued membership of Concordia is now overdue

Love makes the world go round...but...

Your membership helps us to survive! *Please pay now!*

May all you wonderful

Dads enjoy a
Happy Father's Day



Our next function in the *Cardiff RSL - Saturday 26 September 2026* another great day as we *Celebrate Concordia's 69th Birthday* also *Fathers Day, all in one. Please book early, everyone is welcome.* help the RSL for setting up purposes of the private room, and the Eastern Tiger restaurant to order enough food.

**The days and years
of our lives**





The year was 1960 when the papers were predicting that...

Oil will be gone within a few years. **1970s:** Another ice age will come in a few years. **1980s:** Acid rain will destroy all crops within a few years. **1990s:** The ozone layer will be gone within a few years. **2000s:** The ice caps will disappear within a few years. **2010s:** The sea level will flood entire cities within a few years. **2020s:** The climate will reach an irreversible tipping point within a few years. **NONE** of this has happened, but each time it resulted in **MORE TAXES.** *Joop*



One day little Jopie comes home from school. Excitedly he did say that he learned to write that day. "How clever!" says his mother, "What did you write?" "I don't know," says Jopie. "We are only learning to read tomorrow."

Laughter is the best Medicine

A man died and left his wife **\$50,000** in his will. After all the details had been attended to at the funeral home and the cemetery, she visited a close friend and told her that she had no money left from her cash inheritance. *"How can that be?"* asked the friend. *"Just a few day's ago you told me that you had \$50,000 in your purse."* The widow sighed and said: *"Well the funeral cost \$10,000 and I was obliged to make a donation to their Parish Church in memory of my late husband, so that was another \$4,000. Then the rest was spent on the memorial stone."* The friend exclaimed: *"Goodness me! \$40,000 for a memorial stone! How big was it?"* Extending her right hand the widow demurely said: *"4 carats!"*

A gentleman, fresh out of gift ideas, bought his mother-in-law a large burial plot in an expensive cemetery, it cost him a fortune. The following year on her next birthday he bought her nothing. The mother-in-law was quick to comment on his thoughtlessness not receiving anything for her birthday that year. The son-in-law in response said only one thing - *"Well, what do you expect from me, you haven't used the gift I gave you last year."*

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."*

A 30 year old female patient is told by her doctor that she only has six months to live. The patient becomes quite despondent, goes to the nearest church, falls to her knees, and begins to pray. All of a sudden God speaks to her, *"Don't worry, my child, you will live for at least another 40 years."* The woman was so happy to find out that she was going to live for another 40 years that she decided to treat herself to plastic surgery. So she had breast augmentation, rhinoplasty, and a face lift. A week after all the surgery was completed, she was walking across a busy intersection when she got hit by a bus and died on the spot. Up in heaven, she sees God and asks, *"I thought that you told me that I was going to live for another 40 years?"* *"Sorry," replied God. "I didn't recognize you!!"*

A distraught patient phoned her doctor's office. *"Is it true,"* the woman wanted to know, *"that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"* *"Yes, I'm afraid so,"* the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the woman continued, *"I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition"* This prescription is marked **"NO REPEATS"**

Waar je ogen niet waren, moet je mond niet praten.

Here are the public holidays in New South Wales for 2026-2027

- 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 Holidays NSW 2027

- Australia Day: *Tuesday 26th January*
- Good Friday: *Friday 26th March*
- Easter Saturday: *Saturday 27th March*
- Easter Sunday: *Sunday 28th March*
- Easter Monday: *Monday 29th March*
- Anzac Day: *Sunday 25th April*
- King's Birthday: *Monday 14th June*
- Labour Day: *Monday 4th October*

MY NATION



MY HERITAGE

Whenever you're having a bad day, remember this...

Concordia will always love you!

Public School Holidays

NSW 2026 - 2027

Monday 28th September 2026
Friday 9th October 2026
Spring Holidays

Friday 18th December 2026
Wednesday 27th January 2027
Summer Vacation

Monday 12th April 2027
Friday 23rd April 2027
Autumn Holidays

CONCORDIA FUNCTIONS 2026 – 2027 CARDIFF RSL

Important Dates:

Saturday 26th September

AGM 31st October

Saturday 19th December

Saturday 3rd April 2027



Toni



Mat



Joop

Our Executive Committee

Don't be impressed by money, degrees and titles.

Be impressed by kindness, integrity, humility and generosity



Find the Fruit Names



Find & circle the names of the fruits.

a p i n e a p p l e f z v
 c k r o l n g r a p e s x
 f n u t p x p e r e v a a
 h s t r a w b e r r y i d
 a q a n p g d r c p j m n
 p m s r a o b a n a n a r
 p x u f y n r k a m e n f
 l r o r a n g e g r a g l
 e q r i l s m x g o r o i
 c w a t e r m e l o n e a
 f n u t v s o z e e v s t



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



The fact that there's a highway to hell, and only a stairway to heaven, says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.





Lakeside Gas Fridges

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With over 30 years experience in the business, we know our stuff. Lakeside gas fridges aims to provide reliable, efficient and quality services to all our customers.

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Caravan LPG Safety Inspections

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Tuesday: 8am - 4pm

Wednesday: 8am - 4pm

Thursday: 8am - 4pm

Friday: 8am - 4pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

Phone: 02 4958 6652

Mobile: 0435 447 005

Email: gasfridges@gmail.com

Website:

www.lakesidegasfridges.com.au

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- Consul
- Electrolux
- 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!*

**CARAVAN, CAMPING
AND MARINE APPLIANCE
REPAIR SPECIALISTS**

CONCORDIA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

*Concordia members are cordially invited to attend
the Annual General Meeting - AGM*

Date: Saturday 31st October - 2024 commencing at 2pm

Place: CARDIFF RSL - private room - start 2pm

*All members attending the AGM must be financial
for the year 2026 / 2027*

Late membership payments will be accepted prior to the AGM

Attend the **Annual General Meeting** to have your say
in the running of **YOUR** Concordia.

*Please refer to the nomination form in this magazine (Page 18 = Right side)
if you'd like to be elected as...*

Secretary / Editor or Committee Member.

*Elke ochtend als ik de gordijnen open doe,
Begint er weer een nieuwe show voor mij....*

A stable executive committee is the backbone of our Concordia.
They have gained the experience of many years in our well
established organisation since **1957**.

Our secretary Joop de Wit has **43 years** under his belt this year.
He will be available for the next 2 year term as **Secretary** and **Editor**
Current Committee members are available for re-election,

We hereby thank our current and past committee members
All have been a very valuable tool in our overall success story.
They gave willingly their time and effort to make Concordia such a big
success story. We like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

**Please come and join us on Saturday 31st October at the Cardiff
RSL** for your participation at our **Annual General Meeting**.

New committee members are very welcome to apply. Editor

BESTUUR NOMINATIE

JAARLIJKE ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING 2026

zaterdag 31 oktober 2026 - Cardiff RSL - start 14.00uur

Wij nomineren:

Dhr / Mevr......

Adres.....

Telefoon.....

Voor de positie van: *(Aankruisen a.u.b.)*

1. **SECRETARIS/REDACTEUR** []

2. **BESTUURSLID** []

Handtekening Voorsteller:.....

Handtekening Ondersteuner:.....

Ik accepteer de nominatie:..... *

**Handtekening Kandidaat*

Stuur naar: *Secretary, Dutch Society "Concordia"*

P.O. Box 16, Cardiff - NSW 2285 concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

Nomination forms must be on the Secretary's desk on or before 30th September 2026

The changes to have a building project in 2026

In the year 2026, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in Australia and said: *"Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good human beings."*

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying: *"You have 6 months to build the Ark before I start the unending rain in Australia first for 40 days and 40 nights."* Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. *"Noah!,"* He roared, *"I've started the rain in Australia! Where is the Ark?"*

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, *"but things have changed."* *"I needed Planning Permission, a Building Permit, a Builder's Licence, Insurance, consent from my neighbours, a kerbside deposit, Site Survey, Engineering, Energy Efficiency Compliance Certificates, Fire Certification, and a full set of signed off working drawings."* *"I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for an on-board sprinkler system."* *"My neighbours claim that I'll violate the neighbourhood zoning and Bye-Laws by building the Ark in my backyard, and exceed the height limitations. We had to wait five months for a Council Planning Committee decision."* *"Then the Local Council and the Electricity Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it."*

"Getting the wood was another problem. *There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Great Spotted Mopoke tree."* *"I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the Mopokes - but no go!"* *When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in such a space* *"Then the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood."*

"I was stopped by unions and the Building Commission for not using Registered painters, plumbers, and Electricians. Stopped again by Health and Safety because they wanted more scaffolding, Ladders, harnesses, ramps and Hi-vis clothing. All my tools had to be tested and tagged by electricians too! Then the local council demanded we provide Disabled Toilets, signs in Braille, widen passages and install ramps everywhere. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from The Human Rights Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building gang." *a confined*

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

space." "Everything then stopped when Immigration started checking the Visa status of most of the people who wanted to work." "The trades unions even said I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience." "To make matters worse, the Australian Taxation Office seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species." "So, forgive me, Lord, but it will take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy us?" "No," said the Lord. "The Australian Government beat me to it." *Editor*

*If the grass is greener on the other side,
it's probably artificial turf.*

Concordia
S@MEN
SINDS 1957



Membership Fees

Haven't renewed yet?

There's still plenty of time to support your club.



The Wi-Fi has gone down. The children have come out of their bedrooms. My God, how big they have grown.



"Dear Children: How have you been? Your mother and I are fine. We both miss you. Please sign off on your computers and come downstairs for something to eat. Love, mum and dad."

Vale: Jan Mees

Jan (John) Mees, a longstanding volunteer and representative of the Dutch-Australian community in New South Wales, passed away at **Abel Tasman Village** on 1 August 2026, **aged 97 years and 8 months**.

Born in Amersfoort in the Netherlands on **10th December 1928**, **Jan** subsequently made his home in Australia. He lived for many years in **Earlwood** in **Sydney** and in **July 2022**, moved into the **Abel Tasman Village** at **Chester Hill**. His health was such that he needed full time care. Initially **Jan** wanted to be housed closer to his son **Trevor** near **Taree**. **Newcastle** was **Jan's** first choice at the time. I remember taking **Jan** and **Trevor** to a well known aged care facility in **Mayfield** on Tuesday **2nd March 2021**, I made an appointment with the facilities placements officer who I knew personally as I was already visiting a number of elderly patients in this facility. **Jan** was impressed and found the right room and place to live the last year's of his life. However after all the formalities with the Facility, **Jan** needed an **ACAT/NSAF** comprehensive assessment by the government which he sadly failed. The criteria as a high care patient when he applied for residency in this **Mayfield** facility was one silly mistake when he told the assessment officer that he was still driving his car, that statement was the end of his application. Later, as we all know **Jan** had to decide that he could no longer be on his own and the **Abel Tasman Village** was therefore the best option. **Jan** was happy to accept being amongst a number of Dutch Citizens at the **Abel Tasman Village** because of his association as a volunteer for the **DACC**.

Jan devoted a significant part of his life supporting a number of Dutch community organisations. He was a longstanding member of the Dutch Society **Concordia** in Newcastle and the Hunter region, serving for many years as its treasurer. He was subsequently made a life member of the society in recognition of his contribution to our **Concordia** members. **Jan** was for 25 odd years our **St. Nicholas** in his annual traditional role for a number of organisations under the umbrella of Concordia. Many pictures of children and adults alike all are proof of **Jan** as **St. Nicholas**. Many Photo albums in a number of Dutch households are proof of that. One of his helpers for umpteen years **Terry Moonen** has now been promoted to be **St. Nicholas**. **Jan** was also Concordia's treasurer and a great help and support to the then President **Ankie Dupree** who sadly passed away **2nd July 2008**. **Jan** also represented **Concordia** with the **Federation of Netherlands Societies NSW**. In

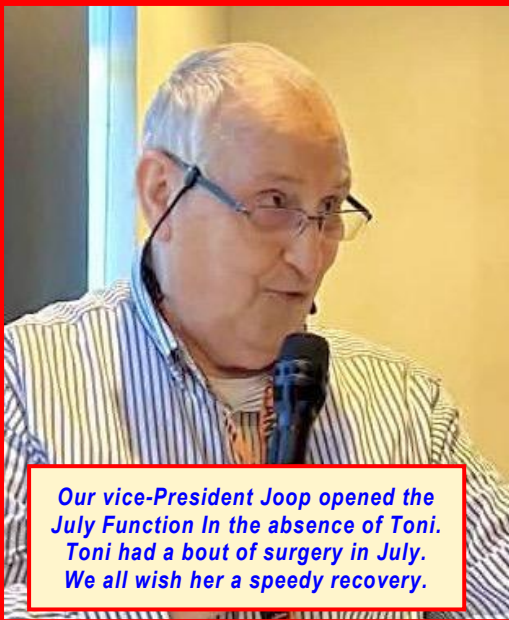
(Continued from page 22)

this role, he helped maintain the connection between the **Newcastle** and Hunter Dutch community and the wider network of Dutch organisations across the state. Federation records show Jan reporting on Concordia's activities and keeping other organisations informed about its functions, membership and community life. His work formed part of the less visible but essential administration through which Dutch clubs remained connected and continued his support.

For the postwar generation of Dutch migrants, organisations such as **Concordia** offered much more than social activities. They provided friendship, familiarity and mutual support while migrants established new lives in Australia. Volunteers such as **Jan** helped these organisations survive as their members grew older and the **Dutch-Australian community** changed. **Jan** was also involved with the **Dutch Australian Cultural Centre**. He served as a DACC board member and continued to assist the organisation as a volunteer. DACC newsletters from the **2010s** record him among those responsible for supporting the Centre's work of collecting and preserving the history of Dutch migration and community life in Australia. We wish **Jan's** only son **Trevor** and his partner, our sincere condolences in the loss of his father and father-in-law. Jan will certainly be looking for his former partner **Ankie Dupree**

Joop de Wit met dank aan DACC en 't Winkeltje





Our vice-President Joop opened the July Function In the absence of Toni. Toni had a bout of surgery in July. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Friendship is a priceless gift,
That cannot be bought or sold.
But its value is far greater,
Than a mountain of gold



*Michael Montgomery presented us with another great show.
Michael sure is a great musician and entertainer.
We hereby show you some happy pictures of the last show.*



I've still got all my marbles; they just work only in shifts.



Son: *"Dad, how did humans come to exist?"*

Dad: *"Well, you see, God created Adam and Eve"*

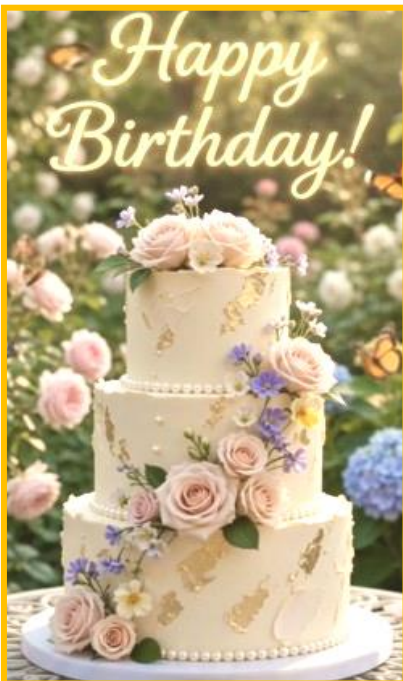
Son: *"But mom said we came from apes"*

Dad: *"She was talking about her family,
I am telling you about mine."*





"I'm on a seafood diet. I see food, and I eat it."



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

Suteliffe 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**

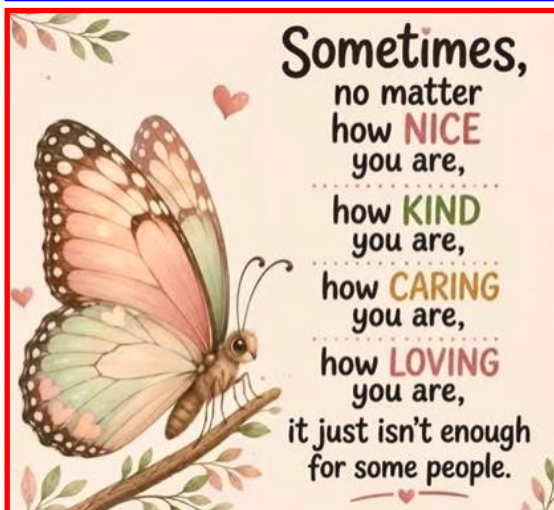


*Come and join us again for a great day with family and friends.
Great entertainment - Saturday 26th Sept. - Everyone is welcome.*





Nederland oh Nederland, wat ben je toch mooi



It's Scary to think that one day we're going to have to live without our Mother or Father or Sister or Brother or Husband or Wife. Or that one day we're going to have to walk this earth without our Best Friend by our Side, or them without us. Appreciate your loved ones while you can, because none of us are going to be here forever.

Gonnie Terpstra proudly made the last issue into a memory collage.



June 30 - 2026 is the official end of Concordia's last financial year.

We allow members a period of 2 months to pay their 2026-2027 membership. If you later see a red address label, you are overdue.

Those already paid we thank you. Refer to page 35 for more information. Some memberships are still overdue for 2025 -2026!



This was the last picture taken of our beautiful twilight singers The Dutch choir "The Twilight singers" going out on a HIGH note.

**Conductor: Pierre Hanssen, President: Anne Stevens
Treasurer: Lobke de Boer. A final day into a special occasion.
This year already 16 years ago. 1986—2010**

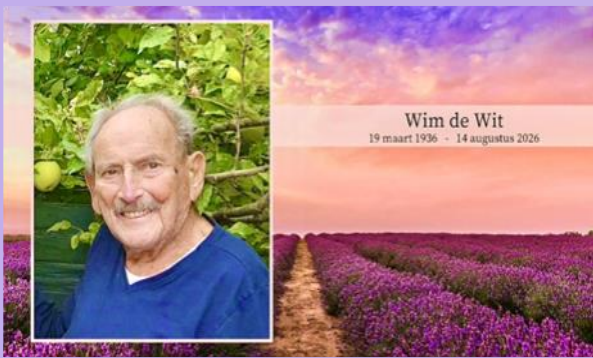


Toni, Ingrid and Lucia our Dutch representatives a few years ago

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.



At the "Twilight Singers" final Swan song day, close to 50 people turned up to enjoy a sentimental farewell. A happy / sad picture of a special group of people.



*Joop's brother Wim passed away on 14th August 2026
Sincere condolences to all in the family. **Rust in Vrede.***

THE DUTCH

WE KEEP IT SIMPLE

- 1 WE SAY WHAT WE THINK.
"No sugarcoating, just honesty."
- 2 WE DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH.
"Why make it difficult?"
- 3 WE VALUE OUR TIME.
"Be on time, it's respect."
- 4 WE'RE DIRECT, NOT RUDE.
"There's a difference."
- 5 WE KEEP PROMISES.
"A word is a word."

It's not cold,
it's just the Dutch way.

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

Letters to the editor

Good evening Joop. Just wanted to tell you what a fabulous Concordia Magazine you put together for *July-August*. Absolutely wonderful with your humour, wisdom and interesting items. Also thank you for your last entertainment. What a great heart you have Joop. Wonderful the way you also visit all those in the various aged care facilities. My friend *Bev* who sat with some of the *Concordia* people was quite impressed with their friendliness....and was asking me more about the *Dutch Club* on the way home. I think she might come again, she will let me know. She is a lovely person. Hope you have a great weekend. Take Care and Keep Well. *Barbara*

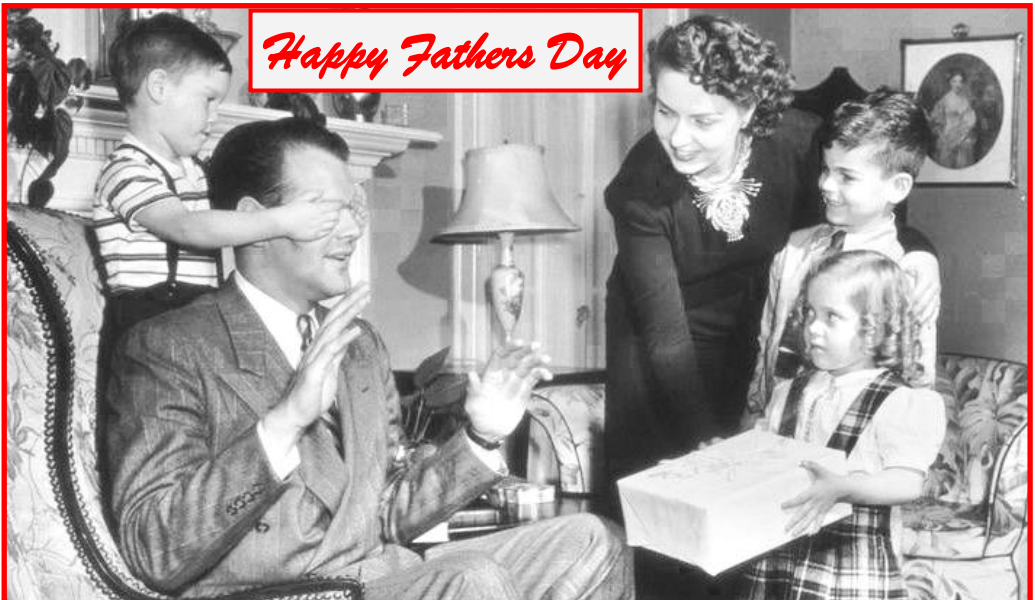
Dear Joop, We have now moved into *Whiddon Residential Care, Redhead Road, Redhead*. *Elly* had a stroke not long ago, needing full time care. Also thanks for your surprise visits *Joop*. We want to mention the deep appreciation we have for all the work you and the committee do for the members and their loved ones. A number of special functions every year, full of Dutch humour, recollections, gezelligheid, and chances to reconnect with friends or find new ones. I know there is a wonderful group of people that deserve a special mention, but it is you that does most of the work, creating the newsletters as well as the entertainment after lunch. Stay healthy, with love, *Walter & Elly Hes.*

Thanks Joop, re: annual General Meeting of Concordia, *AGM 2026*. We are unable to attend but I just want to let you know that we vote for all the current committee members to continue their tasks. They all do just such a wonderful job and without you *Joop*, there would not even be a *Concordia*, so please stay healthy! best wishes *Joop* and keep well and safe. *Anne & Keiran, Central Coast.*

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, can put something back into Concordia without too much effort.*



Even when you feel forgotten you can still prepare something beautiful in your life, just visit Concordia.



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

Our Westpac Bank details are:

Dutch Society of Concordia BSB: 032-512 Account No: 340048

Please attach your personal details when paying into our bank account.

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

No receipt will be issued, only when officially requested & after the relevant bank statements are received

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