

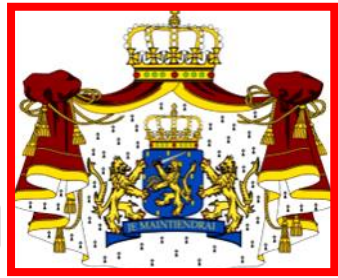


MAY — JUNE 2026

Issue 242

Australia

Nederland



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



The Dutch shop 't Winkeltje will be closing down - Shop for many final bargains.

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

DUTCH SOCIETY - CONCORDIA - EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: 2025 - 2026

President: Antonia Somerville Phone: 4958 1552 - email: concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

Vice-President: Joop de Wit Phone: 4954 5227 - Mobile: 0412 671 848
email: concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Matthew Wolthers Phone: 0412 524 314
email: concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

Secretary & Editor: Joop de Wit Phone: 4954 5227 - Mobile: 0412 671 848
Email: concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

CONCORDIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2025 - 2026

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Jopie Ryan | 0417 194 119 | Wendy Vanson | 4959 2327 |
| Mary King | 4955 6451 | Lucia Reynders | 0484 679 178 |
| Ingrid Thomas | 0429 861 549 | | |
| 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"

Editor: Mr Joop de Wit, 24 Gertrude Street, Cardiff South NSW 2285
Phone: (02) 4954 5227 Mobile 0412 671848
email: concordianewcastle@bigpond.com

DUTCH EMBASSY CANBERRA A.C.T. - Ambassador: Mrs Ardi Stoios-Braken

Empire Circuit - Yarralumla ACT 2600 - Canberra.
(02) 6220 9400 - Fax (02) 6273 3206 Email: can-cdp@minbuza.nl
Website: www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/countries/australia

DUTCH CONSULATE GENERAL SYDNEY N.S.W. Consul-General: Mr Hugo Maarten KLIJN Deputy Consul-General Ms Annelies Loeff

Netherlands Consulate-General in Sydney - Level 23, Tower 2, Westfield Bondi Junction - 101 Grafton Street
(corner Grosvenor Street) Bondi Junction NSW 2022
Postal address: PO Box 261 - Bondi Junction NSW 1355.
Tel: (02) 9387 6644 Fax: (02) 9387 3962 - email: syd@minbuza.nl

Any of the above information, wrong or out of date, please contact the editor at your earliest convenience, we will be able to change or make an immediate alteration in the general interest of our members.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

Today is **Easter 2026**, high time to start a brand new issue of the **Concordia** newsletter. Normally I need around 3 weeks to prepare just one issue but due to my last vacation and after my return to Australia I needed to prepare the memorial service of the owner of the Dutch shop in Smithfield **Mr. Jan van Altena**. It sure was a very sad time as **Jan** or also known to others as **John. Jan** will be missed by many of his friends and customers alike. On behalf of the committee and members of Concordia we pass our sincere condolences to his wife **Anita** and all in the family in their sad loss, both in Australia and overseas.

This year we commemorate **81 years** since the end of the second World War. A whole generation born around that time can reflect back on the many stories or witnessed the terrible years of German occupation. Today the world is once again close to meltdown, all due to a variety of reasons and in various countries around the globe. The events has given the world an uneasy peace amongst its citizens. No-one is safe wherever we reside in this world. I do realise that we need to refrain from political comments, our only hope that as mere individuals we can better this world only by our personal example. **(Verbeter de wereld, begin bij jezelf!)**

Our good news item. Our committee discussed a new restructure of fees. We have set the membership fees to **\$20.00** per annum no more issues about if you are single, married or otherwise. The only sad news is that our committee has received notice that the RSL entrance fees are now **\$21.50** for all our members during 2026. Still very cheap if you consider paying for an all you can eat meal, coffee/tea, great afternoon's entertainment and the very good services of the **RSL** and the **Eastern Tiger Restaurant** as well as having our functions in a private room. We are keeping the entrance fee at **\$20.00**

Our second function of the year 2026 will be a combination of **Kings Day, Mothers Day** and the commemoration of **81 years** of our **liberation** from the evils of the second world war. We also need to commemorate those that gave their lives so we could live in a better world, we also include all those that have given their lives in any of the wars since the second world war. As I am looking back, we still haven't learned very much when it comes to living in peace and freedom. Time to commemorate and celebrate a few special occasions. Hope to see many on the **30th May**, please keep the sunny side and book your seats by contacting yours truly on **PH: 4954 5227** if not available, just leave a message. **Until next time.... your secretary/editor Joop**

From the Presidents Desk - Toni Somerville

Dear Readers, hopefully our members and readers enjoyed **Easter** with family or friends. Maybe you had a quiet Easter and caught up with some jobs. I read a couple of books and now it is time to write my small contribution to the May - June Newsletter.

What a wonderful function it was on **March 28th**. So pleased to see **Norm Bakker** entertaining us for the afternoon. Members and guests sang along with **Norm** and many danced at the front near him and at the back of the hall. **Joop** made a special speech as it was **Norms 80th birthday March 29th**. The afternoon was over far too quick. Thank you **Norm**.

I loved the table decorations that committee member, **Jopie Ryan** made again. This time an Easter egg hunt theme, complete with a rabbit peering through foliage and eggs hiding here and there in between. Of course she had the usual lights to show it off beautifully. Speaking to **Jopie** a few days ago she told me she is working on the table decoration for the May function. Again, it will be very special. Thank you **Jopie**.

As always, our sincere thanks to everyone who donated in any way. We are so grateful to you for your generosity and support. I was pleased to see that so many books were taken from the back table. At one stage I thought I would have to bring more home than I brought. It is pleasing to see members bringing some of their books to share.

Thanks also to Jib who quietly walks around and takes photos. They brighten up the newsletters and show readers that we are enjoying our functions.

On February 1, 2026, Jan van Altena passed away. He was the owner of the Dutch shop, **'t Winkeltje, in Smithfield**. More from **Joop** in this issue.

Some members would not have known **Jan** but he will be remembered by our club members as a kind and generous person. Over the years **Jan** donated much to Concordia including several times having Concordia newsletters printed, apple pies for one of Concordia's birthdays, herrings for members, and 8 kilo of kruidnootjes for the **Sint Nicholas** function to name just a few. Sadly **'t Winkeltje** will close in the near future. Rest in Peace **Jan**.

Our next function is on the **30th of May**. **Joop** will have a solemn part at first as we remember the fallen in all wars and conflicts. Such a tragic waste of life and sadness for those left behind. Will there ever be peace in the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

world? We hear about the war in the Middle East now and we must be so grateful to live in Australia. Yes, petrol is dearer due to it and groceries as well but at least we are safe.

We will celebrate **Liberation Day, King Willem Alexander's birthday** and **Mother's Day**. Please wear something orange if you can. **Happy Mother's Day** to all mums reading this, committee hopes you have a special day with your loved ones and/or receive phone calls from your loved ones who live far away, like my daughter who lives south of Perth.

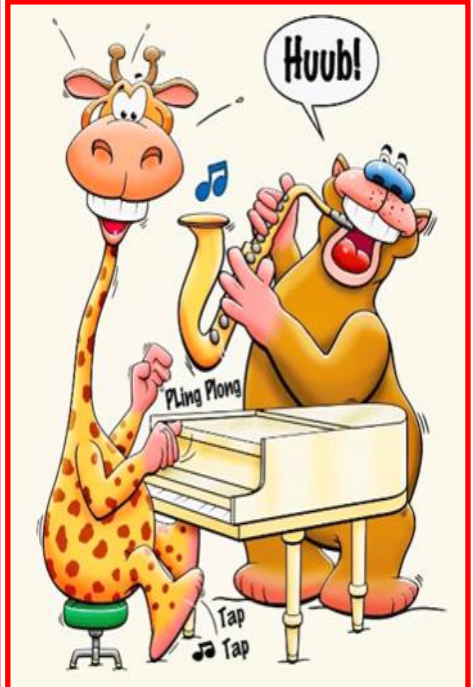
We hope to see many members and guests on **Saturday May 30** for another special function. Enjoy the usual smorgasbord lunch and catching up with your friends.

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

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



*Hij komt er spoedig weer aan in 2026
Het Nieuwe Zee Banket - Maatjes Haring*



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

Here's What NO CASH Actually Means:

A cashless society means no cash, yes **Zero**. I was reading during my vacation a number of articles that could benefit our members when I came across an article that in my mind, was a very disturbing article. I hope you will read this with an open mind as this article doesn't mean mostly cashless and maybe you can still use a '*wee bit of cash here & there*'. Cashless means fully digital, fully traceable, fully controlled. I think those who support a cashless society aren't fully aware of what they are really asking for.

A cashless society means:

- * **If you are struggling** with your mortgage or a big bill during a particular month, you can't do an odd job to get you through.
 - * **Your** child can't go & help someone to earn a bit of cash.
 - * **No more** cash into the hands of a child from grandparents or others.
 - * **No** more money in birthday cards.
 - * **No more** piggy banks for your child to collect pocket money & to learn about the value of earning and savings.
- * **No more** cash for a rainy day fund or for that something special you have been putting **\$20** a week away for.
- * **No more** little jobs on the side because your income barely cover the bills or put food on the table.
 - * **No more** charity collections.
- * **No more** selling bits & pieces from your home that you no longer want/need for a bit of cash in return.
 - * **No more** cash gifts from relatives or loved ones.

What a cashless society does guarantee:

- * **Banks have full control** of every single penny you own.
 - * **Every transaction** you make is recorded.
 - * **All your movements** & actions are traceable.
- * **Access to your money** can be blocked at the click of a button when/if banks need '*clarification*' from you which could take some weeks, lots of personal questions answered & a variety of passwords needed.

(Continued on page 7)

Grandma says - think Positive

*Thinking Positive keeps you young. For example,
I fell down the stairs today and I thought WOW
that's the fastest I have moved in years.*

(Continued from page 6)

- * **You will have no choice** but to declare & be taxed on every dollar in your possession.
- * **The government** will decide what you can & cannot purchase.
- * **If your transactions** are deemed in any way questionable, by those who create the questions, your money will be frozen,

Cashless is called for your own good

Forget about cash being dirty. Stop being so easily led. Cash has been around for a very, very, very long time & it gives you control over how you trade with the world. It gives you independence.

If you are a customer, pay with cash. If you are a shop owner, remove those ridiculous signs that ask people to pay by card. Cash is a legal tender, it is our right to pay with cash. Banks are making it increasingly difficult to lodge cash. Please open your eyes. Please stop believing everything you are being told. Almost every single topic in today's world is tainted with corruption & hidden agendas. Pay with cash & please say **NO** to a cashless society while we still have this choice. *Your editor Hoop*

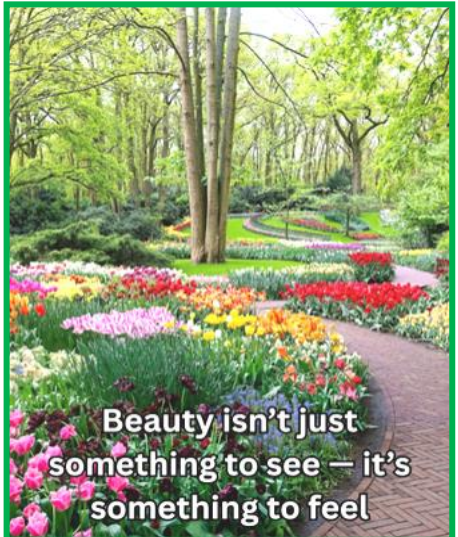
When you are stressed....

you eat ice cream, chocolate and sweets....Why??

*Because **STRESSED** spelled backwards is **DESSERTS**.*



**Family is like
branches on a tree,
we all grow in
different directions, but
our roots remain as
one.**



**Beauty isn't just
something to see — it's
something to feel**

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 so much better!

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!

*A 12 month aged **GOUDA** named world champion of cheeses*

As of early 2026, the **Beemster Royaal Grand Cru** from the **Netherlands** has been crowned the 2026 World Champion Cheese with a remarkable **98.68 / 100** score, recognized for its rich, nutty cow's milk flavour. Other top global contenders in 2026 include the **Swiss Appenzeller Purple Label** (*first runner-up*) and **Graviera Naxou** from **Greece**.

- **Beemster Royaal Grand Cru**, a 12-month-aged **Gouda** from the **Netherlands**, was named the 2026 World Champion at the World Championship Cheese Contest with a score of **98.68**.
- **The cheese** is produced by farmer-owned cooperative Cono Kaasmakers and was originally developed to celebrate the brand's designation as *Purveyor to the Royal Court of the Netherlands*.

Cono Kaasmakers, the cheesemakers behind **Beemster Cheese**, is a farmer-owned cooperative. **Gijs Dankers**, **Beemster's** general manager of export says, *"125 years of craftsmanship and tradition resulting in a world title is the best possible recognition for our farmers and cheesemakers."* *Editor*



Het huiselijke leven in de jaren 50

Your special invite for Saturday 30th May
Concordia Presents.... a special solid May program
Kings Day, Mothers Day, Remembrance, liberation day.
Joop will be entertaining us this afternoon
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

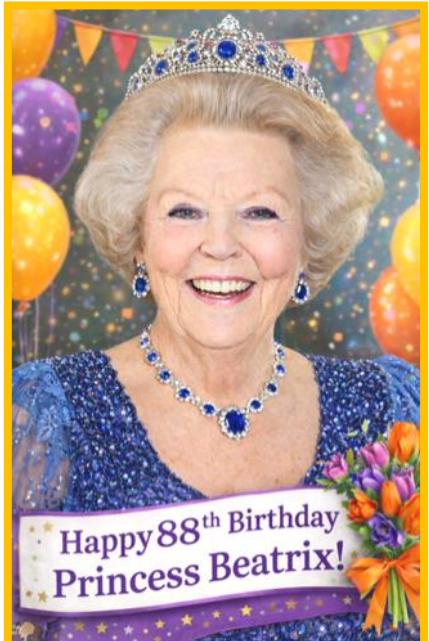
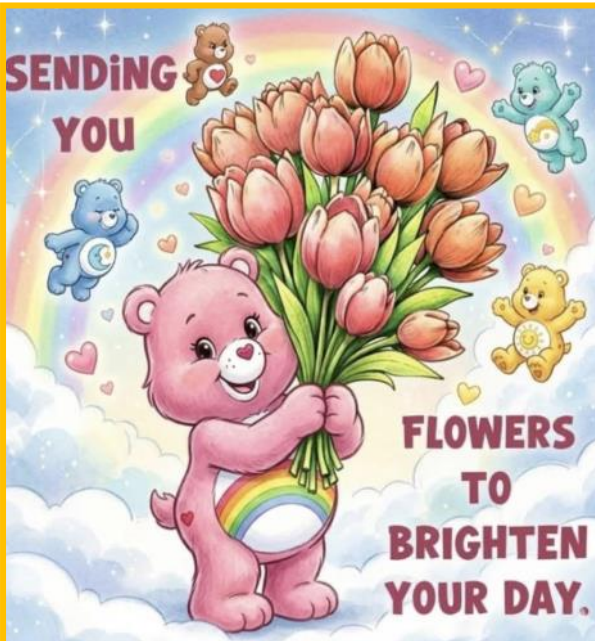
Doors open 11am - Finish 4pm

BOOKINGS: Contact Joop on 4954 5227.

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

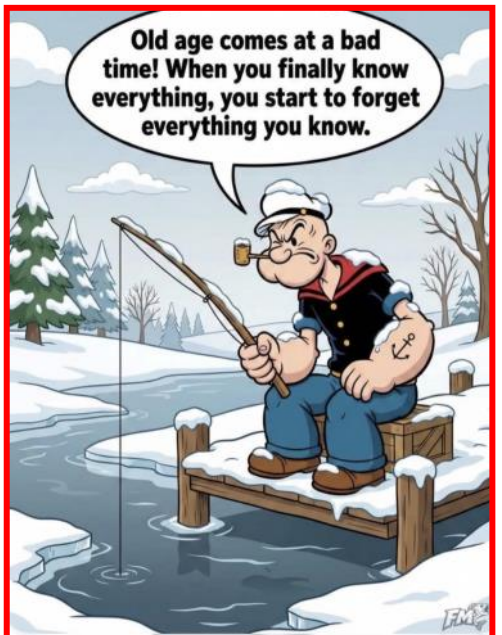
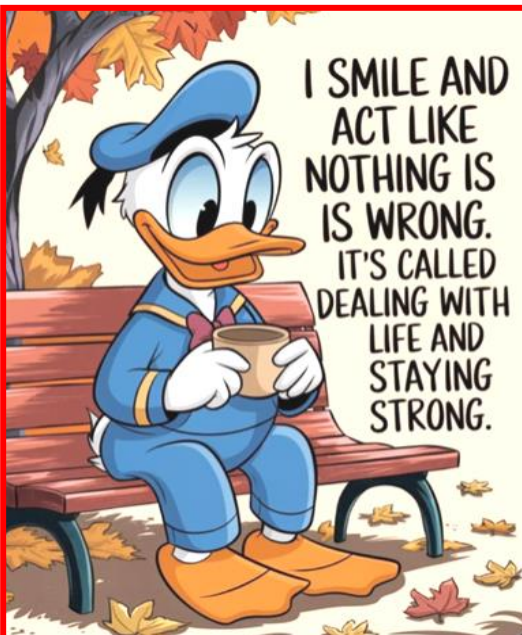
Please pay at the door, only \$20.00 pp Meal & entertainment.

A man and a woman are on a train, sitting opposite each other.
As time passes, eventually the woman says, "You know, every time
you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place." "Really?" says the
guy. "Are you single?" "No," says the woman. "I am a dentist."





Het kaasmarktseizoen in Gouda is weer begonnen. Op de markt draait het de komende maanden weer om handel, traditie en toeristen: kazen worden aangevoerd, gekeurd en gewogen zoals dat al eeuwen gebeurt.





Opening the first social for 2026 by our President Toni.



Champagne prices for petrol





**Come and join us
again on Saturday
30th May
in the Cardiff RSL.**

**We commemorate
and celebrate.
Including**

**Mothers Day &
Kings Day.**



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

For our JULY-AUGUST issue is the 10th JUNE 2026

Copy received after this date will be included in the SEPT-OCT 2026 issue.

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

- 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 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*



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

Public School Holidays

NSW 2026 - 2027

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 30th May

Saturday 25th July

Saturday 26th September

AGM to be announced

Saturday 19th December



Toni



Mat



Joop

Our Executive Committee

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







Lakeside Gas Fridges

Services

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.

Call out Service

Can't get to us? No problems! We will happily come to you. **Call or email us for a quote.**

Additional Services

As authorised warranty agents for most of the major brands in the industry we pride ourselves on being able to provide a range of warranty services and repairs.

**Caravan Air conditioning
Repairs & Sales**

**Caravan Hot Water Sales & Services
Caravan Oven Sales & Services
Caravan LPG Safety Inspections**

We are agents for the following brands:

- Dometic
- Thetford
- Chescold
- Engel
- 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!*

Contact Us

Opening Hours:

Monday: 8am - 4pm
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

Address:

511 Lake Road - Argenton 2284

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

Marrying the right person!

If you marry the right person, everyday is **Valentines Day**

Marry the wrong person, everyday is **Martyrs Day**

Marry the lazy person, everyday is **Labour Day**

Marry the rich person, every day is **New Years Day**

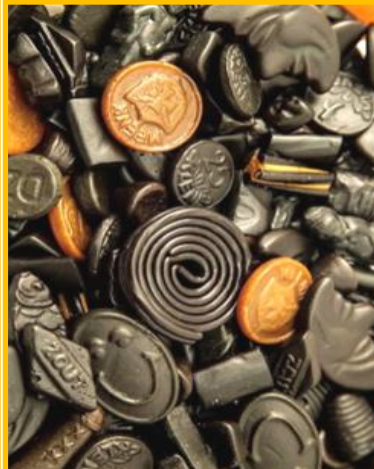
Marrying an immature person, every day would seem like **Children's Day**

Marrying a cheater or liar, everyday will become **April Fools Day**

And if you don't get married, everyday is **Independence Day**

FUN FACT

'T WINKELTJE HAS THE LARGEST
ASSORTMENT OF DROP (DUTCH
LICORICE) IN AUSTRALIA



Er is altijd een geweldige Hollandse sfeer in 't Winkeltje



If you've ever said "we'll go one day" this is your sign that Holland House in Smithfield will be closing. It's a huge loss for the community and for everyone who's loved this little Dutch gem over many years.

*We were saddened when the news broke that our life member
Jan (John) van Altena said goodbye to his world.*

Jan van Altena - Aged 85 years - formerly of Den Haag, Netherlands

*Jan passed away Tuesday 1st February 2026 at Liverpool Hospital
Dearly loved **husband** of *Anita van Altena*.*

*Much loved **Father, Father-in-law of Monique, Jeff & Paula**
precious **Opa** to his **grandchildren Eric & Nadia**.*

Jan & Anita are the owners of the Dutch shop 't Winkeltje, Smithfield.

*A private cremation preceded the service of thanksgiving on
Friday 13th February at the Forest Lawn Crematorium and
memorial gardens, Leppington.*

Jan was a very strong supporter of our Concordia.

*Jan's family and friends attended a Memorial Service on
Monday 23rd March at the Crossroads Hotel - Casula.*

Multicultural Funeral Celebrant Joop de Wit was the presiding officer & MC.

*To Anita, and all of Jan's family, friends and business associates we
convey, on behalf of the committee and members of
Concordia our deepest sympathy in the loss of their loved one.*

May Jan rest in Peace, Rust in Vrede. Joop de Wit, Secretary Concordia



*Jeff, Paula, Anita, Jan † and
Monique, the team of
Holland House - 't Winkeltje.*



The quest for peace begins in the home, in the school and in the workplace. You cannot find peace by avoiding life.



What was 't Winkeltje?

't Winkeltje, also known as **The Dutch Shop** or **Holland House**, was a beloved Dutch-themed store in **Smithfield, Sydney**, founded by **Jan and Anita van Altena** in **1985**. It was more than just a retail business, it served as a cultural meeting place for Dutch migrants and Australians interested in Dutch culture. The store offered a wide range of products, including.....

- o Imported Dutch groceries like herring, cheese, and liquorice.
- o Dutch coffee and cakes
- o Frozen foods like croquets and herring

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

- o Souvenirs and Gifts:
- o Delft Blue ceramics and souvenirs
- o Dutch clothing and accessories
- o Traditional Dutch items like clogs and wooden shoes
- o Furniture and home decor:
- o Oak furniture, including coffee tables, dining tables, and lounge suites
- o Traditional Dutch decorations and kitchenware
- o Cafe:



A cozy space serving Dutch-style coffee, cakes, and snacks like croquets and rookworst. The store also hosted the **Dutch Cultural Centre's** artifacts, library, and archives for many years. After **Jan van Altena's** passing in February 2026, the family announced that they would be closing the store.

“When the past calls, don’t Answer, it has nothing new to say”

‘T Winkeltje in Smithfield is closing down

Holland House in Smithfield, a cherished Dutch café and specialty store, is closing down within the next 12 months following the death of owner **Jan van Altena**, ending 43 years of service. An **"everything must go"** sale is currently in progress at 85 Market Street, Smithfield, providing a final chance for patrons to visit.

Key Details About the Closure:

- **Location:** 85 Market Street, Smithfield NSW 2164.
- **Timeline:** The store is winding down operations over the next 12 months following the sad passing of the owner **Jan van Altena** early February 2026.

Current Sale:

An **"everything must go" sale** is active, offering bargains on traditional Dutch sweets, pantry items, and souvenirs.

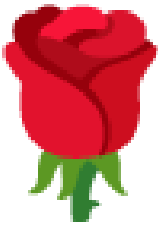
- **Operating Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 9 am–4:30 pm, Saturday, Sunday's 9 am–4 pm (**closed Mondays & Public Holidays**).



***I grew up with Steve Jobs, Johnny Cash, and Bob Hope
Now there is No Jobs, No Cash and No Hope.***



*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@MEN
 SINDS 1957



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



Koningsdag 2026 werd officieel in Dokkum gevierd

Zijne Majesteit de Koning woonde op maandag 27 april 2026 met leden van het Koninklijk gezin en leden van de Koninklijke familie de viering bij van Koningsdag in Dokkum, provincie Friesland.

De Koning is getrouwd met **Koningin Máxima**. Ze hebben drie dochters: Prinses **Catharina-Amalia (de Prinses van Oranje)**, Prinses **Alexia** en Prinses **Ariane**. **Gefeliciteerd namens Concordia!**

Hema will put a personal message on your Rookworst

zeg het met een rookworst

Ik denk aan je, Gr, Bas

rookworst
1,500 g
3,99

HEMA

Winter 2026



You know you're Dutch when....



you survive on bread, cheese, and stubborn opinions.



Keukenhof 2026



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.

The Dutch love a good party, which is why **King's Day** may very well be the best party in the Netherlands. It's a national holiday and celebrates **King Willem-Alexander's** birthday with lots of music, dancing, flea markets and fun fairs. We traditionally celebrate this holiday while dressed in **orange**. This is one party you don't want to miss if you are in the Netherlands! Concordia does it very well too on Saturday **30th May** in the **Cardiff RSL**. *Everyone is welcome.*

With the approaching cooler weather, its time for the old fashioned Dutch menu to keep us warm and healthy.



After Birth how long does it take for the eyes to open?

Cows - Immediately Goats - After 2 hours

Cats - After 6 day's Dogs - After 10 Day's

Humans - After Marriage....



*Our language is called the **Mother Tongue**
The father never gets a chance to speak.*

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**

We often grieve for ourselves only.

During the month of May we often think about the end of world war II. Every year we come together to remember the many victims of all the wars in the past. We also know that every war, today and in the past are so very futile as there will never be any winners, we only have victims.

On a different scale and also a very personal one, we know that when you cry for those close to you, you cry for you and not for those that have departed? You cry because you *"lost them"* because you don't **HAVE THEM** by your side. You most likely would often think that it all ends in death as you feel the personal pain in knowing that they are no longer around us anymore.

So if your loved one is gone, where are they? Yes they have left you as they have gone to another place, is that place better than this? Yes, definitely that place is better than this; so why do you suffer for their departure?

When you have finished accepting that they are *"no longer here,"* but they are still in another place even better than this, where they are no longer sick, or suffering. Then you'll stop mourning them and you'll get them back in memory so they keep accompanying you with the joy of all that you've lived.

If you truly loved them, **LOVE** them **AGAIN**, this time with greater strength, greater purity, with greater delivery. Today, there will be no more reproach of any kind. Only **LOVE** will be the essence between you, between us, and between them.

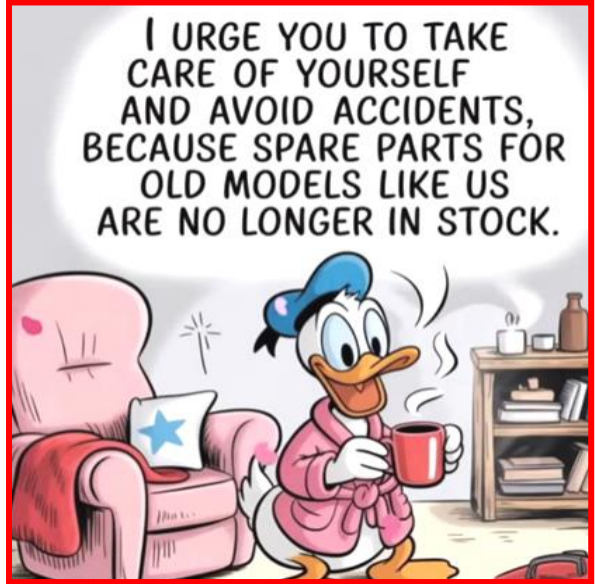
I respect your pain and the way you express it. I know you cry and you will cry without comfort for those you have lost. Today I say to you: *"Don't die with your loved ones."*

Remember we are only seeing one side of the coin. We are not looking the other way; we are not seeing the wonderful place of light where they will stand to life eternity in our hearts and minds, all day every day till its our journey.

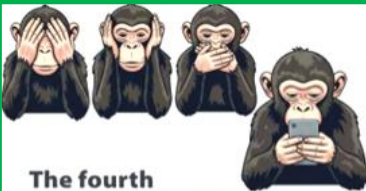
(Continued from page 28)

What if we start seeing **“Death as a second Birth?”** Second Birth we **ALL** have to face one day. Don't die with your loved ones, honour them by living your life as they would have wanted you to. let them transcend while you keep on living.

Editor Joop



*Come and join us for a great day out with family and friends.
Great entertainment - Saturday 30th May - Everyone is welcome.*



The fourth monkey has emerged. He sees no one, hears no one, and speaks to no one.

A true story... or maybe not...
A Wife is doing her make-up early morning straight out from bed!!
Husband: *“Are you crazy?”*
Wife: *“Just shut up, I need to unlock my phone. It's on face recognition feature and its not recognising me!!”*

*Marriage is like a workshop
where husband works and wife shops*

JUST PAID MY BILLS.



**ONLY THING LEFT ON MY CARD IS
MY NAME AND EXPIRATION DATE.**



UM, EVE, THAT'S NOT
A SALAD, THAT'S MY
DIRTY LAUNDRY...



Nederland oh Nederland, wat ben je toch mooi



When we adults think of children, there is a simple truth which we ignore: childhood is not preparation for life, childhood is life. A child isn't getting ready to live – a child is living. The child is constantly confronted with the nagging question, "What are you going to be?" Courageous would be the youngster who, looking the adult squarely in the face, would say, "I'm not going to be anything; I already am."



Find 15 national capitals



BELGIUM BRAZIL UKRAINE POLAND VATICAN
 IRELAND NORWAY RUSSIA SPAIN ✓LATVIA
 CANADA FINLAND ALGERIA GERMANY JAPAN

Not the countries but the Capitals of the countries mentioned

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 more information. Some memberships are still overdue for 2025 -2026!

The Netherlands has been ranked the best country in the world for quality of life in **2026**, according to **Numbeo's global index**. Dutch cities dominate too, **The Hague, Utrecht, Eindhoven, Groningen** and **Rotterdam** claimed the top 5 spots worldwide. **Amsterdam** comes in eighth, held back by higher living costs.

The country scores well on safety, healthcare, low pollution and commute times. But the main drawback remains the cost of living **8.6% higher** than the **United States**, with a single person spending around **1.020 Euros** or **A\$1,685** per month before rent. Still in international comparison, **the Netherlands** outperforms most major economies, including the **USA** and **UK**.
PS we kunnen nog terug natuurlijk...Joop

Almost half of all Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was.

The Johan van Oldenbarnevelt was a major Dutch migrant ship that transported thousands of people particularly from the Netherlands to Australia between 1950 and 1963.



What are some common Dutchisms?

Dutchisms can refer to the unique aspects of Dutch culture, language, or behaviour. Here are a few examples:

Direct communication: The Dutch are known for their straightforwardness, which can sometimes be perceived as blunt or even rude. This directness is a cultural trait that values honesty and clarity.

Love for gezelligheid: This concept roughly translates to coziness or conviviality. The Dutch enjoy creating a warm atmosphere with friends and family, often accompanied by good food and drinks.

Cycling culture: Cycling is extremely popular in the Netherlands, and the country's infrastructure is designed to accommodate cyclists. This reflects the Dutch values of sustainability and physical activity.

Tolerance and open-mindedness: The Netherlands is known for its liberal attitude and tolerance towards different cultures and lifestyles.

Frugality: The Dutch are often stereotyped for being thrifty, but it's true that many Dutch people prioritize saving money and living modestly.

Some common Dutch phrases that might be considered Dutchisms include:

"Doe maar gewoon" - which roughly translates to **"just act normal"** or **"don't make a fuss."**

"Gezelligheid kent geen tijd" - meaning **"coziness knows no time,"** emphasizing the importance of enjoying good times with others.

A special 'thank you' from the van Altena family.

Monday 23rd March we came together to honour and celebrate the life of **Jan (John) van Altena**.

On behalf of the van Altena family, we like to sincerely thank everyone who attended, shared memories, and showed their love and support. Seeing so many friends, customers, and members of the **Dutch-Australian** community come together meant more than words can express.

Jan will be forever remembered, not only for the legacy he built through **'t Winkeltje**, but for the kindness, connection, and community he and **Anita** created over the years. His impact will continue to live on in every story shared, every visit to the shop, and every life he touched.

We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support and for helping us celebrate a life so well lived, a special thanks to **Joop de Wit** for a beautiful personal memorial service. **With heartfelt thanks** from the **van Altena family**.



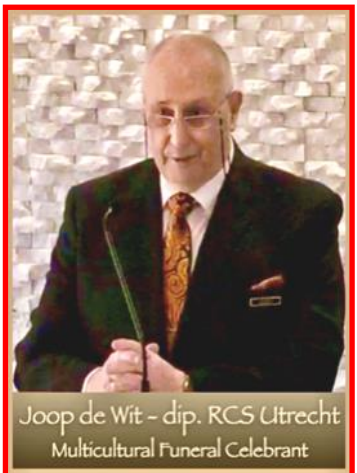
A great atmosphere is our business card, come and join us soon!

Patient: *Doctor, what did you do to my husband?
Ma'am please, what is the problem?
Ever since my husband had that procedure with you
he's completely lost interest in me.*

Doctor: *I only corrected his eye sight!!*



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 gift subscription

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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