

Allerbeste Museum Supporters,

In 2014 we started designing the building that will be the home for 'Onze Plek' – The place where we will tell our story, and can connect with each other and our home country, 'ons vaderland'. In 2015 the real work of building a museum and cultural centre for and about the Dutch in New Zealand will take place.

We're talking exhibitions and production now. It's time to turn ideas and concepts into real things that visitors can see and touch.

One thing that should help us greatly with fundraising, is that we have been accepted as the first Trust ever to join the Federation of NZ Netherlands Societies, at their last annual meeting in Rotorua. The Federation made changes to their constitution so that we and other Dutch organisations in New Zealand can join the organisation. As we unite we will be stronger. 'Eendracht maakt macht!' We can now truly tell funding organisations that we work on behalf of and with the Dutch Community.

Other good news is that Horowhenua District Council has appointed a professional Fundraising Manager (who has done great work for the London Olympics!) and a Project Manager. Our project is in safe hands. We have just had our first meeting with the new team. A museum consultant we've used – Tim Walker – and our own Trustee Lily Frederikse have been appointed to the Project Steering Group.

We've already told you about the generous donations we received from two Dutch Kiwi artists - Leon van den Eijkel and Yanny Split. At the time of our last newsletter we didn't have any images from Yanny's wearable artworks. We've now attached some below, so you can see for yourself how beautiful and imaginative her work is (with a lot of orange.. J). Yanny has also recorded her life story on voice recorder, and we're transcribing it so we can tell her story in Ons Museum – Onze Plek.

Finally we would like to wish you all "een Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een heel Gelukkig Nieuw Jaar!"

Enjoy your holidays, Yolande en Arjan

PS – PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOUR DATABASE OR MAILING LIST OF 'Dutch Connections'???

PPS - AND ANYBODY WHO RECEIVES THIS NEWSLETTER FOR THE FIRST TIME. SEND US A LITTLE NOTE? WE'LL ADD YOU TO OUR DATABASE, AND KEEP YOU INFORMED OF OUR PROGRESS DURING THE YEAR. IT'S GONNA BE FUN!



