

Dear Museum supporters

It Looks Like 2013 Will Become Our Big Year!

The project to establish a museum and cultural centre for and about the Dutch in New Zealand was started a number of years ago. Over time, we've merged into a major tourism initiative in Foxton, together with an initiative by local Maori to create an arts and crafts gallery, the River Trust, the Flax Museum, and a library and community centre. It's only fair to say that this has led to delays in our timeline. But as a result, the Dutch Connection will be a financially viable and sustainable initiative, which is now part of a major tourism set-up.

What it also meant is that **Horowhenua District Council** had to commit major funding to the **Te Awahou – Nieuwe Stroom (TANS)** project that we now belong to. Getting the finances together for a viable plan caused some hiccups last year, when we expected a positive decision to be made. But we managed to secure \$1.7 million in the Long Term Plan. And other funding is considered for the purchase of a building and additional development costs. We're keeping our fingers crossed!!!

How About the Money?

The Dutch Connection has committed itself to raising \$1.5 million to create its Exhibitions and build a Collection that tells the story of the Dutch in New Zealand. Currently we are considering a debentures or bonds scheme. We're in the process of producing a proposal / discussion paper. If you would like to contribute financial or legal expertise? **Please contact us! Arjan van der Boon: 027 494 3658.**

Greater Dutch Collaboration

The Dutch Connection is currently revising its constitution to become a member of the Federation of NZ-NL Societies at their 2013 ANCM. This move is part of a joint initiative by several Dutch organisations to create greater collaboration. The NetherlaNZ Foundation ([read the Blog! On www.netherlandsfoundation.org.nz](http://www.netherlandsfoundation.org.nz)) and De Molen are also keen on joining forces to create a better future for Dutch culture and Dutch wellbeing in New Zealand.

We hope you have enjoyed our new website : <http://www.dutchconnection.org.nz/>.

We have attached an article about our 17th century explorer Abel Tasman, because we found that people are interested to find out what happened 370 years ago.

Please send an email to Kees Zegwaard (k.izegwaard@xtra.co.nz) if you still would like your name on a list next to the Tasman Tableau - for a \$100 donation?

Groetjes en tot de volgende keer!

Arjan van der Boon
Yolande van de Wetering
Kees Zegwaard

Jos Vroegop
Joost de Bruin
Lily Frederikse
Dick Kouwenhoven