

Dear Museum Supporters

It's Kick-Off Time!

For everyone with a Dutch background, a connection with the Netherlands or with kind-hearted feelings for things Dutch! We've received a lot of support from you over the past few years for our Dutch Connection museum project. Thank You!

As a result we've achieved one heck of a lot! So much in fact, that our "now or never" moment has arrived. All we're asking is your help, to make one last big push. One last effort to bring in the money we need.

Please read more about the why and how? And hopefully "Give a Little" – Want alle kleine beetjes helpen ☺. Just click on <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/dutchconnectionmuseum#>

Or come along for an exclusive visit to the Gibbs Sculpture Farm, overlooking the stunning Kaipara Harbour, on 3 December (more below).

Lots of Good News

There are lots of positive things to share about our Dutch Connection Centre. We've done all the hard grind of developing ideas, negotiating and producing feasibility studies, and the project is entering its final stages: developing the Exhibitions and collecting the last chunks of funding.

We now have a once in a lifetime opportunity to set up a place of our own – *Onze Plek*, a place where we will tell our story from the early days until now, where we can go with children and grandchildren to celebrate our Dutchness, and where we will keep links alive with the Netherlands through shows and events. (www.DutchConnection.org.nz)

Our time has come. Here's why:

- End of 2013: Horowhenua District Council buys a 1500m² Mitre 10 building behind *De Molen* in Foxton for the *Te Awahou-Nieuwe Stroom* project (Dutch Connection / Maori art gallery / Library / Community Centre etc)
- End of 2014: Council appoints a Project Manager and Fundraising Manager. Concept plans finalised
- Early 2015: Architectural plans approved. Building Consent granted for the new multi-purpose tourism and community facility
- Mid 2015: \$2 million of funding from external organisations like Lotteries. Added to Council allocated funding – total available: \$4 million
- Mid 2015: Dutch Connection fundraising seriously starts. Some \$300,000 committed to date and more under way!

Now's the Moment

The Dutch Connection Museum Trust has received generous donations from a large number of Dutch individuals and organisations in the past, from the Federation of NZ-Netherlands Societies, the NetherlaNZ Foundation and the clubs in Wellington, Waikato, Christchurch, Wanganui and Palmerston North, well over \$50,000. Funding from sponsors with Dutch connections is coming in as well.

We need to collect just over \$1 million more. That's why we would like all people with a Dutch Connection to contribute. There are more than 120.000 New Zealanders with Dutch heritage, so if everybody would "Give a Little"? We can go ahead! How?

1. Through our "Give a Little" page. Click on:
<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/dutchconnectionmuseum#>
2. Transfer your contribution to our account or set up a monthly/yearly payment:
ASB Bank: The Dutch Connection, acc. 12 3232 0128111 02. (The Dutch Connection is a Registered Charity #11088)
3. **PLEASE pass this email on to ALL your Dutch connections.** AND copy us in, so we can keep them informed with our newsletters

Make an investment in a wonderful visitor experience, so your children and grandchildren can discover the story of Dutch immigrants in New Zealand.

Naming competition

We asked you to send us your favourite name for our museum centre as per our last newsletter. We thank all who participated: the response was overwhelming!

In spite of the fact that some of you came up with really good names, the majority wanted to keep the name The Dutch Connection, so we asked Theo Spierings, CEO of Fonterra, to draw our winner. This happened to be Esa de Flines and she will soon receive an orange Dutch hoodie. Congratulations, Esa and thank you, all participants: it was great to get so much feedback! And it was good to hear you like our name.

Save the date: 3 December 2015 – Visit to Gibbs Sculpture Farm

We are inviting you to visit Gibbs farm, a unique and wonderful sculpture park on the Kaipara Harbour, just north of Auckland, only open to the public several times a year: www.gibbsfarm.org.nz . Gibbs Farm showcases entrepreneur Alan Gibbs' sculpture collection. Ivo Niehe did an item on Dutch television about this sculpture park that's said to be the world's most impressive: http://www.npo.nl/tros-tv-show/06-04-2014/TROS_1357951

Through the kindness and generosity of the Gibbs Foundation, the Dutch Connection Trust has been given the opportunity to host a special fundraising event.

To make the event extra special, Dutch artist Leon van den Eijkel, one of the exhibiting artists, will be there to explain all about his masterpiece in this stunning landscape. There will be time to mix and mingle, walk around and enjoy the beautiful sculptures.

All the money that you will pay goes to the Dutch Connection Museum Trust. Tickets are \$25 per person (feel free to give more – use the account number above with your name, number of people and reference: Gibbs).

Please email info@dutchconnection.org.nz or call Agnes Maat, on 022 101 3342 to confirm that you are attending.

We hope to see you at Gibbs!

PS – Don't forget to 'forward' this message to your kids, friends, family. Even in the Netherlands? **Do it now?** We need financial contributions! En alle beetjes helpen!

Een hartelijke groet,

Arjan van der Boon Yolande van de Wetering

Co-chairs Dutch Connection Museum Trust: 027 276 9464



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The Dutch Connection Centre will be a legacy to the major influence the Dutch community has had on the development of New Zealand, into a modern, dynamic and eclectic cultural society. The 'forgotten immigrant' will become visible. Future generations of Dutch New Zealanders will be able to pilgrimage this facility to learn about their parents and forefathers, but it will also be a venue for exchanges between two countries - cultural, the visual arts, trade and science.

www.dutchconnection.org.nz