



Beyond Clogs and Tulips
Exploring New Opportunities to
Connect and Promote Dutch Heritage
in New Zealand

September 2011

Prepared for: The New Zealand-Netherlands Foundation,

proudly sponsored by:  **Rabobank**

Prepared by: Theo Muller, Sarah Major, & Dr Wiebe Zwaga
MMResearch™

This study was designed and conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice established by the Market Research Society of New Zealand.

MMResearch™ believes that this report represents a fair, accurate and comprehensive analysis of the information collected.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	1
2. Background	6
2.1 Context.....	6
2.2 Research Objectives	7
2.3 Research Methodology	7
3. Research Findings.....	8
3.1 What does being of Dutch descent mean?.....	8
▪ 3.1.1 <i>Common Identifiers of Dutch heritage</i>	9
▪ 3.1.2 <i>Moving Beyond the Stereotypes</i>	11
3.2 Sources of Pride.....	12
▪ 3.2.1 <i>Food and Family</i>	12
▪ 3.2.2 <i>The Past</i>	13
▪ 3.2.3 <i>The Present</i>	13
3.3 Interest in Dutch Heritage.....	15
▪ 3.3.1 <i>The Dutch language</i>	15
▪ 3.3.2 <i>Strengthening Dutch Roots</i>	16
▪ 3.3.3 <i>Staying in Touch</i>	17
▪ 3.3.4 <i>Fostering a sense of community</i>	18
▪ 3.3.5 <i>Barriers to a community</i>	18
3.4 Encouraging a Dutch Connection	21
▪ 3.4.1 <i>Level of interest</i>	21
▪ 3.4.2 <i>Visits to the Netherlands</i>	21
▪ 3.4.3 <i>The Dutch Language</i>	23
▪ 3.4.4 <i>Encouraging a sense of community</i>	24
▪ 3.4.5 <i>Marketing the Dutch Connection</i>	27
▪ 3.4.6 <i>Opportunities for the Foundation</i>	28
3.5 Moving Forward	30
▪ 3.5.1 <i>Assistance from the Foundation</i>	32
Appendix 1. Focus Group Topic Guide.....	35

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a summary of findings from three focus group discussions with second and third generation New Zealanders of Dutch descent. The aim was to explore ideas for promoting the continuity of Dutch heritage in New Zealand. The report presents the voices of the focus group participants illustrated by their verbatim comments *in blue italics*.

Identity

One challenge is the identification of those with Dutch heritage in New Zealand. Common identifiers of Dutch descent were discussed, these included many iconic features such as:

- Dutch names, a source of pride, or occasionally derision
- Looking Dutch
- Traditions, like clogs in the house
- Aspects of personality, such as confidence, tenacity, stubbornness, but also a homeliness and respect for family
- Having a Dutch passport.



However, many descendents are less visibly Dutch, especially those without a “Dutch” name and those whose family may have reached New Zealand via Indonesia. Many of the first generation focused on successful assimilation rather than retaining their heritage. The aspects of Dutch life that have tended to be passed on focused around food and family. Few of the second and third generation spoken to were fluent in the Dutch language. This loss of language raises a barrier to full participation in Dutch culture. However, many of the younger generation are confident in the English abilities of the Dutch and see language as less of a problem.

One question raised is - do descendents want to be recognised as Dutch New Zealanders? Although some do, there is perhaps more interest in the concept of a European New Zealander – with access to Europe.

- > *So what it means to me having Dutch heritage is I've got a European passport. (Wgtn male 3G)*

Those with this view may be less interested in learning the Dutch language, which is viewed as having limited use.

Strengths

Amongst the Dutch descendents spoken to their Dutch connection can be a source of pride. This includes:

- A sense of being special, different
- Appreciating food and family
- Pride in Dutch history
- Recognition of Dutch businesses
- A fondness for traditional celebrations

The extent to which Dutch descendents participate in various aspects of Dutch culture varies. For some the language is integral, and they find their lack of skill in Dutch is a barrier. There was a real sense of pride in the growth of Dutch language schools amongst those whose families participate. However, for others knowing Dutch is less of a priority especially when English is so widely used.

Once descendents have their own children there appears to be more of a focus on continuing Dutch traditional celebrations, and sharing them as a family.

The strongest aspect of Dutch heritage maintained is an appreciation of Dutch food, and/or Indonesian dishes. This can be associated with happy memories and as a shared activity is seen as encompassing all ages and continuing family traditions.

- > *Food triggers a memory and you know whether it's a memory of an occasion or a parent or grandparent, but food brings people together. (Wgtn female 2G)*

Although many Dutch descendents expressed an interest in their Dutch heritage, the strength of their feeling was mixed. Interest definitely appears to be strengthened by visits to the Netherlands.

- > *Feeling that you became a whole person in the sense that – I remember in my mid 20s going, or a bit later, thinking, “God, I actually belong here”. I mean I’m very happy to live on the other side of the world, but it was almost as if I became a whole person. It was actually quite an unusual thing, you sort of felt you belonged – really belonged. (AKId male 2G)*

Barriers

For some Dutch descendents there is a real feeling of “coming home” when visiting the Netherlands, but for others there is a realisation that the Dutch traditions preserved in New Zealand can be rather old-fashioned (including the language taught here).

There is a natural hurdle that the Dutch appear to be more independent and better integrated than some other immigrant groups. Other barriers include competition for time, and the need to create a network of Dutch community contacts.

For many descendents the Dutch connection has become diluted over time through assimilation into New Zealand society and inter-marriage with people of different cultural backgrounds. Also those whose family came from Indonesia feel further removed from their Dutch heritage.

However, there does appear to exist a certain nostalgia associated with happy childhood memories of Dutch activities.

What are descendents interested in?

There appeared to be most interest in:

- Better publicity about existing Dutch organisations, businesses and events – perhaps in the form of a directory
- An informal community of Dutch descendents with communication via the Internet – perhaps via Facebook, LinkedIn or a website
- Social food and drink events – up-market, well promoted, but low commitment events
- Travel to the Netherlands – exploring the potential for assistance with “overseas experiences” (OE’s), student and cultural exchanges, also with general travel and “passport” advice

There is interest in fostering a sense of community, however the potential pool of people is fragmented by age, interest and commitment. An attempt has been made to summarise the relationship between commitment and interest levels below.

The matrix attempts to highlight the tensions between commitment and interest. Although some descendents are very interested in their Dutch heritage they have a low level of commitment to actually putting their time and energy into community events. In part there is a lack of confidence and knowledge amongst the younger generations who are further removed from the Netherlands. To get them involved would require some mentoring and guidance. They would need to be convinced that community involvement would benefit them and their family and that it would be fun.



Although the younger generation has a lot of respect for their elders, they appeared to have no interest in participating in the existing Dutch clubs that are viewed as old fashioned, and may feel uncomfortable for those who are not fluent in Dutch. The younger generations (whose families may have come to New Zealand more for “lifestyle” than economic reasons) would be more interested in “modern” up-market (English language) activities.

- > *Well I think that if the second or third generation Dutchies were to get together, we'd all need to come together to do something we enjoy in common, which would be eating and drinking. [Laughs] There could be a new movement - without the word 'clog' - that focuses on not the things that they knew back then but the traditions that they brought to New Zealand. (Chch 2G female)*

Opportunities to strengthen a sense of community

Participants stressed that “Dutch” events are happening but there need to be improvements in the publicising of events to potential attendees. Given that many participants expressed a fondness for existing Dutch-run businesses in New Zealand (e.g., cafes, language schools) it makes sense to focus on strengthening these as potential “hubs” for the community. However, many saw the existing groups as fragmented and expressed a desire to link them somehow.

There was strong interest in the production of a Directory of Dutch-related businesses, events, and things of interest. This increased publicity would

assist in developing a sense of community, in bringing like-minded people together.

Many of the young Dutch New Zealanders see the benefits of connecting through Facebook – it's modern, and free. However, others would be more interested in an informative website offering advice and information on:

- Travel to Holland – including cultural exchanges
- General information
- Current events

Perhaps there is greatest interest in a food and drinks festival. But the question is who would organise that?

There appear to be only a few volunteers from the younger generation who would be willing to step up, but often their available time is sparse. If the Foundation feels an event is a priority, they may need to appoint a committed organiser.

Where to next?

Overall there appears to be a tremendous amount of pride in their Dutch heritage amongst the second and third generation Dutch descendents. Often that pride is focused on their personal forbears as well as broader aspects of Dutch cultural achievement.

Perhaps a way of promoting Dutch heritage in New Zealand would be to focus on some individuals and to tell their stories more widely.

Facilitating visits to the Netherlands for second and third generation Dutch New Zealanders would probably be a valuable strategy to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Because of the low levels of commitment expressed any attempts to promote the Dutch connection would be most successful in terms of community participation if they were made very easy for participants to have a casual involvement.

One important theme emerging from this research is the need to create connections between Dutch descendents and to better publicise events to the broader Dutch community.

Overall, in terms of the objectives of the New Zealand-Netherlands Foundation:

- *To recognise and acknowledge the contribution Dutch settlers have made to New Zealand, and promote a wider understanding of this.*

The younger generations are definitely proud of the contributions their forbears have made in their new land. However, most appeared to focus on their personal family history rather than the contributions other families and individuals have made. There is potential to explore this further and to better publicise existing resources.

- *To develop cultural and educational exchanges between the Netherlands and New Zealand.*

There is definite interest in cultural and educational exchanges. This is also seen as having many benefits, including: deepening understanding of Dutch culture, strengthening familial ties and developing business opportunities.

- *To facilitate and commission research into the contribution, both past and present, that Dutch New Zealanders have made.*

This could assist with the production of publications to tell stories of Dutch New Zealanders to a wider audience.

- *To financially support worthwhile efforts in pursuit of the above objectives.*

Areas where financial support could prove beneficial include:

- Assistance with the organisation of an on-line network
- Organisation of up-market food events in the main centres
- Assistance with cultural and student exchanges

Although the task of the Foundation appears difficult in the face of people's busy fragmented lives, there is definitely interest amongst young Dutch New Zealanders in exploring their Dutch heritage. They appear to need a firm nudge to have the confidence to get involved. As one participant suggested, the Foundation needs to put on a really successful enjoyable event and to publicise it extremely well (using social media) and then word will spread.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Context

The New Zealand-Netherlands Foundation was set up in 1990 to foster and promote the benefits of the link between our two countries.

Some of the specific objectives include:

- To recognise and acknowledge the contribution Dutch settlers have made to New Zealand, and promote a wider understanding of this.
- To develop cultural and educational exchanges between the Netherlands and New Zealand.
- To facilitate and commission research into the contribution, both past and present, that Dutch New Zealanders have made.
- To financially support worthwhile efforts in pursuit of the above objectives.

The almost complete assimilation of the Dutch immigrant into New Zealand society has conferred the somewhat dubious reputation of the invisible migrant. Dutch immigration is characterised by assimilation and the experiences in Australia¹ and Canada are no different. In Canada, reference is made to silent ethnicity where Dutch beliefs and values may not be apparent to outsider groups or the host society.²

Over time and across generations, assimilation may manifest itself culturally particularly when the mother tongue ceases to be spoken. Structural assimilation is evident when migrants discontinue associating within their ethnic group. Marital assimilation occurs when migrants marry exogamously. For the Dutch immigrant community, the process of assimilation was a relatively instant process of acculturation started by the first generation immigrants. Second and third generations were already assimilated by birth, so to speak, often with the loss of the Dutch language as a result. As the second generation grew up and established their own families, the connection with the Dutch heritage became more tenuous.

Delving into the Dutch disposition and temperament, there is the assertion that the Dutch are a very independent people. They look after their own affairs (“doppen hun eigen boontjes”) and don’t like to be told what to do. The Dutch living in New Zealand are no different. Unlike other immigrant populations such as the Greek, Italians, people from the sub-Indian continent and immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Dutch have an individualistic streak and have always had a strong desire to assimilate and integrate into New Zealand society. To some extent, this has led to a (partial) loss of identification with the Dutch heritage, particularly where second and third generation Dutch New Zealanders are concerned. Appealing to their Dutch heritage and overcoming a degree of inertia will be a challenge to the Foundation in achieving its goals and objectives. Another challenge would be to move beyond the obligatory stereotypes of windmills, clogs and tulips, and to provide a contemporary vision of what it means to be a New Zealander of Dutch descent.

¹ See E. Duyker, *The Dutch in Australia*, AE Press, 1987.

² See F. J. Schryer, *The Netherlandic Presence in Ontario*, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1998.

2.2 Research Objectives

To explore the level of interest in Dutch heritage amongst second and third generation descendants of Dutch immigrants to New Zealand, and whether this interest could lead to active involvement in Foundation led initiatives.

2.3 Research Methodology

Three focus groups were conducted in Wellington (Wgtn), Auckland (Akld) and Christchurch (Chch). The participants were second or third generation Dutch descendants living in New Zealand. A summary of the participants is shown below.

Focus Group Participants

Location	Gender		Generation		Total
	Women	Men	2G	3G	
Wgtn	4	5	5	4	9
Akld	4	3	6*	1	7
Chch	5	2	3	4	7
Total	13	10	14	9	23

* One was married to a 2G.

The groups were fairly informal and discussions were loosely based around a prepared topic guide. Participants were given MTA vouchers as a token of appreciation. A copy of the topic guide is included in the Appendix.

3. RESEARCH FINDINGS

The 2006 census recorded 22,101 Dutch-born people. However, the number identifying themselves as Dutch in 2006 was 28,641. Van Der Pas and Poot estimate that the number of people with Dutch ancestry in New Zealand totals 116,700 of which 22,000 are first generation, 39,500 second generation and 55,200 third generation descendants.³

The New Zealand-Netherlands Foundation is interested in exploring the interest in the Dutch connection that exists amongst New Zealanders of Dutch descent.

This section of the report explores these ideas through the words of second and third generation New Zealanders of Dutch descent.

3.1 What does being of Dutch descent mean?

The focus groups first explored what being of Dutch descent means in the New Zealand context.

Some focus group participants felt a strong connection and attraction to their Dutch heritage. Their surname identifies them as “special” and their family may retain some Dutch traditions including a fondness for Dutch food. However, for others the connection is much weaker, and although they may recognise their Dutch ancestry, they feel little connection, and may be more interested in exploring the broader European connection.

For most, New Zealand is home, the Dutch connection comes second.

- > *We're of Dutch descent and Dutch heritage, so yeah, I'd definitely call myself Dutch. [...] I don't know if I'd say I feel at home in Holland. New Zealand is home. New Zealand will always be home to me I think. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *It's where my family came from and it's why they are who they are, so their cultural identity. I feel like a closeness and connection with the country, although personally I feel more Kiwi than Dutch, and New Zealand will always be home to me. (Wgtn male 3G)*

For some the connection is faint, especially those in the third generation with little family still in the Netherlands.

- > *So I've had very little exposure to Dutch in my home life. We lived a very much New Zealand upbringing, and what exposure we did have was more Dutch East Indies than it was the traditional sort of Holland heritage. So I recognise that it's a part of me, but it's only a small part really. It doesn't define me in any way, like it probably would someone whose parents are Dutch or who have more family there. Like the only family I know about on my oma's side have immigrated elsewhere, live in Australia, or elsewhere in New Zealand. So it is difficult to feel that connection to Holland. I definitely have a desire to learn more about the country and to travel there and everything, but it's not a lot stronger than my desire to travel elsewhere. I think it had everything to do with my New Zealand upbringing. Like even my surname was changed when my grandparents immigrated here. (Wgtn female 3G)*

³ See S. Van Der Pas and J. Poot, *The Transformation of Immigrant Communities: The Case of Dutch Kiwis*, Research Report No. 4/2011, Massey University/University of Waikato, 2011. The total number does not include the emerging fourth generation.

Amongst those who do feel a connection to their Dutch heritage, there is definitely a sense of pride.

- > *Probably work ethic, family values and food are what it means to be Dutch in New Zealand for me; memories and understanding of those three things. [...] As in the way they conduct family, and the pride in family and food. Everyone loves Van Dam's. You should've got that guy here. [Laughter]. And I walk in there and I just get a big smile on my face, maybe it's because it reminds me of family, I don't know, maybe the three are connected. The other thing - Holland for their size have done wonderful things. They're a very successful nation. All things associated with Holland are good things I think. (Chch female 3G)*

3.1.1 Common Identifiers of Dutch heritage

Having a Dutch name is perhaps the most obvious symbol of Dutch heritage. Those without a Dutch name are not so easily recognised as having Dutch ancestry.

A Dutch name

- > *The biggest reminder that I am Dutch is the surname and people pronouncing it wrong or asking, "How do you spell that?" (Wgtn female 3G)*
- > *But the name thing is something definitely to be very proud of. But [...] if I think back to primary school, having any kind of European descent or being a third generation person or a funny last name, at a young age becomes quite a strong part of your identity. That certainly was for me, especially having a middle name with a J that's pronounced as a Y, that threw people and it was kind of cool. It was something that was a big part of my identity for me when I was younger. (Chch female 3G)*

A Dutch name can be a conversation starter:

- > *They go, "Oh, where's that from?" (Chch female 2G)*

It can also lead to teasing:

- > *My cousin got teased for his name. [...] When he got married, he actually changed his name to his wife's name because he was sick of being teased. (Akld female 2G)*

Other common identifiers, almost stereotypes, of Dutch heritage mentioned by the focus group participants are shown below.

Looking Dutch

- > *Aryan [laughs]. It's ridiculous. He's got these big blue eyes and blonde hair. (Chch male 2G)*

Dutch possessions

Many mentioned Dutch symbols such as clogs, or household possessions with a Dutch design aesthetic.

- > *Walk into my house and see the three pairs of clogs at the door. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *Certainly one of the things that I noticed was our furniture and the way our house looked was a lot different to many typical Kiwi houses. (Wgtn male 2G)*

Aspects of personality

Many of the Dutch descendents commented on Dutch personality traits, and the possibility of behaviour being influenced and shaped by previous experiences and differences in socially acceptable mores.

- > *When I came to live here I experienced a huge amount of tall poppy - everyone I went to school with had known each other since they were knee-high to a grasshopper. I was incredibly loud and confident. [...] People really did not know how to take me, because I was so direct and so black and white. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Our house was like Fort Knox. Like, it was locked up, locks on the windows and the doors – the house was always locked, whereas everyone else was like, “You just go away, leave the front door unlocked, and oh I’ll just go and feed the cat; it’ll be fine”. That would never happen in our house. And if we heard a noise outside, then Dad would say things like, “You don’t just open the curtains, because you could get shot at”. It’s like, “There’s no Nazis on the street Dad, we’re fine”. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *She used to get teased for going out with a Dutchman, and back then it was still quite different and cos he was very European, very well-mannered and would open doors and everyone was like, “Wow, that’s cool”. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *The other thing was Dutchmen are known for being tight with their money. That was the only thing that ever seemed to come as a sort of a tease. (Wgtn female 2G)*
 - **Toughness, stubbornness and respect**
 - > *The strength of the Dutch I think is just amazing. [...] “You can’t handle getting up at 6 o’clock in the morning? Well listen to this: I used to get up and work 24 hour shifts and stand on the deck of a freezing cold ship and we used to pay to do it.” [Laughs] It was pretty tough, but he’d give you 50 cents to go down and get a 20 cent paper and he’d want the 30 cents change. (Chch female 2G)*
 - > *I’m studying at the moment and working as well, and every time when I think, “Oh it’s too hard, I’m doing too much”, I just think back to what my opa did and I think, well, if he can do what he did, then it shouldn’t be a problem for me, I shouldn’t be complaining about it, because it’s strong work morals I sort of have. (Chch male 3G)*
 - > *Every time I’m quite stubborn or anyone in our family is quite stubborn, it’s always Dad, “Oh it’s the Dutch.” [Laughter]. You know? And it’s like that’s quite cool though, and it’s quite cool to know that like you guys say, “That’s your power behind you.” (Chch female 3G)*
 - > *[It’s] a heritage to be proud of. Like the Dutch were known as hard workers. I’ve always been proud to have Dutch parents, because they were considered hard working. (Wgtn female 2G)*
 - **Differences in approach**
 - > *What I like about the Dutch culture is the kind of homeliness and family stuff. So I’m really into sewing and cooking and housework [laughs]. I don’t know if that’s especially Dutch, but it’s what my oma is really into. (Chch female 2G)*
 - > *You know the problem with alcohol over here, you just go out and you get blinding drunk, whereas over there, they have like mass groups of people just having a massive good time, and there’s so much Heineken there, but they’re not in a bad state. They can still bike home to the next village with people on their carry bag [baggagedrager]. It’s not a big drunken mess. (Wgtn female 2G)*
 - > *It’s a little bit of a joke but there’s some truth in it. Do you know the difference between the English and the Dutch? [laughter] Well, the English are too polite to be honest and the Dutch are too honest to be polite. And there is some truth in it. (Akld male – Foundation member)*

3.1.2 Moving Beyond the Stereotypes

Beyond the obvious identifiers of Dutch heritage discussed above, were more subtle feelings shared by the participants. These were sometimes difficult to articulate, but may be common to the immigrant experience.

A sense of difference

Shared Dutch heritage can make descendents feel special, and can lead to connections with others who share a similar background. This is encouraging, suggesting there is potential for developing more of a sense of community here.

- > *You feel a bit special. [...] Just that we've got something different, and strong family and I don't know just something different I guess. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *[One Dutchie talking to another Dutchie ...] Whenever I say oma and opa she says, oh yeah, my oma and opa, and it's an instant kind of unspoken but like kind of warm connection between the two of us, because we have that in common. (Chch female)*

Having two nationalities makes life richer; it's a point of difference.

- > *I also love the fact that I had an oma and an opa – not a nana and a granddad, and that my children are calling my parents oma and opa, that's kind of really cool to me, because it's a point of difference. And it's always good to have two countries to cheer on in the rugby or – oh not rugby, but the football field – “go the orange”, “Go New Zealand,” so you can wave both flags. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *You know, there is something to celebrate, the fact that you are Dutch. It's a point of difference. And it comes with age, but also it comes with the maturity of the country that we live in. And I think that now is a time that that we can say, hey there's a lot to be very proud of. (Akld male – Foundation member)*

There was a real sense of pride conveyed about Dutch heritage and achievements.

- > *I think the other thing with the Dutch is I think they're a very proud nation anyway, but they're quite small, but in the bigger picture of the world they've achieved a heck of a lot with their explorations and Tasman. But also with some of the massive engineering works. They're right at the forefront of all of that, and some very big international companies have come out of Holland, Shell, Phillips. I mean they're all household names, and they've come from a pretty small little country. So they've done very very well. And I think that is something to be proud of. (Wgtn male 2G)*

Far off family

Being a child of immigrants often entails a sense of loneliness, or having a small family. In the absence of extended family, there can be a focus on the tight-knit nuclear family.

- > *Yeah, so being Dutch to me – well growing up it was always a connection to a far off world. We had no cousins or anything. [...] It was our family and that was it. So to think I've got 35 first cousins in Holland which I've never met any of them. To think I'd have been happy with one cousin. [laughter]. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *He was bursting with pride when I decided to go there when I was 19. He was really happy that I was going over to touch base with his, with family. (Wgtn male 2G)*

3.2 Sources of Pride

There were many aspects of Dutch culture and heritage that were a source of pride for the second and third generation Dutch descendents. The most commonly mentioned are shown below.

3.2.1 Food and Family

Dutch food was often the aspect of Dutch heritage retained when other aspects were neglected.

- > *You can go into the Dutch shop and get all those smells of Holland and it seriously just smells of Holland I reckon. It's amazing. It's a heady smell of liquorice and cheese and stuff and I love it. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Food triggers a memory and whether it's a memory of an occasion or a parent or grandparent, but food brings people together. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *It's about the one thing that I do regularly; I like the Dutch food. (Wgtn male)*
- > *What comes out mostly is the food too; down to the Dutch bakery, Dutch café, Van Dam's [laughter]. That was always a highlight for me. (Chch male 3G)*
- > *We had a fair bit of Dutch cookery. It was pretty good actually. Kroketteen, oliebollen, things like that. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *That was normal for us to have chocolate hail sandwiches and people just couldn't believe it. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *For me it's mayonnaise on fish and chips. (Chch female 2G)*

Some of the Dutch descendents have a stronger Indonesian connection.

- > *A lot of food that we were given was more Indonesian-inspired than it was Dutch-inspired. So we haven't had a lot of exposure to Dutch culture or heritage, aside from the occasional Dutch liquorice when my auntie comes around. (Wgtn female 3G)*

Not all food memories were positive:

- > *I've got horrible memories of Dutch food. I can remember my father wanting to make sauerkraut [zuurkool] and, and we used to have it on a regular basis and I'd be biking home with a friend and I could smell it about a street away. (Chch female 2G)*

Many participants expressed a fondness for the ties of food and family.

- > *Going back to Holland made me understand a lot of the homeliness. So Holland for me and Dutch heritage for me really is, it's oma and opa and it's food, it's pea and ham soup which the day I got back from Europe I made from my oma's hand written recipe. It's food, it's red cabbage, spek – the marshmallow stuff. So yeah I identify with my Dutch history quite strongly through food and family, particularly opa and oma. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *Dutch is important to me because I believe in strong family relationship [...] It's also important because I wanna travel there and experience the culture and the food. (Wgtn male 3G)*
- > *Mum took up the mantle and really loved these Dutch traditions. I think she loved being married to a Dutchman and liked the oliebollen and stuff like that and the Dutch food that we would eat. She really embraced it. (Wgtn male 2G)*

Families often preserve and try to carry on their celebratory traditions.

- > *Christmas time was always different to what other people would do. Like we would go to midnight mass and then come home and have biscotti [beschuit] and chocolates for breakfast at two o'clock in the morning [laughs] and then open our presents – a*

very Dutch way of doing things. And we still try and do it but now with kids we have to do it in the morning instead of two o'clock in the morning. No, I was quite proud of the way we stuck with the Dutch thing. (Wgtn female 2G)

3.2.2 The Past

Pride in Dutch history

There is a slight sense of dislocation amongst these Dutch descendents. It's a feeling of having a slightly different history to New Zealand friends and neighbours, and of being more closely connected to Europe and wider world events. That feeling is stronger for the second generation and becomes more diluted for the third generation. Overall, the comments about Dutch history and achievements were overwhelmingly positive.

- > *I feel like I've got a different culture – it's my identity and you know when we've been doing ANZAC and stuff at school it means nothing to me because it's got nothing to do with my family. I mean we had the Second World War, my mum's got a clock that was on the mantelpiece that's got Nazi bullet holes in it, so that's my culture, that's my background. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *From my oma and opa, their brothers and sisters when their kids and grandkids come here it's still the same thing, still that strong work ethic, they all have their businesses over there and they work really hard. But I think even if you look historically, you know in the 1700s, 1600s when the Dutch were conquering the world as it were, international travel, going down to forming the Dutch East Indies Company, going to South Africa – they were all around the world. (Chch male 3G)*
- > *I draw a lot of strength from having a bigger history than someone who is just from New Zealand. Because I can trace my family's history back a long way in Holland. I mean the history of Holland as a country is pretty impressive. And so I want to instil that strength in my children, and that feeling of being something bigger than just this little island at the bottom of the world; that's really important to me. (Chch male 2G)*

3.2.3 The Present

Access to a Dutch passport and Europe

Dutch passports were highly valued and seen as very useful – providing access to the (27 countries in the) European Union. However, there were many comments and some confusion around regulations and the inaccessibility of advice.

- > *So what it means to me having Dutch heritage is I've got a European passport. (Wgtn male 3G)*
- > *The fact that I've got a Dutch passport, and have had one for a very long time. And it just opens up all these opportunities – not just in Holland, but in Europe as well and I think if I was ever made to choose one or the other, I think I'd probably stick with the Dutch one, purely for the opportunities that it can offer. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *We were very much encouraged to hold on to the Dutch passports, going back to that, because they do keep changing the rules, so you've gotta stay on top of it. I know mine's expired and I've looked into it some time ago and I know I can renew it, but it's within five years of this, that whatever it is, and that's certainly encouraged I think by my parents, to maintain that, to really not let that go, because it's a bit of a gold ticket. [...] It's so hard to communicate with that office [embassy] in town. It's a nightmare, the website is not much better. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *I need to keep my Dutch passport up and then I need to get the kids their one and then keep it up as an insurance policy almost – no matter what, you know, how much it is to keep it up – but so that when they do want to go to Holland, it's that much easier to travel in Europe. (Akld female 2G)*

The European connection can also prove valuable for business networking.

- > *Having a Dutch background, it gives an understanding to Europe. It just means you can go to continental Europe and just have a little bit more of an insight as to what's happening, and that's both from a personal point of view and I think also from a business point of view as well. I just notice that with clients. [...] If they're continental European then there's something you have in common with them that's actually quite noticeable. (Aklid male 2G)*

Recognition of Dutch businesses in NZ

Participants enjoyed a sense of comfort and connection from visiting and supporting Dutch businesses in New Zealand, such as cafes, Dutch shops and Dutch markets.

- > *I live in Petone and my daughter and I go shopping at the Dutch shop - we both love cheese. I don't think most Kiwi young dads would take their kids to the Dutch shop. It's obvious they know that I'm Dutch and they've got an oma and an opa, so I think it is filtering down, even though I am just a Kiwi guy. [...] But I'm definitely bringing up my girls to know that they have a Dutch heritage. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Dutch markets - the second Saturday of every month, down at Holland House in Penrose. [laughs] It's awesome! (Aklid female 2G)*
- > *I always stop at the windmill when coming through Foxton; and they still mill their flour and get all the Dutch food in there. (Chch male 3G)*

3.3 Interest in Dutch Heritage

Although many Dutch descendents expressed an interest in their Dutch heritage, the strength of feeling was mixed. Some feel a close connection and desire to strengthen it, others feel quite disconnected from their Dutch ancestry and have only a passing interest.

A descendant's level of interest in their Dutch heritage is likely to be informed by how far they are removed from the first generation Dutch immigrant, with second generation Dutch New Zealanders having a stronger interest than those in the third or later generations. Similarly, the interest may be stronger if both parents were of Dutch descent as compared to one parent being Dutch, but having married a New Zealander.

3.3.1 The Dutch language

Although several of the Dutch descendents who participated in the research were fluent in Dutch, most were not. Knowledge of Dutch was generally viewed as beneficial, however many viewed language acquisition as an insurmountable challenge.

- > *Growing up with a father that was speaking Dutch has been fabulous because now I can speak it and understand it, and I would recommend it if you can because as soon as they set foot on Dutch soil and everyone's speaking Dutch you just feel part of it. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *You sit there and you try and concentrate really hard on what they're saying and sometimes you pick it up and then they go into provincial dialect. [laughs] After a few wines it's very, very difficult to understand. (Chch female 3G)*

Lack of knowledge of the Dutch language has posed problems for Dutch Kiwis trying to communicate with Dutch family in the Netherlands.

- > *So when we go over there, we can't communicate, and it's like this massive game of charades going on, which is just really stressful. [...] But my dad said he never ever expected that we would go to Holland, or want to go to Holland. Because he left because it was in a bad state after the war, and coming to New Zealand he had to be a Kiwi. So there was no way he was going to teach us Dutch. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *Yeah, my big problem is the language, and luckily my cousins speak English. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *It's hard to learn it over there as well, because everyone speaks English. I mean the TV's in English. [...] You'll be talking to them in Dutch and they'll reply in English because they know that you can't speak. (Wgtn male 2G)*

There was debate around the benefits of learning Dutch in New Zealand. Although lack of proficiency in Dutch presents barriers, many of the younger generation are not sure it's worth the effort.

- > *I think with learning the Dutch language, it's just what I've heard anyway, but I feel like you'd only want to learn the language if you've got a connection, like if you're marrying or if you've got heritage. [...] Dutch is like a dying language; no one's speaking it anyway. It's too hard, and I can only use it in these two countries. So we didn't bother to learn it. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *I felt embarrassed actually that I couldn't speak Dutch. (Chch female 3G)*

A few did express interest in learning Dutch.

- > *I would have taken it [the Dutch language] if it was at school. (Chch male 3G)*

- > *I remember sitting in my first lesson of Dutch language class in Canterbury University, there was probably about ten people in the class, a lot of them were like me, a third generation Dutch. Others were marrying a Dutch person or something like that, and were genuinely interested in the culture, genuinely interested in language, the history, everything. And the Dutch course, before the earthquake, ran at Canterbury University. I think there was one every term at least, and there was beginners and there was more advanced as well, but it may need to be marketed better. (Chch female 3G)*

3.3.2 Strengthening Dutch Roots

Finding roots

Visiting the Netherlands was obviously a very positive experience for many Dutch descendents, who felt an increased connection and affinity for their Dutch side.

- > *Feeling that you became a whole person in the sense that – I remember in my mid 20s going, thinking, “God, I actually belong here”. I mean I’m very happy to live on the other side of the world, but it was almost as if I became a whole person. It was actually quite an unusual thing, you sort of felt you belonged – really belonged. (Aklid male 2G)*
- > *The thing about history and heritage is definitely out there for me as well. You feel like you are a part of something, and for me living there, it’s probably really strengthened that. (Aklid female 2G)*

Visits to the Netherlands

Interest in Dutch heritage definitely appears to be strengthened by visits to the Netherlands, and meeting Dutch relatives. Facilitating visits to the Netherlands for second and third generation Dutch New Zealanders would probably be a valuable strategy to strengthen ties between the two countries.

- > *I went to Holland last year so quite recently, and it was awesome, it was really cool, I loved it there, and like our connections there are so cool. They’re really arty and creative people so just really open and it was awesome. We had oliebollen and Dutch liquorice all the time and croquettes and we used to always go to the Dutch café. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *I haven’t actually been to Holland, and I can’t speak any Dutch [laughs] unfortunately, but I think definitely travelling to Europe and to Holland would spark more interest in my Dutch heritage, and I know that I have a lot of family over there. So meeting all them would be really great. (Aklid female 3G)*

However, visiting the Netherlands can also be a culture shock – the New Zealand Dutch experience can be perceived as old-fashioned.

- > *We had always maintained quite strong links with the Dutch community in New Zealand. And that led almost to an odd kind of culture shock when I did go and live over there, which I completely didn’t expect, having thought, “Well I speak the language and I know how things work” – not realising, or not consciously thinking about the fact that the Dutch culture that I had grown up in was pretty much the Dutch culture that the 1950s immigrants took with them to New Zealand. [...] That became its own little sort of subculture here, language-wise. There were all these words that have been added to the vocab in forty years. (Aklid female 2G)*
- > *Quite old-fashioned. It’s exactly what people said when he went to Holland, that his friends of our age sat laughing almost at his Dutch because he was old-fashioned. (Aklid female 2G)*

The Family Connection

In some families the Dutch connection has been encouraged and fostered.

- > *I think for me the family connection is the strongest. My parents were the only ones from both of their families who immigrated, so pretty much everybody else – although they did kind of live around the world – have all ended up back in the Netherlands and all my cousins and everybody lived there. Having said that, growing up here with no relatives, interestingly it was other members of the Dutch community who became our defect family. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Dutchness was always sort of encouraged and fostered and celebrated within our family. A lot of Dutch traditions and stuff observed and I've got a couple of little kids now and I think it's really important that they know about their Dutch heritage as well. [...] I've never been to Holland, and I don't speak the language, but what really stands out to me is the amount of respect that I have for my grandparents and what they went through in the war, and what they went through to get here and to give their family a good start in a new place is really what makes me want to carry that on out of respect for them more than anything else I think. (Chch male 2G)*
- > *All the Dutch family coming out to New Zealand and really enjoying holidays out here. (Akld male 2G)*
- > *For me it was really interesting growing up, because I have got two totally different worlds, and I've been very lucky because I've lived in both sides of the world and I've kind of been able to pick and choose. [...] Depending on whether you've been there, whether you've grown up, it will depend on your connection and how strongly you feel about things. [...] It probably comes down to every individual, how family orientated you are as well. I mean we're all here because we're clearly family orientated, we've got a history that we want to know about, and sometimes that comes with age. Sometimes some people just simply don't have it and you can't force it. (Akld female 2G)*

3.3.3 Staying in Touch

Desire to pass on traditions

Many of the second generation who are now parents themselves expressed an interest in passing on their Dutch heritage to their children.

- > *Just knowing a different culture and growing up with both of them - just the culture side of it is important to me and I would like to pass it on to my own kids, like the influences that I have in my life, and I try and do that. (Wgtn female 2G)*

While some parents are trying to do what they can to continue traditions, often they appeared to be struggling with little support or knowledge.

- > *Whenever they have culture days at school, which they have once a year, then rather than just going as English like everyone else, then my kids go as Dutch and they have to wear the Dutch flag on them or their Dutch top or whatever. And we try the odd word. But as I say, I don't know enough to be able to teach them. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *Just small things I suppose. Oma and opa, that's what they're known as, the clogs – she's got the clogs slippers. And I'd really like – oh sometimes I try a different tactic: instead of counting to three in English, I'll count to three in Dutch, but I don't think it means much to her [laughs]. I'd love her to actually have a bit more understanding, and I remember when she was little, I think I said to my mum, "It would be really good if you and Dad could speak Dutch at home to [her] and if she could learn it". (Wgtn female 2G)*

Nostalgia

There was plenty of nostalgia expressed for quaint Dutch traditions, from Miss Tulip competitions with the prize of a free trip to Holland, to celebratory picnics.

- > *I wanted to be the Tulip Queen but they had stopped it just before I got old enough. (Chch female 2G) [...] Bring back Miss Tulip Queen! [laughter] (Chch female 3G)*
- > *They've got lots of funny traditions, like when my niece graduated at school, they all hang their schoolbags and books outside the window. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *Decorating the birthday chair, for the person whose birthday it is. (Chch male 2G)*
- > *St Nicholas Day Picnic. That's still going. That's very cool. That's awesome to take kids to. My kids loved it. (Chch male 2G)*
- > *"They have Black Peter" "Yeah, they throw lollies at you and stuff." "And they have lots of [sack] running races and egg and spoon races." (Chch participants)*

3.3.4 Fostering a sense of community

Participants suggested that there are numerous disparate Dutch-related organisations and events happening in New Zealand. However due to the fragmented nature, these may not be widely known about and deserve better publicity.

- > *There's obviously the Embassy and the Consulate here in Auckland. There are Dutch clubs in a lot of cities and there are schools, which I didn't even know about. Where do they get their funding from? Who organises them? What's the sort of framework behind all this? Because I don't know at all. (Akl female 2G)*
- > *It seems to me as well within the Dutch community there are lots of different groups, and they all seem to be almost quite separate from one another. So there's the Dutch School, there's the Business Foundation, and I know there are some links there, but I just wonder if there could be some better links. And just thinking of different events that are happening around the country and throughout the year. (Akl female 2G)*

3.3.5 Barriers to a community

There is a natural hurdle that many Dutch appear to be less community-oriented than some other immigrant groups. Other barriers include competition for time, and the need to create a network.

Dilution of Dutch connection

- > *That's right, and it's maintaining that awareness, because I think one of the things that happens is this gradual dilution of Dutch blood if you like. I'm married to a New Zealander, our kids have inherited a bit of it. It's harder to maintain the language when only one speaks. I'm reasonably fluent in Dutch, but it is still a second language now. To try and pass that on, I have no hope at all of my kids ever passing any Dutch language on to their kids. (Akl female 2G)*
- > *I think it's fairly watered down, but it's still there. I mean our oma still, even as she gets older, she kind of reverts back into speaking Dutch more and more and less English. This is hard, because we don't understand it. It also is a reminder, of where we've come from. But we don't really have any direct family left in – either Indonesia or Holland. (Wgtn female 3G)*
- > *I think you naturally lose contact with the people over there, as well. Because my grandparents moved over, their parents were still in Holland and cousins and all that, and so they had a good relationship and would write once a week and everything. So when my dad, he had a little bit of contact, and when he went over, he stayed with them and I've had even less contact. (Wgtn male 2G)*

Assimilation

The 1950s Dutch migrants have been called a 'lost generation', scarred by the disruptions and trauma of economic depression and military occupation in the Netherlands. On reaching their adopted country, many kept their heads down and suppressed their heritage. Some believe their experiences made them assimilate too well, and as such they are invisible as an ethnic community.⁴

Many participants felt they had a fairly kiwi upbringing, with little exposure to things Dutch. This was often due to a strong drive to assimilate on the part of at least one immigrant parent.

- > *Dad was pretty kiwi-ised straight away. He liked to assimilate I think and so very little exposure to Dutch language. But we still had oliebollen at New Year's [laughter] and the odd thing like that. [laughter] And of course Christmas with [friends]. I don't know if it was a Dutch-type Christmas, because when we had Christmas in Holland, it seemed pretty much like a Kiwi Christmas to me, except for the weather. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Dad came out in 1951 and that was at a time when if you came to New Zealand, you were a New Zealander, you were not a Dutch person. So my dad's not really a Kiwi bloke, he's very European, so growing up, they were quite strict rather than the Kiwi, "She'll be right", "See what happens", kind of way. But yeah, no Dutch at home. Dad would sometimes speak it when some of his ten brothers or sisters would come out, and we were just like, "What's with that?" [laughter] But yeah, now that I've been to Holland, as an adult, then I can see that probably our upbringing was a lot more Dutch, even though there was no language than say the Kiwi way. Like it was definitely just like being at home over there, which was quite weird. (Wgtn female 2G)*

Often Dutch immigrants focused on making the most of life in their new environment.

- > *He had a lot of Dutch friends but he didn't want anything to do with the Dutch Society at all, the Netherlands Society. They wanted him to join and everything, and he wouldn't. He didn't want anything to do with it; he was so dead against it. As far as he was concerned he moved to New Zealand and he was a Kiwi. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *He didn't teach his daughter Dutch, he didn't want my mum speaking Dutch to her, because he didn't want that to happen until she could speak English properly. [...] He has got his daughter a Dutch passport. (Aklid male 3G)*

The Dutch integrated in part because they were instructed by emigration officials, but also because they felt they had to as demanded by living in a new country.

- > *When my parents immigrated, their generation was told to integrate. You go to New Zealand, you become part of the local community there, forget about your language – there are any number of parents, people from my parents' generation, hopped off the boat here and said, "We're New Zealanders now, we're not speaking Dutch". And certainly once the kids came along, we're not speaking Dutch anymore. We will learn English from our children. And that was the party line; that was what they were told by the Dutch government, that they were to come out here and they were to integrate into the community. (Aklid female 2G)*
- > *They were literally treated like third-rate citizens. [...] And they could [integrate] because unlike the Indian community or the Chinese community... you look the same. (Aklid females 2G)*
- > *When your parents came here they more or less were demanded to integrate. That's the story we hear over and over and over again. You know, and then it's the second generation who become the Kiwis and the third generation will say, "Well hang on, I'm*

⁴ See www.teara.govt.nz.

partly Dutch, I want to know more about what's happening now". (Akld male – Foundation member)

Dutch Independence

Are the Dutch more independent, less community oriented?

- > *Maybe from an Indian perspective [...] I might have this completely wrong, but you bring your culture with you in terms of possibly your religion and the way you dress and the whole thing, and maybe from a European point of view actually to me it seems that there's a big part of European culture which is always actually going to be in Europe and it's the art and the music and the buildings and things and in a funny sort of a way, if you want that here, you either have to go there to get it, or you have to bring it here. And so there's a part of European culture which is sort of inherent in us, but there's a big part of it which is actually not so transportable as it might be for some cultures, say like Indian cultures. (Akld male 2G)*

Some have a sense of dislocation from Holland, a legacy from the immigration process.

- > *Maybe the generation that came out didn't have that pride as much for Holland. ["And that's why they were leaving?"] Exactly. Because something I heard a lot when I lived there was, what on earth are you here for? Why on earth would you want to live in Holland? A lot of Dutch people will often put Holland down, that it's not a nice place to live, there's too many people, it's too crowded – there wasn't as much pride. A lot more New Zealanders seem to have more pride for their own country – something I really noticed when I lived there. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Obviously everyone has their own individual reasons for immigrating and I know a lot of the people that did come across in the 1950s were people who had grown up in Indonesia – my mother was one of those. And so she was born in Holland, went out to Indonesia with her family and was there during the war and then they were effectively forced to go back to Holland. But to her, Holland was a foreign country. She hadn't really connected with the place or with much of her you know uncles and aunts and everybody there. And so it was sort of as soon as she could, she wanted to get away and wanted to go somewhere warm. So she went to Christchurch [laughter]. And then to Wellington and then to Auckland. [...] Part of the Dutch community that she then found here were people who were similar, who had left Holland – and don't forget at the time they were encouraged to leave because of overcrowding and housing shortages and things like that there as well. But then they formed communities, I think much along the line that the Indian and the Chinese and other – Croatian communities and that did as well and still do. Those communities were formed, I think they answered the needs in those immigrants at that time. (Akld female 2G)*

Lack of knowledge about Dutch culture

Several participants suggested that people in New Zealand may have a limited understanding of the Netherlands focused on the iconic aspects.

- > *Why do people go to Holland? What do you go to see when you're in Holland? Windmills, tulips, but you've gotta get past that and look at design, architecture, art, culture, science – like Wageningen University, the agriculture and horticulture, those kind of things. You've gotta get the word out there that that's what the Netherlands stands for. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *New Zealanders don't know about Holland as a world centre of trade, it is a centre of excellence. I get a lot of information that comes from there, and I have to say that that the Dutch government and the embassies and their representatives have done a piss-poor job at putting it through to New Zealand. [laughter] (Akld male 2G)*

3.4 Encouraging a Dutch Connection

3.4.1 Level of interest

Is there interest in fostering a sense of community amongst Dutch descendents? There appears to be some interest. However it would perhaps be peripheral rather than a priority.

- > *Yeah. I think it's definitely there. It runs up against the usual, time constraints you know, busy with this that and the other, but I think there's enough there and I think part of it is getting the word out there as to creating a proper network and the other thing too is that once you meet people through that, you think, "Oh I'll go along to that, because I'll be able to catch up with so and so, I don't see them outside of those events". (Aklid female 2G)*

3.4.2 Visits to the Netherlands

It was suggested that the strongest way to encourage a Dutch connection was to promote or assist visits to the Netherlands, whether these are informal OE's or more formal student or cultural exchanges.

- > *I still think there needs to be the direct link back to the country itself. Like I know for me the area of great interest would be to work over in Holland or to do further studies at university over in Holland. So I think having that direct link back to the country itself is a really positive way to promote Dutchness. (Aklid female 3G)*

Dutch OE for Dutch Kiwis

There appears to be significant interest in Dutch OE's, and recognition that it will strengthen visitors' interest in their Dutch connection.

- > *Sending young people over there, I mean what better way to get them inspired. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *We would love to live there at the drop of a hat, like we all just absolutely fell in love with Holland, we just absolutely love it. So we connect with it more I guess, yeah. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *Then slowly I started bumping into people who didn't actually have any Dutch heritage who were working in the Netherlands and it occurred to me, obviously quite late in the piece, that in fact that was actually a real possibility. [...] I know it sounds a bit crude and a bit selfish, but, "What's in it for me? Why would I do this?" If there is an OE in it and it sounds like that actually really is possible, then gosh, actually I will focus on some Dutch language and learn some more about culture, etc. (Aklid male 2G)*
- > *There needs to be a really compelling reason as to why go do this stuff when there's so much really good stuff to be doing out there. [...] If you're primarily an English speaker, how easy is it to get jobs in the Netherlands? Because if it is relatively easy, then that is something that kids need to know about. So they think, okay, well actually I've got a Dutch heritage and that's what I'm going to be doing in my gap year or between terms at university or whatever it is... But certainly I know for me at the time, that would have been a really compelling reason to go down that path. (Aklid male 2G)*

The language barrier has posed difficulties for those trying to find work.

- > *It just came down to a language thing. It would have been awesome to have been able to have done the London thing but in Holland. I would have loved that. (Wgtn female 2G)*

However, language might not be a barrier for Dutch Kiwi visitors.

- > *I think that a lot of Kiwis are quite naïve. Yeah, they don't know that English is incredibly widely spoken. [...] The other thing too with a lot of tertiary study in Holland, it's all conducted in English. (Aklid female 2G)*

- > *As for communicating with the Dutch, certainly the later generations I think that you know they all speak impeccable English. I mean I've just been emailing with cousins over the last week or two about you know organising places to stay when we go and even their written English is fantastic. Now whether that's representative of the whole population over there I don't know, but certainly in my experience, no the language is not really a problem. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Like my friend got so angry when we were in Amsterdam because people would come up to us before we'd even opened our mouth and talk to us, "Hello, can I help you today?" and she was like, "We're in Holland. You should be talking in Dutch". They wouldn't speak in Dutch. But they're so happy to please the rest of the world, and English is the way to go. (Wgtn female 3G)*

Dutch, but not Dutch – an absence of work papers posed problems for another.

- > *I thought I'd go to Holland and get a job and in fact we did – I went with a friend, and we went around some bars and things and we got a job, and they said, "Sweet, just go and get your work papers". I'm like, "Oh yeah, no worries". And we were down at this stadhuis – the town hall, for hours and hours and trying to. They were making us jump through hoops, and as far as they were concerned, I was just a New Zealander. It didn't matter that my oma and all my rellies lived there, dad was born there. Because he'd become a New Zealander. [...] Despite that, I still have this strong sense of belonging to the Dutch country and culture. I'm really proud of it, proud of being Dutch. (Wgtn male 2G)*

The suggestion was raised that the Foundation could assist by facilitating some exchanges, perhaps something like AFS exchanges.

- > *If you then go and study in Holland and work over there, then that sort of reignites that flame. [...] It sparks more interest in the culture itself. (Akld female 3G)*
- > *I guess it's the same with any parent isn't it? If he can see a benefit for his daughter, a significant one, then he'd be straight on to that. But without that, it's just not gonna happen. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *You get those interconnections, and then that what the Dutch were so good at, well let's pick up on that, and add that value, because there's no reason why you couldn't be studying in Vancouver with the Dutch connection, because there happens to be a research scientist of Dutch connection in the Vancouver University which is actually of great value to what you might be doing. (Akld male – Foundation member)*

There was plenty of interest in student exchanges – from high school to tertiary level.

- > *Cos everyone speaks English over there it's not that scary. Society-wise, they're not that different from us. Maybe it's because we've all grown up with that kind of heritage, I don't know, but I think student exchange is a perfect idea. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *Because that would open a lot of interest I'm sure, especially people at my age to really get interested in the Dutch culture. (Akld female 3G)*
- > *Student exchange, there is an existing programme between the University of Victoria in Wgtn and Holland and it was set up by the Foundation, about 15 years ago. (Akld male 2G)*

Facilitating cultural exchanges

Exchanges need not be restricted to the young, there could be interest from all ages.

- > *The Dutch retirement village out here is looking at the healthcare workers and saying, "Hey why don't they go to Holland and do an exchange?" [...] But maybe it's not just young people, maybe it's older people within certain professions, as you say, like in healthcare. (Akld female 2G)*

- > *Even taking it to the next level where if you get enough parents interested, you could almost organise a field trip. [...] Why not? If as the group expands, if there's sufficient interest and people are financially able, to be able to say, "We'll go as a group, organise a cultural trip where it's basically an educational thing for the kids". (AkId female 2G)*
- > *A lot of the large organisations will actually internally move people and sponsor them. (AkId female 2G)*

Other countries offer examples of cultural exchanges.

- > *Through the Goethe Institute they do exchanges. I did one when I did German. Because I spoke Dutch, German was really easy, so I did German all the way through school and university, and I did just a month trip to Germany in sixth form, which was fully funded by the German Government, and they still do it. [...] They take a group of kids from every country around the world and they give them a sort of a German experience, a bit of home stay with the family there and going to Munich, going to Berlin, Bonn, etc. (AkId female 2G)*
- > *I think we took 12 children to Japan and [...] I think it's the Japanese Foundation in Japan, and it's encouraging people from other countries to go to them, and they were doing the culture, like drumming and we did painting and cooking and all that stuff and going to the schools. So why not have something like a scholarship or something for Dutch students? (AkId male 2G)*

3.4.3 The Dutch Language

Learning Dutch

It appears as though it is increasingly difficult to fit learning Dutch into busy lives.

- > *It just gets more difficult because there isn't anything for them at that age, and they're busy. They've got so much else on with school and with after-school activities and sports and things like that. Trying to fit one more thing in, and, "You've got to learn...", is difficult. Other things get in the way. (AkId female 2G)*
- > *There's a lot of bribery going on with some families to get them into Dutch. (AkId male 2G)*

Dutch Language Schools

Several Aucklanders spoke of sending their children to Dutch after-school language schools. Some found this valuable, although it can be difficult if the level is too advanced.

- > *The four different groups though actually move from one class to the next. They start at age four, four till six, six to seven, and then seven till nine in the older groups. It works well. Just the three hours a week makes a big difference actually for the language – it's good. (AkId female 2G)*
- > *When they were both at primary school, we went to Dutch School when they still operated in Richmond Road School – Freeman's Bay and Richmond Road, and then briefly over in Albany. That was before the Mt Albert side of things started. And initially it was good, they enjoyed it, but [I'm] interested in your comments that there were quite a few kids who are learning Dutch virtually as a second language in Albany, because we had almost the opposite experience. We went from a group where most of the kids had one Dutch parent at best, and were learning it as a second language, then transferring to a group where everything was in Dutch, and they just found it incredibly frustrating. And I met with consumer resistance and eventually we [laughter] jacked it in. Funnily enough, just in the last few months my 12-year-old son has now gone, "Oma, will you teach me some Dutch?" So she's starting teaching him Dutch. And my daughter sort of sidles along and [laughter] in case there's anything that she might be missing out on [laughter]. (AkId female 2G)*

There appear to also be classes in Christchurch, although perhaps not well known.

- > *She said it was an after-school Dutch class and the kids go there and they can speak English or Dutch. There's two different classes I think, and it's to teach little kids about their Dutch heritage or to continue their Dutch heritage if they've recently come over to New Zealand. And I thought that was a really good idea and I'd never heard of it before. (Chch male 2G)*

3.4.4 Encouraging a sense of community

A Dutch Directory

There are events happening, but people often do not know about them, or find out in a haphazard fashion. One suggestion to encourage a sense of community is to make a Dutch Directory of businesses, events, and things of interest.

- > *The second Saturday of every month. If you Google Dutch markets, Holland House, and there's a calendar. But usually it's the second Saturday of every month. And these are the sorts of things that I was saying. Between the Dutch markets or the Dutch cafes, like the one in Herne Bay, to the Dutch school, there was actually a lot of things that happened. To me it's tying it all together, and I think that's where you were saying the calendar of events, you've got your key days, but then under the categories that you were talking about, you know, "food", you could list all the different things [...] It's like creating a directory almost. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *It needs to give communities the chance to find each other, that if in amongst all of that it turns out there's a group of people who are sufficiently interested in food for example, that somebody says, "Oh I could do a Dutch cooking class, teach everybody else how to make croquettes", or [...] "There's a korfbal club somewhere around here and yeah there's a korfbal team". [...] How do people find each other to set up another team or whatever? [...] Simply know that that these things are out there. (Akld female 2G)*

Dutch Community Events

There appears to be interest amongst Dutch descendents in attending Dutch related festivities. Although there is less interest in organizing these, a few are stepping up to the challenge.

- > *This year for the first year I got involved in organising the Herdenking which is like the 4th of May. Now that's through my parents' connection with the Netherlands Veterans Legion, but those people are one by one dying off. I'm taking it over from a former veteran. He's now not in particularly good health and he was sort of ready to go, "Well that's the end of it". And I thought, "Well no, it can't be the end of it, because that's what I grew up with". [...] My challenge for next year is how do I let other people know that this is on? Who knows that it's on? How do we tell people? And you know, for me that's a, "How am I going to do that?" And I think it is exactly as you said, it's through linking in through those other groups out there. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *We went to Koninginnedag this year and I said to her, isn't this weird, because we've never done it before? It's just now that I've got the children that we want to get them involved. But before that, I mean we had the Dutch culture and I was always interested in the Royal Family and I had the books. [...] But we haven't really been involved in the community. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Now that your children are getting older, you want to involve them in St Nicholas and the Queen's Day. You want to get them involved in that. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Koninginnedag is a great one that could be more of a – that's such a fun day in Holland, it's a fantastic event. So many people have such fond memories of that. (Akld female 2G)*

Participants agreed there needs to be increased publicity to increase participation.

- > *I was going to say I think it's about creating the awareness of what is out there and what is available for the next generation, things like the school. You know you talked about the Dutch treats. I'm exactly the same. You put me in front of any Dutch cheeses, any salamis, [laughter] and I'll be there. The liquorice you can have. [laughter] You know what I mean? But it's creating the awareness of - what are things Dutch? For example, as soon as I found out that there was a Dutch shop I tell you, I couldn't get in that car fast enough to get there to see what they had. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *This is creating the awareness of what is out there from a food perspective, what is out there from an educational and school perspective. What is out there from a business perspective. (Akld female 2G)*

Participants saw a need for a calendar of events – better publicity for events and existing organisations.

- > *If you have a calendar of events during the year, there'd be some things that I would be interested in going to with my family, and other things I wouldn't... and I'm sure around this table you'd find a number of different things as well. I think again a lot of this stuff's happening, but we don't know about it. Because I know there have been the World Press Photo or there have been art exhibitions and things as well happening which... So it's letting people know that this stuff is actually happening... [...] communication as well between these different, different groups. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *I think this business about mapping out the existing organisations, of how they relate to each other is probably quite important. (Akld female 2G)*

The benefits would need to be accentuated. There is plenty of apathy to overcome.

- > *I was going to say as well just even highlighting the benefits of some of this stuff that we're talking about, to make it more personal for people. You know, where learning another language is good for your children, because of x, y, z – yeah, just trying to highlight what the real benefits would be with becoming a member or joining in some of these different activities. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *But then you get to the point where those kids are us effectively and they're saying, "Well, what's in it for me, why should I bother? What's my interest in maintaining that?" (Akld female 2G)*

Dutch Clubs

Although in the past Dutch clubs may have provided a sense of community, the younger generation Dutch descendents appear to be less interested in the existing Dutch clubs.

- > *I have the feeling that the new immigrant, the 27-year-old, the 35-year-old or whatever, coming to New Zealand, that they are not really all that interested in being a part of that. (Akld male 2G)*
- > *Whatever needs that they have to maintain their links with the Netherlands are not being met by those clubs – and I think the clubs are at a loss as to what to do to provide for those people. (Akld female 2G)*

Business events

The suggestion was made that really well done business events should be encouraged and could be beneficial for fostering links between the Netherlands and New Zealand.

- > *From a business point of view, what I've found interesting is if I think of the things that other cultural groups have run that I've attended, that were really impressive, one was an Austrian trade delegation and there were maybe four or five people as*

*part of that delegation and they were all doctors and they all spoke absolutely impeccable English and their qualifications were just amazing – I mean they were a very impressive group of people. And I thought that was really influential, because that had an effect on me and I could also see for the New Zealand business people involved, that was a very powerful grouping of people. And then the French business groups, there was an event I attended which was linked to the release I think of the new Beaujolais and the new Citroen car and **the food and wine was wonderful and again that was a really powerful sort of combination.** So yeah, it's the sort of thing that was from a business point of view, **it needs to be done really well.** But I thought they were very powerful events and very good for generating business. [...]*

I think that is the thing about going to Europe isn't it? I mean you go there because the best is absolutely fantastic, it's mind-blowing, and so just in the little world that I operate, [...] it so happens that probably the best information, global information provider and educators in the world happens to be a Dutch organisation. So I'd imagine it's possible in all the spheres we're involved in, to pick those areas of excellence, because I think they're the things that we would all go, gosh, that has done so well, I'm really interested. Even if it's not my thing, I'll go along because it is offering what Europe has to offer. I mean it's like people driving Mercedes, that's what Europe has to offer, it's what Holland has got to offer, and so it's a matter of how you capture those things. (AkId male 2G)

Social events

In Christchurch, there was strong interest amongst the young to middle-aged second and third generation Dutch New Zealanders in ad hoc social events that focused on traditions brought to New Zealand, not on reminiscing about the Holland of the past.

- > *Well I think that if the second or third generation Dutchies were to get together, we'd all need to come together to do something we enjoy in common, which would be eating and drinking. [Laughs] [...] There was this amazing small business lecturer at the table. She said, why don't you find some young Dutch people, Dutch descendants in Christchurch, and have a Dutch food event, a really swanky one in Christchurch where nothing else is happening cos of the earthquake. I said, "Great, right, let's do it" - practically wrote our business plan at the table. [...] We could have profiteroles and we could have pancakes. Cos I don't know about you but for my oma, pancakes with ice cream was an okay substantial dinner meal. [...] I don't want to go into a room full of my oma's age of people to talk about Holland, because their memories are very different. Everyone at this table's got shared experiences and we're all around a similar demographic. It's kind of like there could be a new movement - without the word 'clog' - that focuses on not the things that they knew back then but the traditions that they brought to New Zealand. (Chch 2G female)*

The group stressed they did not want it to be called a "club" or "society" because of the connotations of commitment at this time when people have such busy lives.

- > *People don't want to be committed because everyone's so busy now.*

Other "low commitment" suggestions included:

- > *Playgroups for Dutch mums with young children.*

It was suggested that Facebook could be used to find suitable interested people.

- > *Almost everyone has access to the internet. I'm sure most of you have Facebook, especially the younger kids these days with technology and [laughter] so forth. [...] From then it's easy to communicate and to be able to organise something from there. (Chch male 3G)*

The group thought it would be good to have a focus, like a special Dutch festival, for example Queen's Day. The parallel drawn was St Patrick's Day.

- > *Then your normal people can come along and celebrate something Dutch, that takes the spotlight off yourself and you can go along and join in, rather than go and feel like you're under pressure. [...] It's like you can just come enjoy a festival, eat Dutch food... (Chch females)*

There was plenty of interest in events with **free** Dutch food.

- > *I went to an evening there when their Dutch – is he called the Consular? Yeah, when he was leaving and a new one was arriving. That was a big thing. My father didn't eat for a week cos he knew there was free food. [Laughter] (Chch female 2G)*

It could be beneficial to have a focal meeting point for disseminating information.

- > *I think the Facebook and internet and databases and things like that are all good ideas, but it might be good to have some sort of hub. Like we all seem to know Van Dam's - some sort of place where you could go and there's things on the wall, there's things happening that you could find out more information there. (Chch female)*

There was also interest in tea/coffee mornings for those not working, or a Dutch pub.

- > *The moment there's a Dutch pub, I'll be there [laughs], or a cafe. (Chch female)*

3.4.5 Marketing the Dutch Connection

How to Communicate?

Participants suggested the need to create a network of contacts who have interest in exploring aspects of Dutch culture, perhaps using social media.

- > *I think the way that people share in this day and age is really, like you were saying, on Facebook and on the internet, and I guess to me that would be the obvious thing to do anyway as a start to get people communicating about their heritage or about Dutch things that are going on. (Chch male 2G)*
- > *LinkedIn is one tool for people in business that are using it. Get the Foundation to set up a group page, because that's where you build a community and you can communicate through LinkedIn, by having your discussion points. You can advise people of events, and for people that aren't on LinkedIn, it might be that you have a separate email group. [...] So it might be that your Facebook and your LinkedIn are your two social media that you can use [...] it can actually be a community notice board - when events are up and running. But to do that, all of us have to essentially join the group. And then how it works – it's a bit like a virus. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *I quite like the idea of LinkedIn, because how it works is if I join a group, everyone who's connected to me will see that I've joined a group. [...] From a Dutch connection, you're thinking, ah somebody sees that you've joined the Netherlands New Zealand Foundation, "Fantastic, I didn't know about that. Oh!" And that person joins, and then all of their friends will see that. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *It might be that you started with an email, getting everyone set up in an email group, so it's all transparent. [...] It starts with the people who are currently associated with the Foundation, and then it's through all of us that the word will spread to people that we know, and that's how you collectively collect the email addresses. (Akld female 2G)*

Many of the younger generation see the potential benefits of connecting through Facebook – it's modern, and free.

- > *Well the beauty of having a group page or a club page or an official Netherlands Foundation Facebook page is that people can join or like it, and then from there it's up to them their level of engagement. So if I wasn't as enthusiastic about my Dutch heritage as I am, I could put [my name] "likes the New Zealand Netherlands Foundation" or whatever, and then that might be it. But then the Foundation could post updates like, "Hey, it's Queen's Day this day or it's St Nicholas Day. What are you guys doing to get your family involved? Here's this really interesting recipe from Steve's oma in, Auckland". You could be as engaged or as not engaged as you want to be. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *If it was something that was at least linked with the consulate or the Wellington, the embassy, perhaps that would give it a bit of credibility and then everyone would know it was the official one. Link it to the official consulate - but I think the idea, because they're in the social media space, it's gotta have a fun element to it like it's not only just, "Today this happened in Holland". (Chch female 3G)*

3.4.6 Opportunities for the Foundation

Create a whole package

The suggestion was made that the cultural experience is multi-faceted. There is a need to consider and create a whole package.

- > *Language on its own I don't think is enough, and it's the same with the idea - that my parents go off and do, that they go play bridge with Dutch friends and I have to admit, it's got absolutely no appeal to me whatsoever. And I think part of what it is, is this sense of wholeness isn't that the Indian community, (again this might be a little bit stereotypical), but they can actually bring the whole package to New Zealand. And so I think in terms of stimulating interest in Dutch culture, it is something to do with about how you create that whole package, which is not just the language.*

In Australia it's really interesting. There's always Dutch art in the Melbourne Museum or the Sydney Modern Art Museum. I think in Australia for example, it's actually much easier to embrace the whole of being Dutch, which is the language, the food, the art, the music. And in a way I think - well certainly for me - I know that's the appealing part of it, in terms of European culture. And so I think in a way we need to think about how you do create, bring that whole either to New Zealand in terms of art or music that comes over here and that's integrated then with language and other things, or alternatively we say, "No that's too difficult, and actually we need to get kids over to, to Europe with their Dutch that they've learnt at the New Zealand school", but sort of an integration of a bigger package, including the history and everything. (Akld male 2G)

Become an information hub

The Foundation could become a hub, a clearing house for disseminating information, and assisting people to connect.

- > *We've kept a very low profile in this country and now - that's what the Foundation's all about. It's now about getting our profile out there. [...] It's about what value it can add to this society - that society - right down to the individual level. And when you can think about what value it adds to the individual level, then you can start putting these programmes into place. And they're not hard. We as a Foundation are really looking to be the people that do the promotional aspect of it, to make that awareness. Making it happen comes down to individual groups of connections, and your LinkedIn idea is a fantastic thing. It's about having an avenue to make that awareness, but also if the opportunities were there, just like what you say, you're interested in the business aspect of it - we facilitate that connection, but it's up to you then to drive it because it's of interest to you. (Akld male -Foundation member)*

Long term and short term things to do.

- > *And I think that the most important thing to realise is there are a lot of things that can be done. There's a lot of ideas that have probably come out, but when we talk about*

field trips and exchange programmes, talking to governments, I mean that's going to take time, but there are lots of things that we can do in the short term to try and build a network, and get the community, and get a calendar of events together. (Akld female 2G)

There were several offers from volunteers, including one to set up LinkedIn.

- > *I said to you I would voluntarily set up the group on LinkedIn for example. [...] It's very basic getting everyone's email address. (Akld female 2G)*

There were plenty of ideas, the key is making things happen.

- > *Well I think the thing is when you're passionate about something, you're going to dedicate the time to making it. (Akld female 2G)*
- > *Okay, I'm thinking Dutch food festival with all the Dutch beers, the Heinekens all of that. That would get them in. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *The whole carnival aspect that lots of parts of Holland have. How good is that? Like the dress-up thing. (Wgtn female 2G)*
- > *You could almost go to some of the sports foundations, like Harbour Sport and introduce and get them taking sports, as part of the Dutch thing, to the schools, so they're trying new things. (Akld female 2G)*

3.5 Moving Forward

There are many questions raised by this research:

- What is Dutch culture?
 - Is it a mix of traditions, celebrations and food?
 - Is it a community of people who share common Dutch ancestry?
 - Do you have to include the Dutch language, which is a barrier for many?
- How do we get the next generation to be proud of their Dutchness?

There are many difficulties in trying to unite generations removed from Holland, where families have become a mix of cultures – often with several cultures to celebrate and integrate into busy lives.

It's important to make it easy for people to learn and maintain traditions.

- > *If we knew quite a lot then we would probably keep that going for our children cos some of them sound awesome. [Laughter] (Chch female)*
- > *Like we don't have the birthday chair. We don't do St Nicholas. We do Dutch food nights where everyone brings along something like that. So maybe, I mean this is... it doesn't sound that exciting, but if the database got up and running and there was some time and effort spent on it, and there was some kind of monthly - oh, not monthly at all, quarterly or half-yearly e-newsletter with like a Dutch recipe: "Did you know Queen's Day is happening in Wgtn? It's gonna go off, you should be there in your orange..." Little promotions and things about Dutch culture, just to keep it top of mind. (Chch female)*

A sense of fun is important.

- > *I think the lovely thing about that and what [she] was talking about is it actually sounds like fun, which I think is really important. (Akld male 2G)*
- > *I thought, "Well, what is it about those damn Italians and French who are in New Zealand or in Australia who do seem to have more of a sense of their culture going?" And I thought, [...] "They do seem to be enjoying themselves and there seems to be a real groove factor". [...] When I look at my [family] in Holland, I mean it's a really fun, groovy place to live as well. I mean in terms of all the different sort of beers that are available, or they're kind of crazy about the football or Carnival or whatever, but there is that real sense of kind of fun and grooviness as well, or Dutch furniture or design or whatever it is. But maybe we need to be picking up on those elements as well in terms of the branding. (Akld male 2G)*

There appears to be interest in a well-promoted Dutch festival with food.

- > *A whole bunch of people, lots of orange, just a really fun day in the sun - someone's doing pancakes, someone's doing profiteres, someone's doing rotwurst, someone's doing soup and there's entertainment and stuff like that, just to kind of educate people about Dutch food and give people a chance to talk about what bits they have, what bits they don't have. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *When I used to go to the St Nicholas Day picnic when I was a kid, that's what it used to be like. That's exactly what it was, and there was live music and stuff, and now it's really dwindled. If it was better promoted you guys might go to it... and I know a lot of Dutch people that had little kids that have no idea that this is going on. (Chch male 2G)*

Many participants fondly recalled Dutch events such as St Nicholas picnics, and suggest that if they are to be repeated they deserve better promotion.

- > *I think the Saint Nicholas picnic just needs more promotion. [...] Because there's so many people with Dutch descendants and don't even know about it. (Chch male 3G)*

- > *With our kids it's hard for us to do the whole Dutch thing with them and as I say when I was growing up there was that St Nicholas party every year and it was massive, and the Black Peters were there and they would always tell me that dad was naughty, so they'd beat him with this broomstick thing, and we just thought that was hilarious. They'd probably get arrested these days, but... Yeah, something like that really stirred an interest in us as kids. (Wgtn female 2G)*

The older generation have often kept the Dutch connection going, and their absence is felt strongly.

- > *it's not until they're gone that you realise how important they were. (Chch female 2G)*

There is a great respect for the older generation.

- > *My friend [...] who's quite a significant figure in Christchurch, I mean he's now 84 and he rings me to go out for lunch, and I'm 44 and I sort of think, he's not going to be around forever but I feel this huge warmth. We go out for lunch. We have great conversations and [...] I look at him as a father figure. He's great. And yet I think, he's 84 and I should be making the effort to be a part of his life, not the other way round. (Chch female 2G)*

It might be tricky to find younger generation volunteers to organise Dutch events. Perhaps it would require some mentoring, or even a paid helper.

- > *We don't feel the responsibility to do that, unfortunately. [...] I feel a bit ashamed to say that, but like right now I feel inspired to do something about it, but up until now I've never really felt like it's my responsibility and I always think the older ones should support us to do it. (Chch female)*
- > *People are so busy nowadays. (Chch female 2G)*
- > *I couldn't commit to organising something like that. (Chch female)*

Although it may prove difficult for younger generation Dutch descendents to find time for a commitment, some have a strong interest in Facebook. It appeals because it could connect people and provide a sense of community that is easy to participate in and can be used in a casual way.

- > *Partly, for myself, partly to honour my grandparents, and partly because I want my children to grow up knowing about their heritage. But there's definitely an interest there for me, but as far as commitment goes and time, I don't have a lot and like to go to one or two events a year would probably be what, as well as, observing traditions within our family and stuff like that - but that would probably be about the maximum for someone in my position with two little kids at the moment. [...] I'd definitely be interested in a Facebook page anyway, for sure. I really can't emphasise enough how much of a difference that would make. (Chch male 2G)*
- > *I think a Foundation-wide one as well, so you can say what's going on all over the world. (Chch female 3G)*
- > *It'd make it seem more like a community. (Chch female)*

However, some are not Facebook fans. Not all the Wellington group were keen on Facebook being the primary method of communication.

- > *What I don't like about Facebook is putting all your personal details and things out there on the web and you put comments about how your day went and that sort of thing. Quite frankly, who cares? Who cares what your latest thought is. So I'm not a Facebook person. I detest it. I think it should be considered as a secondary. And running perhaps in parallel with yeah maybe a website or something like that. I don't think it should be a primary. (Wgtn male 2G)*

A good event, well publicised, could be a catalyst for starting and developing interest in an online Dutch-New Zealand community.

- > *I tell you what it would take. It would take one really well-organised picnic or something, event and then everyone would write on Facebook what a cool thing it was and a lot of people would go, "Oh gee, I missed out, I'm going to the next one". (Chch female 2G)*

The Christchurch group discussed some of the logistics of a community facebook page, including the benefits of having several "administrators" who could represent different age groups and interests.

- > *So you get three completely different views and completely different updates of completely different interests, which is quite good, which is why I think that would be really important for a Dutch page; to have someone who's in a older generation and have someone who's younger, and so you get a mix of what's going on. Because people who are of a certain age or a certain lifestyle, they're gonna be interested in different things, but you want it to be quite wide, yeah. [...] I look forward to "liking it" on Facebook. (Chch female 3G)*

3.5.1 Assistance from the Foundation

The Wellington Group discussed various types of assistance the Foundation could provide, including the ability to provide information, advice and financial assistance.

Travel advice

Many of the Dutch descendents would appreciate assistance related to travel to the Netherlands.

- > *It could be like a first port of a call or a starting point and I don't know, it could be as simple as some sort of 'how to' website or something. (Wgtn male 3G)*
- > *And what are the regulations for your passport? (Wgtn female)*
- > *I actually wish there was something in '97 when I was there that I could have said, "Hey look but I'm Dutch you know, help me". But there was nothing I suppose that I could do. I was treated like I'm from anywhere. So something like a website, [...] where you can make connections with people. Because some of you here don't have Dutch relatives there. I mean I've got heaps I can go and stay in and loads of places in Holland, but I'd still want to do the same things, even if I didn't have family there. And so if the Federation could help in that sort of sense. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Some sort of advisory role I think. Obviously if you want to go and do something overseas, it doesn't matter where it is, but let's say Holland, then you know you're gonna do the research first. There's gonna be certain questions that you're gonna have that need to be answered and that could be a service that they could offer. (Wgtn male)*

General information

As mentioned previously, it was suggested that the Foundation could provide a hub for general information about Dutch related events and services.

- > *Just finding out what things are happening, so in terms of events. Like they do the tulips thing down at the Botanical Gardens every year. I don't know if there's a Queen's Birthday celebration or not, and where they get food from, like the Dutch shop. (Wgtn female)*

A successful event

The Wellington group were interested in an event to stimulate interest in things Dutch.

- > *I'm thinking an event, like what you used to go to. It just brings so many Dutch people together. And they always sang Dutch songs.*
- > *Yeah and it would bring a childhood back to me, that's for sure.*
- > *And everyone got a little bag of Dutch lollies, and they were just like sugar, it was awesome, and the spicy cookies. (Wgtn females)*

However there is a fine line between perceptions of an event that is tasteful, vibrant and attractive, or old fashioned and unappealing.

- > *They do have the Botanical Gardens. Whether that's part of the Dutch Club organisation I don't know, but the whole tulips thing and they get into costume and they do the dances and they have their little kids. (Wgtn female)*
- > *Yeah but I mean you read about it in the paper. You see a photo and you think, that's cute, and then you move on. There's no action that follows. (Wgtn male)*
- > *No, it's all old – well I don't want to say old-fashioned. Well it is, it's just nothing, it's boring. (Wgtn female)*

The Dutch Clubs were also perceived to be old fashioned.

- > *To me those Dutch clubs are the old fogies and you're just, it would be horrible. I'm sure they're lovely people and all that. (Wgtn female 2G)*

There is a recognition of the need for the younger generation to step up and start being more involved in organising events, and continuing traditions if a community spirit is to survive.

- > *Cos our fear of course is our parents are getting old. And like my friend as well, her mother's Dutch and you know, they might have another 10 years in them, and then what? Then it's gone. So we've gotta make the most of it now while they're still there and think of all those traditions and things like that. And as I say, growing up, that St Nicholas party, that was huge for us. And it was a massive event but it was so much – yeah such an exposure to the culture and yeah the funny language and food and the tradition and how it came about, and that's something we always remember – until he died of course, that wasn't good. But like he'd arrive on a helicopter – well obviously the white horse, but then they got really flash and he'd come on a fire engine or a helicopter. (Wgtn female 2G)*

There could be some input from younger individuals but they need some direction, or guidance from first generationers.

- > *I would, but I wouldn't know where to begin. (Wgtn male)*
- > *It might be a case of making more people of Dutch descent aware of the desire to create a senses of community, continuing traditions.*
- > *I'm thinking like compile a database of everyone with Dutch heritage and then there's mailouts and something takes place. I don't see anything wrong with that. That's a good idea. But for me personally, like I said, I feel like we grew up so Kiwi that you know all the stuff we said about being proud of the history and the culture and stuff, it's all still there, and Holland's always gonna be there, and I'm always gonna take my kids there, obviously. But before tonight, I was never consciously worried about heritage dying out or anything like that. (Wgtn male 2G)*
- > *Well I think I'd definitely be keen to get behind something, whatever it is, because as I've said, I would be interested in having my own children be just as aware and had the information that I have about Holland. And if I don't do anything, then that will fade out, and then it will fade out even more when they marry their Kiwi blokes and do you know what I mean? A good Kiwi bloke. (I hope my son doesn't marry a Kiwi bloke.) (Wgtn female 2G)*

- > *They're looking at getting people together from you know 2G or 3G or whatever. I would be more interested in that than say if it was like oh the Dutch club or something. Yeah my aunties, your father, and thinking, "Oh God - there's no point me going, I can't speak Dutch, it's just gonna be awkward". Whereas if I knew it was everyone from the same background, and, "Oh they can't speak Dutch themselves", then that would be more appealing. (Wgtn female)*

Appendix 1. Focus Group Topic Guide

Agenda	Time Allowance
Introductions and warm-up:	10 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce moderator, assistant moderator • Housekeeping and admin, toilets, recording the session, MTA vouchers and finishing time. • Purpose of discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to you to be of Dutch descent? • To explore the desire to stay in touch with or to strengthen “your Dutch roots” and how you would go about that. • Specific areas of interest • What type of assistance would be helpful to you? • Ice-breaker: Participants introduce themselves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, what generation, exposure to “things Dutch”, encouragement from parents/grandparents to maintain a level of interest. 	
What does it mean to you being of Dutch descent?	20 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take about 5 minutes to write this down. Every respondent to take a couple of minutes to talk to this. René to write on white board • Degree of pride in being Dutch? • Have you experienced some teasing or even bullying at school for your or your parents’ Dutchness? 	
Desire to stay in touch with or strengthen your Dutch roots	20 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you been to the Netherlands? Do you have a Dutch passport? • Encouragement by parents grandparents to learn about Holland • Is “Holland” talked about at home? (family, place of birth, interesting features) • Is age a factor in becoming more interested? • Do you have any plans to visit Holland in the near future? 	
Specific areas of interest	20 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What interests you most about Holland? • How important is the fact that there is family living there? • Do you think that it is or would have been useful to spend time in Holland in developing your career? • How important is it to you to speak or understand the Dutch language? 	
Assistance that would have been helpful in developing links with Holland	20 mins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherlands Embassy • Dutch Clubs. Have you heard of the NetherlaNZ Foundation? • Student exchange programme, business sponsored exchange programme • Network of people of Dutch descent • Would you like or have liked to work in Holland? 	
Wrap-up:	5 mins
Provide a brief summary. <i>Do you have any comments or questions?</i>	
Thank you. Hand out MTA vouchers	
Total	95 mins