Dear All,

With EJOS I have had a busy time:

- On ANZAC day in APRIL, Hans van Ess and myself represented EJOS & the Veterans at the Birkenhead memorial.

- The AGM in MAY; the minutes are in this issue printed for you to read. Pity we had not everybody attending due to other commitments, transport or bad health. Nevertheless we had a good interested meeting. Our guest for the day was the Honourable Dutch Consul Renee van Rijn.

- Tree roots had damaged the War memorial in the Rose Gardens and Riek de Wit her daughter contacted the council to have it repaired. So last FEBRUARY we attended the inauguration of the World War monument by Frans Timmermans Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

- JUNE, in Holland House, I represented EJOS at the farewell for the Dutch Ambassador Arie van Wiel, who retired. I also represented EJOS in Holland House the AGM of the ORANJE club in JULY.

- In AUGUST I organized the Commemoration of the end of WWll in followed by a traditional Indonesian Lunch for the 50 people, at the Ponsonby Food Court. My speech is included in this newsletter.

- The Herdenking in The Hague was held AUGUST 15. Weather was good and there were good speakers, like Gerdie Verbeet. I forwarded the Film clip by e-mail to EJOS members. If you give me your e-mail I will keep you up-to-date with things such as this. Mine is: ivo.p@xtra.co.nz

- I visited several people and I like to mention the one where Rudy Storm showed me a first AIRMAIL letter from his Dad to the Netherlands, dated 25 December 1933. A photo of the letter is printed in this Newsletter.

- As far as news from the Dutch Cabinet I can tell you that they have just been on recess and we are awaiting actions from VWS Martin van Rijn.

- The SJE has some remarks concerning the “Indische Kwestie” you can read in the AGM minutes.

- I talked to an elderly lady and this is what she said concerning her age; I am well passed my “TO-BE-USE-BY” date. I think this is very well put/said. Part of SJE’s SEP petition; The people of Japan must now realize and recognize the true colors of their Prime Minister: He honors Japan’s convicted war criminals, forgets their atrocities, and glorifies them to cover up the role and activities of his ancestors. The Japanese citizens will realize that the war criminals are not “the foundation of modern Japan”, but give Japan a lasting bad name.

Kind regards,

from Ivo Pabbruwe
1. **BANJU BIRU Camp.**

Jane O'Connell requested information at our AGM. Adrian Lemmens is the only one at the AGM from that Camp. I receive the CHECKPOINT and INDO magazines and found Banju Biru camp survivor stories in it. Passed it on to Jane, who is in contact with them. Lady Mountbatten visited Banju Biru Camp after the surrender. Here her report.

2. **Women’s courage in worst camps.**

*Newspaper report; KARACHI. Tuesday September 1945.*

Lady Louis Mountbatten left for Britain yesterday after the conclusion of a mission to S.E.A.C. camps for Allied PoW’s and internees. Lady Louis, who has travelled over 100,000mls, visited all the camps including those in Hong Kong and Indo China. She said that the Allied Camps officials, including women who in the early stages were working in Sumatra and all other points, had been praised by ex-prisoners and internees. Of the Dutch women internees in Java Lady Louis said; “I have unbound admiration for their courage. Their camps were the worst of all PoW camps and the way these women kept going was astounding.”

3. **TIME Magazine June 2, 2014**

Letters: In your latest Time 100 issue, you once again celebrate the merits of Shinzo Abe, this time through the economic lens of a former U.S. Treasury Secretary. No doubt Abenomics may have helped his nation overcome the last crisis, but the other aspects if his political attitude fearfully reminds us of relentless Japanese mishandling of history: “Japan über alles” regardless of due repentance that Japan should show to its Asian neighbors. Christophe Nicolas, St.-RÉMY LÈS CHEVREUSE, FRANCE.

4. **V-J Day**

(Japan armistice) occurred on August 14th 1945, and the formal surrender of the Japanese occurred on September 2nd, 1945 after the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th respectfully. As a result, in most texts the dates of World War 2 are listed as 1939 to 1945 (1941-1945 in Russia) with the Japanese invasion of China not being considered part of the world conflict until the attack on Pearl Harbor.

5. **Measles on the Nieuw Amsterdam**

A forgotten piece of history! The Nieuw Amsterdam arrived in Southampton on 1 January 1946 with 3800 passengers, including 1200 children, on board. At least 300 children with measles were immediately transferred to other ships for transport to Holland. About 20 patients were so seriously ill that they were taken to a hospital in Southampton. Some of these patients died and were buried.

The Nieuw Amsterdam sailed from Singapore to Southampton in December 1945. Many “Tijdengers” would have been on that.

*Nieuw Amsterdam stops in Egypt.* The Nieuw Amsterdam was one of the first ships to stopover in Egypt on its way to Southampton in 1945. From December 1945 many tens of thousands of men, women and children from WWII PoW and internment camps in the former Dutch East Indies were provided with warm clothing and other basic needs there in readiness for their return to the colder climate in The Netherlands. The place was Ataka, a locality some 5 kilometers distant from the port of Adabiya in Egypt. They arrived in Adabiya in ships which were virtual floating dormitories carrying two to three thousand people. They were ferried to land in landing barges and then transported by train some 5 kilometers to the desert locality of Ataka where the dressing-up party began. Entertainment and food was supplied during the two day stopover. During the course of the war the Nieuw Amsterdam had carried over 350,000 troops and steamed some 530,452 miles. The Nieuw Amsterdam and the other liners made a huge contribution to the transport of troops for the war effort and she was also used to repatriate Dutch citizens from the Dutch East Indies back to the Netherlands.
Postwar Holland America Line Era (1946 – 1971) When she was finished with her repatriation tasks, the Nieuw Amsterdam was handed back to the Holland-America Line, by the British Government who had requisitioned her, on the 8th April 1946, and soon she returned to Rotterdam. The "Darling of the Netherlands", had her funnels repainted in their HAL colours, but otherwise still in the drab military grey wartime colours, she triumphantly sailed home into Rotterdam on the 10th April 1946. The city responded in their thousands and the harbour was filled with spectator craft dressed with flags and sounding their horns, whilst the shoreline was filled with millions of enthusiastic people welcoming this famous ship home. It was a remarkable day, not only for the return of the Nieuw Amsterdam, but also because it was the exact anniversary of the 8th anniversary of her launch. Many in the Netherlands claimed that this day, as a symbolic day of liberation. However she was in no fit state to return to her pre-war transatlantic duties just yet and was sent to be refitted by her original builders on the 22nd May 1946 ready for a return to passenger service. Her original furnishings had been stored in San Francisco since her requisition and these were restored and returned to their rightful places on board the ship.

With the HAL colour lines returned to her funnels, SS Nieuw Amsterdam returns home in triumph on April 10, 1946.

6. HISTORY; Speciale Nieuwjaarsvlucht 1933/34. Date 25 December 1933.

Lief Moedertje, Deze mooie gelegenheid mag ik niet voorbij laten gaan. De helden in de lucht zullen ook U brengen een lieve groet van Uw jongste zoon en kleinkinderen. Het is zoo’n prettige gedachten te weten, dat dit schrijven over 6 of 7 dagen al bij U is. Mijn hartelijke gelukwenschen voor 1934. Geluk, ja Moeder het wordt een ieder weer toegewenscht. Wat is ’t in deze donkere tijden een holle klank geworden.

p.s.; Het wonderlijke is dat op het briefhoofd de Fokker F.XX (“F-20”) Zilvermeeuw PH-AIZ te zien is. Deze zou aanvankelijk de vlucht uitvoeren, maar vlak voor het vertrek had de middenmotor kuren (zoals zo vaak bij de F.XX) . Daarop besloot Plesman om de Pelikaan te sturen, die stond toevallig gereed in de hangaar. In Batavia hebben ze toen dus als de wiedewind een ander briefhoofd erboven gedrukt. Dit papier moet de schrijver dus op het laatste moment gekocht hebben, de brief geschreven hebben, en op de post gedaan.

Het Wonder.
Wij mochten tevreden zijn met ons lot, ons bestaan De herinneringen die wij hadden liggen achter ons en die maak je niet ongedaan. Naar de toekomst moet je kijken, want wat je was, dat ben je nu na vele jaren achter je kom je eindelijk tot rust. Hoewel in jou grijze haren is de drang in jou nog niet geblust. Het verlangen is nog lang niet weggevaagd. Je zicht strekt naar de horizon, dat is nimmer te vervangen. Totdat je terug gaat naar de bron. Ilse Sout, Groningen.

Overlijdings bericht.
Gooi-en Eemlander; Mijn Tante, als bloeiende jonge moeder van 2 kleine kinderen in het
Jappenkamp terechtgesteld. Wij mogen niet vergeten. Wier leven na het Jappenkamp voorgoed geknakt is gebleven, evenals dat van 10.000-den andere slachtoffers van de Japanse terreur in voormalig Nederlands-Oost-Indië.

Ivo: All I can add is that I’m thankful I was a child without memories.

7. 5 MAY 2014 was Liberation Day in the Netherlands. Prime minister Mark Rutte & VWS minister Martin van Rijn laid a wreath at the National monument for the Dutch-East-Indisch.

Martin, please, hurry-up with the Indonesian Question. (Indische Kwestie)


In 2013 ex Dutch Comfort Woman Ellen v/d Ploeg passed away. Janny Ruff O’Herne is possibly one of the last Dutch ex Comfort Women alive. Janny lives in Adelaide and is 91yrs old. The Janny Ruff-O’Herne article was read by Bill Draper during the AGM. JANNY RUFF-O’HERNE article.

A good friend of mine from SJE wanted to add something about Janny Ruff-O’Herne. She says that Janny is often mentioned at UN meetings here in Geneve.

9. Request from Wiko, SJE in The Netherlands;

- Who lived in Lawang and knows this place in East-Java? Lay-out, maternity, shops, doctors etc.
- Who recalls an incident in BanjoeBiroe 10: A little 2-yr old walks onto the square and a Jap wants her Mother to come forward.
- Anybody recalls BanjoeBiroe 10, possibly 1945, a Mother of 2 little girls died. One about 8 and the other about 2yrs old. We are looking for someone who remembers that.

The youngest one, now grown-up, is looking for the lady who took care of her after her Mum passed away. Any information to Ivo please. THANK YOU.


"Fier en ongebroken; Hulde aan de Nederlandse vrouwen in de Japanse concentratiekampen"
Minutes of EJOS AGM, Saturday 10 MAY 2014 10.30am, Birkenhead RSA


2. **Present:** Bacheler, Lynda; Borsboom, Henny; Buysers, Frouke; Child, Robin & Patrick; de Courcy-Lys, Lily; de Wit, Riek; Dorbeck, Hans & Sue; Draper, Bill; Draper, Harriet; Hoogewerf, Christiane; O’Driscoll, Cecile; Ponga, Denzel; Postumus, Nel; Hoefhamer, Elisabeth; Lemmens, Adrian; Pabbruwe, Ivo; Ross, Ian; Townsend, Bertie; Toxopeus, John; Triezenberg, Lies & John; Uiterdijk, Menno & Gerda; Urselmann, Jack; van Ess, Hans; Zuur, Hans & Willemijn; van Rijn, René;

3. **Welcome to all,** especially our Consul of The Netherlands, René van Rijn.

4. **A minute silence** to be observed. Especially remembering; Ludwig Werner (Wanaka), Joop Arns, first secretary of EJOS, (Perth) and his wife, Gretel, who passed away two weeks later.


6. **General annual report/address,** Chairman Ivo Pabbruwe: We received quite a few apologies from people. Mainly because of transport problems due to immobility (rollator) One good apology was that Maud Lodge-Osborn has her 55yr Wedding Anniversary. Not to forget Lies & John Triezenberg and our Treasurer Ian & Eunice Ross had their 60-th Wedding Anniversary recently. Wim van Wetering reminds me “do-not-get-old”. He suffered health problems but is alright now. Our secretary, Kate, is overseas and her sister Harriet takes the honours today together with Dad. Thank you Harriet & Bill Draper.

In FEB I visited Klaas Bogers, Machteld Zondag & Ian Ross in Paraparaumu. Rose Hoogeveen in Hawera, Claire Janssen in Titrangi and Nancy Pel in a Hobsonville Retirement home. Klaas Borgers from Paraparaumu attended last yrs AGM and met up with Hans Dorbeck from Papatoetoe again. They had not seen each other for 10yrs. When in The Netherlands, June last yr, I was able to attend the SJE AGM in the Bell Air Hotel, The Hague. I estimate some 50 people present. I addressed the meeting and told them how we are getting on and also that we sponsor the SJE financially.

![Image of attendees at the meeting](24/02/2014)
We, Menno Uiterdijk, Hans van Ess and myself, attended the inauguration of the WAR monument in the Rose Garden with Dutch Minister Frans Timmermans after repairs.

The ANZAC commemoration in Birkenhead was attended by Hans van Ess and myself.

Jan van Wagendonk. President SJE (JES). “Indische Kwestie” the “Indonesian Question”. VVD Halbe Zijlstra knows our story/dossier and PvdA, Samson, told me in AUG 2013 he wants to solve the problem. D 66, Pia Dijkstra, and Christian Party CU and SGP stand by us. VWS Martin van Rijn wants to propose it to the 2nd and 1st Chambers of parliament. His problem is to find the finance in the National Budget. All this means; We are getting somewhere to get acknowledged, excuses and compensation. This is all in the hands of the “Indisch Platform”. We, the SJE (JES) backs the Platform and also helps in the financing. Again our patience is challenged!

SJE monthly demonstration at the Japanese Embassy 8 April 2014. There were representatives from Canada and a Japanese reporter/photographer of the Asahi Shimbun paper for an interview. Jan van Wagendonk confers for ½ an hour with them and gives them documentation. The Asahi Shimbun is one of 5 most important Japanese papers. From our Japanese connection Ken Arimitsu; Thanks for your newsletter. PM Abe is criticized much from the international world including US President Obama. We are preparing a conference in Beijing coming October, including POW issues etc. Will inform you later. Thanks. Ken Arimitsu.

Janny Ruff-O’Herne correspondence & article read by Bill Draper. Maart 17, 2014. Lieve Ivo, Veel dank voor je brief, gevuld met interessante papieren van interest. The “Melbourne Age” newspaper wrote a long article about the hideous denial of Japanese PM Mr Abe, that the “Comfort Women” existed at all. In response to that article I had a visit of 4 Korean gentlemen who wanted to interview me. They had a camera man also who filmed the interview and this will be on TV and Newspapers all over the world. So, we see again, the story never stops. I am still alive, while Mr Abe is waiting for all the CW to be dead, so that there can be no more testimonies. Most Korean CW have died. The 4 Korean men are from Sydney. One of them is an artist and a sculptor, who is making a sculpture of 3 Comfort Women together. One from Korea, one from China and then myself from Indonesia. It will be placed somewhere in Sydney and should be ready by August 15. I want to thank you, dear Ivo, for all the interest you are showing and support for the CW. I am still going strong at 91. I have 2 lovely great-grandchildren, who are a great joy to me. Sorry, I went over writing in English. Ik hoop dat het goed gaat met jou en al de familie. Nogmaals dank, en veel beste wensen en liefs van, Janny.


8. Secretary report. (Stand-in Harriet Draper). Nothing to report

9. Correspondence, Chairman.
   Letter from Murray McCully (Min Foreign Affairs) (attached)
   Letter from Janny Ruff (attached)

Message from Ken Arimitsu

10. Election EJOS officers for 2014-2015:
    - President Ivo has graciously agreed to continue for another year, and we thank him for this.
    - Secretary Kate Draper will probably be back in NZ by the next EJOS AGM and has agreed to continue as secretary.
    - Treasurer Ian Ross has also agreed to continue for another year, again he has our gratitude.
    - Election (other) Committee Members 2 to 3.

11. Introduce Honorary Consul of The Netherlands, René van Rijn.
    – Important to keep the story alive, exhibition around the country stories from the older generation, “sanitizing” CW, succession aspect of inability to form a quorum – funds to the Govt. Anne Frank fabulous exhibition – how would it be to produce an educational exhibition – part of uni students’
thesis….interesting and informative…amazed how little is known about WW2 in the Pacific. We all know about Hitler.

12. The Consulate is closing by 2016. Auckland consul office is busiest in Australasia – embassy in Wellington – but may be a change in govt policy?

13. Discussion about Dutch passport – value to work in Europe – advantage of dual Nationality – all the advantages of European citizenship. Also concerned about the succession aspect of organisations such as EJOS.

14. General Business; John Toxopeus sent his personal story to Tauranga library – archivist edited and restructured it with additions from Wikipedia. This mess was put online. John got in touch with the librarian to request that this version was removed but if anyone is interested in this shambles it can be Googled (keywords – A Boy’s Story…) (travesty) the story, put on line with hundreds of hits.

15. VETERANS NZ closed down several years ago. There were only a few people left – spend the funds going out for dinner.

16. McCully’s letter was judged to be weasel words. New Zealand is involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Mr Murray McCully answered. (See below for letter)

17. Johnathon Coleman (Dutch govt problem), suggested consulate, no backing.

18. Vote of thanks to Menno Uiterdijk for his service to the committee since 1989.

19. Good news is that as per 26 of MAY Marijke Pons has offered to become a committee member.

20. Close Down 12.30 pm then Lunch….Yum!!!

EJOS AGM 10 MAY 2014. Ian Ross’ financial report.
16 Oct 2015

Ivo Pabbruwe
President
EJOS Inc. (New Zealand)
99 Bradbury Road
Botany Downs
MANUKAU 2010

Dear Mr Pabbruwe

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2013 regarding Japan’s inclusion in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, and enclosing the letter from J.F van Wagendonk, President of the Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts in The Hague.

The New Zealand Government has deep sympathy for the suffering endured by allied internees and prisoners of war at the hands of Japan during World War II. Its position is also that the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty provided full and final settlement of the New Zealand Government’s claims arising from Japanese conduct during the conflict. As you will know, the Government decided in 2001 to make ex gratia payments to former New Zealand prisoners of war and civilian internees in recognition of their special circumstances.

I have noted your views about TPP and Japan’s wartime actions. It is New Zealand’s hope that the TPP negotiations will help to deepen the already substantial cooperation among the negotiating parties including Japan.

I am replying in the same terms to Mr van Wagendonk.

Yours sincerely

Hon Murray McCully
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Commemoration End of WWll and Lunch.
Saturday 23 AUG we had our Commemoration with Indonesian Luch at the Ponsonby Food Court at KUTA BALL. We had 50 People of which 17 are EJOS members. Members are getting on and have difficulties, transport and health problems. Lucky we had interested people and cook Freddy was happy to serve us a nice Indonesian meal.

Ivo’s speech at the Commemoration. (extended)

BROOME, Australia. Last year I mentioned “Gus” Winckel’s passing away AUG 2013. On 3 March 1942 Flight-Lieutenant “Gus” Winckel was transporting refugees from the Bandung, Dutch East Indies to Perth, Australia in his Lockheed Lodestar. He had just stopped on the Broome Airfield to refuel when Broome was attacked by 9 Japanese Zero fighter planes performing a long-distance raid from Kupang, Timor. Winckel saw the danger of his plane being on the open airstrip and proceeded to dismount the Colt 7.99mm machine gun from the plane. When one of the Zeros, piloted by Osamu Kudō, flew over low Winckel managed to shoot him out of the air. The crash killed Kudō. Winckel thereby made the only kill on the Allied side. Winckel has said he hit another plane which had to dump into the sea. The Japanese managed to destroy 22 planes in total, many of them flying boats used for refugee transport that lay in Roebuck Bay. During the shooting Winckel suffered severe burns to his hand as he had used the gun barrel to aim. His hand was treated and Winckel flew medical evacuations for the next two days without rest. After World War II had ended Winckel was sent back to Indonesia to fight in the Dutch Politieele acties. After that conflict ended Winckel immigrated to Australia and in the 1950s to Auckland, New Zealand. In 2009 a statue in Moruya was unveiled for Winckel and the other airmen. Winckel died on 17 August 2013 after suffering from complications of a broken hip caused by a fall six months earlier. He was survived by his wife and three sons. Broome’s Roebuck Bay has a sunken armada of historic flying boats from World War II. No other place in the world has such a collection of rare and historically significant flying boats. All 15 were sunk in a matter of minutes of each other, destroyed during an air raid by nine Mitsubishi A6M.2 ‘Zero’ fighters of the 3rd Kokutai (Aircraft Group), Imperial Japanese Navy, on 3 March 1942. creating a snap shot of a tragedy in Australia’s aviation history. Six of the Catalina Boat Wrecks are visible at tides less than 0.86m. The wrecks of three Royal Dutch Air Force Flying Boats lay half buried in the mud at Roebuck Bay. The boats were destroyed by a Japanese Air Raid in 1942 while moored near the jetty. Only seen at minus tides, these wrecks remain as evidence of the flying boat wrecks sunk by Japanese Aircraft in World War II. Monday 28 JUL 2014 the last surviving crew member on the “Enola Gray” B-29 Superfortress bomber, which dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6-th of AUG 1945, passed away at the age of 93 of natural causes. That was Theodore van Kirk, also known as “Dutch”. He was 24 at the time. In a 2005 interview with the AP, van Kirk said his World War II experience showed that wars and atomic bombs don’t settle anything and he’d like to see the weapons abolished. Van Kirk felt the bombing of Hiroshima was worth the price in that it ended the war before the invasion of Japan, which promised to be devastating to both sides. “I honestly believe the use of the atomic bomb saved lives in the long run. There were lots of lives saved. Most of the lives saved were Japanese.” “I pray that no man will have to witness that sight again. Such terrible waste, such a loss of life. We unleashed the first atomic bomb, and I hope there will never be another. I pray that we have learned a lesson for all time. But I’m not sure that we have.” SJE petition 237, AUG 2014; Those who survived and are still alive fully remember their fate at the hands of the Japanese military and the follow on of the Indonesian revolutionaries. But at the ceremonies they remember their lost ones. In particular how their lives ended through execution, torture, starvation, illnesses and lack of medicine and hygiene. For many of the survivors the end of the war meant a new challenge to survive. They had to move on for themselves, for their families and their children in particular and for their parents who lost all. They cannot forget and subsequently do not have respect for Japans’ failure to acknowledge their war past and their moral responsibilities. SJE president Jan van Wagendonk.
Commemoration End of WWll and Lunch