

Final Report - Inventory Australian-Dutch Heritage Cooperation

Project name: Australian-Dutch Heritage Cooperation Project
Project phase: Inventory and Launch database
Duration: 01/01/2011 till 21/02/2012



Source: Western Australian Museum (Fremantle, February 2012) Up: Launch CHC. Below: Heritage Day



Table of Content

Abstract.....	3
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1. Context:.....	5
1.2. Project	5
1.3. Justification.....	5
2. Objectives and Results.....	6
2.1. The achieved objectives are:.....	6
3. Activities and Results.....	7
3.1. Activities as outlined in project proposal:.....	7
3.2. Steps undertaken:.....	7
3.3. Results:	7
4. Cultural Heritage Connections	9
5. Evaluation of the activities.....	11
6. Thematic overview	12
6.1. VOC / ANCODS	12
6.2. Post-war Dutch migration.....	12
6.3. The Dutch in the Pacific War.....	13
6.4. The relations between Australia and the Dutch East Indies.....	13
6.5. Relations with the Aborigines.....	14
6.6. Dutch businesses and their role in the economic development of Australia	14
6.7. Commemorating the Zuytdorp (2012) and 400 years Dirk Hartog (2016).....	15
7. Conclusions	16
7.1 General conclusion.....	16
7.2 Conclusions related to the inventory.....	16
7.3 Conclusions related to the database.....	16
The database project contributed to ‘connect’, ‘find’, and ‘share’	17
7.4 Conclusions with regard to the target group	17
7.5 Conclusions about the qualities of the executive institute.....	17
8. Recommendations and Follow up	19
8.1. Recommendations	19
8.2. Follow up	20
9. Press coverage	22



Abstract

This document is an overview of the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the inventory of the Australian-Dutch heritage cooperation. The CIE – Centre for International Heritage Activities has drafted this report as finalisation of the Australian-the Netherlands Heritage Cooperation Project.

Occasion

The database project came into being following the decision made within the framework of the Stakeholder Contact Group to create an overview of the heritage projects and the involved experts and organisations in the field of the Australian-Dutch mutual cultural heritage. In December 2010 the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canberra, Australia has commissioned the CIE to conduct the inventory. This inventory resulted in the inclusion of Australia in the online platform for mutual heritage cooperation Cultural Heritage Connections. The launch was followed by the Australian-Dutch Heritage Day on 21 February 2012 in Fremantle.

Objective

The positive and enthusiastic responses by the stakeholders on the Stakeholder Contact Group, the many activities that are scheduled to take place in the upcoming years, but at the same time the invisibility of most activities among the wider public, have led to the decision to increase the visibility and coherence of the activities and the creation of a road-map for future events.

Prior to this road-map an online database has been developed with information on heritage projects and the involved experts and organisations. The database will contribute to the future cooperation in the field of mutual cultural heritage. Experts and organisations can exchange knowledge and experiences on heritage projects and it connects experts and organisations in the mutual cultural heritage field.

This report describes the most important conclusions and recommendations, as well as the recommended follow up, relevant to the future cooperation in the field of mutual cultural heritage.

Conclusions

The CIE concludes the following:

The original objective of the agreement, namely the execution of an inventory of the past, present and future heritage projects and the involved experts and organisations in the field of Australian-Dutch cultural heritage has been successfully reached. The physical result, an online platform, which was launched on 20 February 2012 in Fremantle, Australia.

The responses of experts and organisations in the heritage fields on the inventory, the stakeholder meetings and database were very positive. The organised stakeholder meetings gave a boost to the exchange of knowledge and experiences between stakeholders in the field of mutual cultural heritage connections and it encouraged further thought on new and future activities.

During the stakeholder meetings numerous stakeholders have expressed interest to contribute to the 2012 (Zuytdorp) and 2016 (Dirk Hartog) events. It is however important that the proposals and projects become more concrete and that an action plan or roadmap is developed. The celebrations of 400 years bilateral relations in 2006 can provide examples of good practise and points of improvement for 2016.

Stakeholders acknowledge the mutuality of the Australian-Dutch heritage. Furthermore, it can be concluded that a proper documentation of the many involved organisations, associations and volunteers and the activities and projects is urgently needed. The (oral) history and heritage



resulting from the Dutch emigration flow after the Second World War is threatened due to the aging of the Dutch communities in Australia. In the upcoming years many projects, activities and the involved associations and clubs will cease to exist.

Cultural heritage includes both tangible as intangible elements. The cultural expressions and remains of the Dutch community in Australia can be regarded as mutual heritage. The Australian-Dutch heritage shares themes and characteristics with other Dutch communities world wide, which underlines the need for a holistic approach of the concept mutual cultural heritage.

Recommendations and Follow-up

Based on the inventory executed by the CIE, the following recommendations were made:

The mutual cultural heritage does not only concern the Dutch community, but Australia and the Netherlands as a whole. A joint willingness to protect and preserve the heritage is therefore necessary. Cultural and heritage institutes need to be increasingly involved as partners in the promotion and preservation of the Australian-Dutch heritage.

More attention can be paid to the themes 'Aborigines and the Dutch' and 'the Dutch in the Pacific War'. They are rather under exposed compared to other themes such as the 'Australia and the VOC' and 'the Dutch post war emigration to Australia'.

The unique historic relations of Netherlands and Australia extend the presence of the VOC. The Netherlands is a key player in the Australian history, this can be promoted more extensively. The overall unique historic bond forms an important tool in the bilateral relations between the two countries.

In collaboration with counterparts the organisations in the Netherlands and Australia need to explore (commercial) possibilities to generate financial means for the organisation of projects. A fundraising action plan is advisable.

The CIE recommends the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to start with the development of a road map for 2012 and 2016 as soon as possible. Partnerships and collaborations need to be established or specified, especially on governmental level and between national cultural and heritage institutes.

Moreover the CIE advises the Embassy to establish a select advisory group or several small thematic groups within the framework of the Stakeholder Contact Group to support the Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canberra and of Australia in the Hague with advise and proposals for the 2016 events.



1. Introduction

The mutual heritage between Australia and the Netherlands goes back more than four hundred years and has resulted in a variety of stand-alone activities. Both in the Netherlands and in Australia many organizations, institutes, associations and experts have cultivated the ties between the Netherlands and Australia or are actively involved in the promotion of Australian-Dutch heritage.

1.1. Context:

In 2010 the Australian and Netherlands governments decided to join hands and establish an Australia the Netherlands Heritage Contact Group. The Netherlands Embassy in Canberra and the Australian Embassy in The Hague coordinate the day-to-day activities. Responding to this decision the Dutch Embassy has engaged the CIE - Centre for International Heritage Activities to generate an overview of past, ongoing and planned cultural heritage activities and their stakeholders.

1.2. Project

To assist professionals, policy makers and volunteers and to increase the visibility, accessibility and coherence of their respective activities, the CIE will establish a database of projects and stakeholders involved. The overall aim is to increase cooperation between the stakeholders and create more synergy between cultural heritage projects in Australia and the Netherlands.

The input of organizations and experts who are / were active in the field of Australian-Dutch heritage or in the 400 years Dutch-Australian relations festivities in 2006, appeared essential in the inventory. The personal approach, characteristic for the work of the CIE, proved to be one of the most successful elements of the inventory.

The inventory in Australia was conducted by Koosje Spitz, staff member at the CIE. She visited Australia from the 7th of February until the 4th of May 2011.

The results of the inventory are included in an online database on mutual cultural heritage cooperation accessible at www.culturalheritageconnections.org. Cultural Heritage Connections is developed by the CIE with financial support from the Netherlands Government. It includes information on projects, experts and organisations in the mutual heritage field in Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Suriname and The Netherlands. In October 2011 the Netherlands Government officially agreed upon the inclusion of Australia in this online platform on mutual heritage cooperation.

1.3. Justification

This report outlines the interim results of the inventory conducted from January 2011 till end of May 2011 and up to the launch of Cultural Heritage Connections on 20 February 2012. It reflects upon the set objectives and aims and outlines the activities and achievements. Finally, it puts forward the main conclusions and recommendations. The CIE works with a personal approach and based on the interviews, stakeholder meetings and personal communications various conclusions, recommendations and follow-up strategy have been outlined.

2. Objectives and Results

The project aims to create an interactive online database on mutual cultural heritage cooperation between the Netherlands and Australia. To achieve this objective the CIE made an inventory of related projects – past, present and future – and the main stakeholders involved in these projects.

2.1. The achieved objectives are:

- the presentation of the database project and the exchange of information about Australian Dutch cultural heritage activities in Australia and the Netherlands;
- encouraging future cooperation in the field of Australian-Dutch heritage and connecting stakeholders within and between the heritage fields;
- creating awareness for the past, present and future projects and activities, by including examples in the presentation and by linking various stakeholders and experts;
- inventory of the past, present and future projects, activities and initiatives;
- inventory of the main stakeholders involved in the above projects, activities and initiatives;
- overview of the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the inventory;
- exchanging views on activities planned for 2012 and 2016, when the wrecking of Dutch ship the *Zuytdorp* and the landing of Dirk Hartogh in Western Australia will be commemorated respectively.
- inclusion of all the projects, stakeholders and experts in the database;
- the creation of an online database;
- maintaining contact with stakeholders in the heritage fields in Australia and the Netherlands;
- decision for the inclusion of the Australia in the online platform on mutual cultural heritage cooperation *Cultural Heritage Connections* by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.
- Launch Cultural Heritage Connections in Australia on 20 February 2012

3. Activities and Results

3.1. Activities as outlined in project proposal:

For the inventory CIE works with a personal approach, whereby as many experts as possible will be interviewed, by email, phone and in person, about their activities and their experiences with mutual heritage cooperation. The information resulting from the inventory will be included in an online database in the form of a Wiki containing all the projects and stakeholders. Once the framework is created, the stakeholders will be invited to actively contribute to the Wiki.

3.2. Steps undertaken:

- Inventory of completed, running and future heritage projects in the Netherlands and in Australia;
- Inventory of the involved organisations and experts (stakeholders) in the Netherlands and in Australia;
- Documentation of the projects and experts in an online database.

3.3. Results:

I. Inventory

The inventory both in the Netherlands and Australia was completed successfully. In Australia over 250 people were personally approached by means of email, phone and meetings. Over 150 projects related to the Australian-Dutch heritage field are included in the online platform. This database project was received with great enthusiasm, it is therefore expected that the number of projects in the database will grow in the upcoming years.

To collect information on projects and activities all stakeholders (experts and organizations) received a set of documents, including a questionnaire with disclaimer. These forms and the many correspondences by email and phone provided an extensive amount of information for in the database.

A very positive result of the inventory is the “snowball effect”. On a daily basis emails with information on projects and stakeholders are sent to the CIE. Participants are informing other stakeholders in the heritage field about the database project. Various organisations (Dutch Australian Cultural Centre, Australia on the Map Division, National Trust of Australia, Holland Focus etc.) are promoting the database project on their websites, among their members and in their magazines and newsletters. Consequently, the promotion of the database project continued after the return of Koosje Spitz to the Netherlands.

II. Stakeholder meetings

Due to the size of Australia and the scope of the heritage activities in Australia, it was agreed upon to organise stakeholder meetings in all capitals. The following meetings were organized:

- 22nd of February at the Western Australian Museum in Perth
- 26th of February at the Western Australian Museum in Geraldton
- 3rd of March at the Canberra Museum and Gallery in Canberra
- 29th of March at the National Maritime Museum in Sydney
- 31st of March at History South Australia in Adelaide
- 15th of April at the Queensland Maritime Museum in Brisbane
- 29th of April at the Special Broadcasting Service Office in Melbourne

Unfortunately time and budget were too limited to also organise a meeting in Darwin, Northern Territory. In Hobart, Kingston and Launceston, Tasmania various smaller meetings were organised.

These stakeholder meetings provided interesting platforms for stakeholders to exchange thoughts and experiences in the field of mutual cultural heritage and to learn more about each other's activities. The number of participants varied from 15 to 60 per stakeholder meeting.

In addition to the individual interviews and stakeholder meetings, Koosje Spitz, attended meetings of associations (e.g. monthly meeting of Dutch clubs in Victoria), exhibitions and festivals (e.g. Dutch Festival in St. Marys and Dutch April Fest in Birkdale). Various articles were published on the database project (National Trust Magazine, Holland Focus etc.) and radio interviews held (SBS radio, Dutch Community Radio Perth etc.)

The stakeholder meetings were organised in collaboration with the Embassy, the Consulate-General and the Honorary Consuls. Based on the received compliments and positive comments of the participants, the stakeholder meetings can be regarded as fruitful and valuable.

III. Launch

The enthusiasm and the many responses from the heritage fields on our call for information, have resulted in a very extensive collection of information. Following the Australian inventory conducted by the CIE from 7th of January to 4th of May 2011, the CIE received official permission from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science to include Australia into the Cultural Heritage Connections platform in October 2011. On 20 February 2012 the Australian section of in Cultural Heritage Connections was officially launched by His Excellency Willem Andreae during a formal reception in the Shipwreck Galleries in Fremantle, Australia.

Australia thus became the first country outside the group of eight priority countries under the Mutual Cultural Heritage policy of the Dutch government to be included in the online platform.

4. Cultural Heritage Connections

4.1 Improving Cultural Heritage Connections

Because of this decision, no separate platform had to be established for the documentation of Australian-Dutch projects and experts in an online database. It was therefore agreed upon with the Embassy to invest the allocated funds for such a separate platform into a general improvement of Cultural Heritage Connections' data structure, which would consequently benefit the entire Cultural Heritage Connections platform. Furthermore, the user friendliness and engagement possibilities of Cultural Heritage Connections benefited greatly from:

- Adding of social media application that links directly to the Cultural Heritage Connections group on LinkedIn;
- Adding of social media applications that enables Cultural Heritage Connections users to easily share content of the site on Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus;
- Large scale improvement of search options on the Cultural Heritage Connections platform;
- The inclusion of maps in Cultural Heritage Connections and the marking of sites in the database;
- In future, manually adding heritage locations to projects, organisations and experts, with automated maps that consequently improve searches within the platform and improve visibility of projects, organisations and experts;

4.2 Creating Cultural Heritage Connections Australia

After the CIE received permission to include Australia into the online Cultural Heritage Connections database in October 2011, the process was put in motion to create a section on the platform dedicated to Australia. Hereafter, staff members of the CIE added all the earlier received documentation related to the Australian-Dutch heritage field to this section. Over 200 projects, organisations and experts were added to Cultural Heritage Connections Australia. Many of these were acquired during the inventory conducted by the CIE in Australia early 2011. Others were sent to the CIE after Koosje Spitz had returned to the Netherlands; the so called "snowball effect" where the promotion of the database project continued after the initial inventory in Australia was concluded. The success of the motto of the database "The database is *for* and *by* the heritage field", whereby the heritage fields are responsible for the content, continuation and success of the database, was thus underlined even before the official launch of Cultural Heritage Connections Australia.

4.3. Official launch Cultural Heritage Connections Australia

The official launch of Cultural Heritage Connections Australia was planned for the 20th of February 2012. The launch was part of a two-day event to celebrate the Australian Dutch heritage relations: On the 21st of February the Australian Dutch Heritage Day was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Western Australian Museum.

Cultural Heritage Connections Australia was launched by the Netherlands Ambassador to Australia Willem Andrae during a formal reception in the Shipwreck Galleries in the Western Australian Museum, Fremantle, on the 20th of February 2012. The Hon Ken Baston, Member for Mining and Pastoral region, the Hon Consul Arnold Stroobach and over a hundred Australian



and Dutch guests were present. The possibilities of the online platform Cultural Heritage Connections were highlighted and its use explained. During a short presentation, it was further explained why Cultural Heritage Connections is a valuable tool in international heritage cooperation. With the inclusion of Australia in this platform, the Australian-Dutch mutual heritage field will have a database and overview of all the activities, projects and new developments in the Australian-Dutch heritage field.

The launch of Cultural Heritage Connections received press attention, in Australia as well as in the Netherlands. Papers such as the *West Australian* and the *Dutch Courier* contributed an article to the launch of the online platform in Fremantle. The event also received much online exposure on the websites of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Australia and the Australian Embassy in the Netherlands, as well as on the websites of other institutions such as the Australian Dutch Business Community and various cultural and heritage related organisations in Australia as well as the Netherlands.

4.4. Future of Cultural Heritage Connections Australia

Since its official launch on 21st February 2012, Cultural Heritage Connections continues to expand and develop. New content relating to Australian-Dutch heritage is being added frequently. Furthermore, the CIE continues to search for new ways to promote the online platform and increase engagement from participants. Through the website of the CIE and its various social media people are asked to contribute and update information. The CIE also actively searches for media attention for Cultural Heritage Connections and distributes flyers during its own events to increase visibility and exposure of Cultural Heritage Connections in general and Cultural Heritage Connections Australia.

The Wiki format of Cultural Heritage Connections Australia, where people can connect, find and share on an online platform, results in a database that continues and evolves on its own through the active participation and input of the heritage fields. The heritage field is involved in the development of the database and there is a joint responsibility to regularly make updates and add new information. A platform that is in such a way made by the people who work in the heritage field, for the people who work in the same area, will result in a dynamic, multilateral and devoted community that can benefit the mutual heritage of Australia and other countries.

In the light of the upcoming Australian-Dutch heritage events in 2012, namely the Australian-Dutch Heritage Day in The Hague on 14 June 2012, as well as the Canberra Coordination meeting on the 1st of November 2012, Cultural Heritage Connections Australia can play an important role. The database can be used to connect those active in the Australian-Dutch heritage field and it can create a platform for project proposals, where collaboration between various institutes and experts is encouraged.

Furthermore, Cultural Heritage Connections serves as a platform for stakeholders to exchange thoughts and ideas relating to the upcoming events in 2016, surrounding the commemoration of Dirk Hartog's landing in Australia in 1616. The platform can thus help in giving shape to the events that will take place that year, and concretizing proposals and projects.

5. Evaluation of the activities

Following the evaluation meeting held on the 1st of May 2011 with His Excellency Willem Andrae, Deputy-head of Mission Nicolaas Schermers and Hilde de Bruijn, intern PCZ at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the following positive points and points of improvement were outlined:

I. Positive points:

- Through the stakeholder meeting and individual interviews many people were being informed about the project in a relatively limited time;
- The inventory provided a momentum for organisations, associations, experts and even companies to promote their activities and to create awareness about their involvement in the Dutch Australian heritage;
- The stakeholder meetings and interviews provided a platform to exchange, share and channel their knowledge about, experiences with and views on the mutual heritage cooperation and possibilities for future heritage activities;
- The inventory gave incentive for new ideas on heritage cooperation and future heritage activities;
- Various stakeholders, especially those on grass-root level, indicated that they “felt heard” and were appreciative about the fact that their activities were taken up in a central heritage database;
- Stakeholders were asked to share their concerns and express their views on the heritage cooperation and exchange thoughts on possibilities for future heritage cooperation, relevant for future activities. The inventory was conducted by an independent organisation, hence stakeholders generally openly expressed their opinion. The personal interviews helped to get in-depth information and to build personal relationships with the stakeholders in the heritage fields;
- The participants of the stakeholder meetings were from different fields of expertise. CEOs of large cultural institutes, policy workers, scientists, commercial representatives, members of community associations and representatives of the Premier and Cabinet participated as equals in the meeting;
- The inventory has put Australian-Dutch heritage on the heritage agenda of many organisations and political institutes;
- Participants were encouraged to take ownership of the project database through the motto “*for the heritage field by the heritage field*”;
- Overall the inventory has given incentive for further cooperation. It is believed that the database will provide a practical and interactive platform where stakeholders can actively contribute to the mutual heritage cooperation.

II. Points for improvement:

- It may have been advisable to have an action plan outlined prior to the visit to Australia. While being in Australia the idea of separate stakeholder meetings in most capitals of Australia was put forward, consequently leaving very little time for preparations;
- The launch of the database project and its main objectives could have been communicated more extensively to the Consuls and Consul-General;
- For the future it is recommendable to invest more in the organisation of the stakeholder meetings and to invite key figures. Unfortunately, most meetings were organised in a very short time and participants informed at late notice.

III. Remarks with regard to the Stakeholder Contact Group:



- Australian national and regional (heritage) bodies have responded very positive to the agreement. The agreement also functioned a good introduction to the database project, as it showed government support in both countries;
- Various stakeholders have responded rather sceptical to the Stakeholder Contact Group initiative. Concerns were raised about the feasibility and concrete objective of this Group.

6. Thematic overview

The inventory focussed on four major themes, namely projects / activities relating to: VOC and ANCODS, post-war Dutch emigration, the Dutch in the Pacific War, the relations with Aborigines. Some general conclusions and recommendations regarding the thematic cooperation can be outlined.

6.1. VOC / ANCODS

For over decades the history of the VOC, the first European contact with the Australian continent and the resulting maritime heritage have been extensively researched and discussed. One of the most successful bilateral heritage collaborations is the ANCODS, the Australian Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks.

The Official Handover of the Dutch Collection to Australia in November 2010 and to Western Australia in February 2011 received much attention by the Australian and Dutch public and got press coverage in both countries.

The handover took place after a decision was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to reunite the Dutch part of the collection with the Australian and to have the objects displayed close to their place of discovery in Western Australia.

It is of great importance that the cooperation with regard to the ANCODS collection remains as open and as cooperative.

The role of the Dutch as one of the major players in the Australian history can be further emphasized. Dirk Hartog is very well known in the West, but in the rest of Australia this part of history remains rather under exposed.

6.2 Post-war Dutch migration

Over a hundred thousand Dutch migrants left the Netherlands after the Second World War to start a new life in Australia¹. In 2006 310,089 persons residing in Australia claimed to be of Dutch ancestry. According to the Australian Bureau for statistics 78,927 persons declared to have been born in the Netherlands².

The Dutch community is a very active and proud community. The Dutch clubs and centres have widely contributed to the conservation and promotion of Dutch heritage and culture. Although the heritage and cultural centres function on a grass-root level, they have often acted as custodians of the heritage resulting from the migration.

¹ Han Nicolaas en Arno Sprangers. (2005). *Nederlanders over de grens*. In *DEMOS*. Jaargang 21 Nummer 4. pp. 28-30. Te raadplegen via <http://www.seor.nl/media/publications/emigratie-van-nederlanders-geprikkeld-door-bevolki.pdf>

² 2006 Census. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved 2008-06-02. Total responses: 25,451,383 for total count of persons: 19,855,288.



Unfortunately no plan of action seems to exist for the near future, when most of the members of the centres will become too old to maintain the buildings and collections.

The conservatism of the older generation, has led to the development of a separate movement by the younger migrants. Between the older Dutch clubs and community stubbornness and internal tension has led to uncoordinated initiatives, often also within the same cities.

The migration museums and regional museums have shown interest in the Dutch migrant heritage. In the future these national and regional institutes will be the most important custodians of this particular mutual history. It is important to maintain a good relationship with these institutes.

It seems that there is very little awareness in the Netherlands about the scale and dedication of the Dutch communities abroad to promote and celebrate the Dutch culture and history.

The educational exchanges have shown to be very successful collaborations with the Netherlands. The *Calvin exchange programme* with the municipality of Grootegast and the Gomares Secondary School in Groningen are examples of good practise.

6.3 The Dutch in the Pacific War

The Dutch army played an important role during the Pacific War. Some of the historic events, persons and battles are commemorated in Australia. Various memorial stones and statues refer to the Dutch presence in Australia during the Pacific War.

People in the Netherlands do not seem to be aware of the contributions of the Dutch in the protection of Australia during the Pacific War.

There are some publications about the Dutch role in the Pacific War, however this part of the mutual heritage and history seems to be under exposed. Due to the political sensitivities with regard to the Dutch East Indies and the struggle for independence the Dutch have refrained from promoting their military contribution in that region during the Pacific War.

Various Australian communities on the other hand do promote the role of the Dutch in the Pacific War. In Broome (WA) and Moruya (NSW) memorials and statutes are erected related to the Dutch participation in the Pacific War. The Australian War Memorial specifically mentions the contribution of Lieutenant W. F. A. “Gus” Winckel during the Pacific War in the ‘Australia under Attack exhibition’.

Like many other nationalities the Dutch participate in the ANZAC events. Throughout Australia the fourth of May is still commemorated.

6.4 The relations between Australia and the Dutch East Indies

During the stakeholder meetings it was mentioned that Australia should have been part of the online platform Cultural Heritage Connections.org, as Indonesia is. The Dutch East Indies cannot be separated from the heritage relations between the Netherlands and Australia. A large group of people from the Dutch East Indies emigrated (sometimes via the Netherlands) to Australia. In Australia the heritage relations with the Dutch East Indies are still alive through associations (Tempo Doeloe and Bamboo), research and even the Dutch-Indonesian kitchen. On an academic level in Australia much research is done on the relations between Australian - Dutch East Indies (e.g. the Centre for Cultural Research of the University of Western Sydney through the work of Professor Iet Ang and Research Fellow Sonja van Wichelen) and various (Phd)

studies. Since Australia has been included in the online platform the strong ties with the Dutch East Indies have also become more visible.

6.5 Relations with the Aborigines

The first contacts with the traditional land-owners have attracted the interest of historians, geneticists and the media. It is a politically very sensitive topic and scientifically challenging. Currently two projects are taking place, both financially supported by the Dutch Embassy in Canberra and both researching the likeliness of interaction between the Dutch shipwrecked and the aboriginal communities in the area in the 17th and 18th century.

A representative of the Nanda tribe referred to the research done on the first contacts. He underlined that the historical events are also of great importance to the Aborigines living in the region, as they also consider it part of their heritage. **Mutual heritage is therefore inclusive and requires the cooperation of all stakeholders involved.**

However, it seems to be unclear what the effect will be once the results will be made public, how this affects the Dutch Embassy and what the reaction will be from the Aborigines families in the area. It is advisable to follow the developments closely, especially as the results may attract media attention.

In the Netherlands there seems to be a great interest in the Aboriginal culture and art. The National Museum of Ethnology has organised various exhibitions on Australia and Aboriginal culture. The Tropenmuseum dedicated a children's exhibition on Aboriginal culture and the AAMU museum in Utrecht specifically focuses on modern Aboriginal art.

The interest in the Aboriginal culture and art creates an interesting link between Australia and the Netherlands. Especially modern aboriginal art seems to be very popular. It is less controversial and commercially attractive, as was concluded during the stakeholder meeting in Geraldton. The AAMU, under the chairmanship of former Ambassador to Australia Hans Sondaal, forms an interesting contemporary connection between the Netherlands and current Aboriginal communities.

Nonetheless, it seems that there is very little awareness in Australia of the Dutch interest in Aboriginal culture and art. A wish to collaborate with Dutch partners in exhibitions has been expressed by various stakeholders, for example by Steve Douglas of the West Development Commission.

6.6 Dutch businesses and their role in the economic development of Australia

Various stakeholders underlined the need to broaden the scope of the inventory from Australian-Dutch heritage to Dutch presence in Australia. The investments and enterprises of Dutch migrants and large Dutch companies have played a very important role in the economic development of Australia since the 1950s. No historic overview of the Dutch role in the economic development of Australia exists.

Currently the Netherlands is the fourth foreign investor in Australia. However, this is rarely promoted and very few Australians and people from the Netherlands know about this.

Dutch multinationals such as Shell, ING, Rabobank and DSM have offices in Australia. Various banks and companies have sponsored activities in the past or expressed interest in combining development, commercial activities, and art and heritage. This interest is often not directly linked to Dutch roots or Dutch culture, but to art and culture in general.

6.7 Commemorating the Zuytdorp (2012) and 400 years Dirk Hartog (2016)

The stakeholder meetings were also used to gather information on possible future activities in the field of Dutch-Australian heritage cooperation.

In all states experts and organizations have expressed interest in participating in or contributing to the 2012 or 2016 events.

Various CEOs and curators of state and national cultural institutes and museums have shown willingness to think about future activities to take place in light of the 400 years Dirk Hartog celebrations.

However, currently only very few concrete proposals exist. Future activities, whether or not related to Dirk Hartog or the Zuytdorp commemorations, can be taken up in the database. By encouraging stakeholders to include future and planned activities in the database, an overview of possible activities with regard to the events is created. This helps to outline the 'road map', will encourage future cooperation among experts and organizations in both countries and contributes to avoid duplication of projects. Overall it gives incentive for future collaborations.

The celebrations of the 400 years 'first contact' bilateral relations in 2006 can be regarded as guidelines for 2016 events. Examples of great practise can be used to learn from and at the same time points of improvement can be taken into account when organising future events.

7. Conclusions

Based on the communications, interviews and meetings that took place during the inventory from January 2011 till end of May 2011 the CIE came to the following conclusions:

7.1 General conclusion

The heritage fields responded very positive to the Australian Netherlands Heritage Cooperation Project.

The initiative was regarded as “welcome” and “necessary”. The responses underlined the need for the inventory and the desire to have a central place where all the information can be accessed. The CIE has received over five hundred emails with information and questions concerning the database project.

Both heritage fields regard the heritage as mutual cultural heritage. Stakeholders in the Netherlands and Australia all acknowledge that the heritage in question can be regarded as mutual. On local and government level stakeholders seem to identify the heritage as mutual and acknowledge its importance.

Many stakeholders were not acquainted with the definition cultural heritage. The personal interviews and meetings helped to explain the full scope of cultural heritage, thus also not only the legacy of physical artefacts, but also the intangible attributes and cultural manifestations of a group or society, that are passed on from generation to generation, maintained in the present and safeguarded for the benefit of future generations. Therefore the activities and projects of the Dutch community and social clubs are also included in the database.

7.2 Conclusions related to the inventory

No overview of the Australian Dutch heritage activities currently exists. The Australian Dutch Heritage Cooperation Project is the first initiative, which creates an overview of the heritage cooperation, projects / activities and involved experts and stakeholders.

It is the right momentum for the inventory, as a large part of the Dutch community is ageing. No (long-term) action plan for the proper documentation of the heritage cooperation exists. In the next ten to twenty years most social clubs and community activities related to the Dutch emigrants will cease to exist. Documentation is the best way of conservation.

Most knowledge on the Dutch-Australian heritage cooperation and Dutch-Australian heritage in general lies with a small group of experts, among others Ype de Bruijn, Joost Cote, Yvonne Davis, Edward Duyker, Nonja Peters, Tom VanderVeldt, Akky van Ogtrop the Honorary Consuls etc.

The inventory of the Australian-Dutch heritage cooperation is not complete without the input of the New Zealand heritage field. New Zealand and Australia share a similar migration history. According to stakeholders in the Australian heritage field the ties with New Zealand are so close that the inventory is not complete without the input of the New-Zeeland-Dutch mutual heritage.

7.3 Conclusions related to the database

“The database is *for* and *by* the heritage field”. This motto was promoted during the inventory phase. The Embassy has commissioned the CIE to develop a database, but the heritage fields are responsible for the content, continuation and success of the database. **After it’s launch**



the database will continue and evolve on its own through the active participation and input of the heritage fields. The stakeholder meetings were organised in collaboration with the heritage institutes. The main objective is that the heritage field is involved in the development of the database and that there is a joint responsibility to regularly make updates and to add new information.

The database should no longer be referred to as the Australia Wiki. The word Wiki has caused quite some misunderstanding among some stakeholders, especially those that are not very acquainted with the possibilities of the Wiki-format or Internet in general. The most preferable reference is an online platform, which helps to connect, find and share.

The database project contributed to help the heritage fields to ‘connect’, ‘find’, and ‘share’.

Connect: The stakeholder meetings gave the opportunity for stakeholders from different backgrounds and expertises to get acquainted with one another. Often phone numbers were exchanged after the meetings and ideas on projects put forward.

The CIE LinkedIn group is also used to connect to those active in the Australian-Dutch heritage field.

Find: The CIE received many requests for information on projects and experts by those interested in Australian Dutch heritage and the mutual heritage cooperation. Much interest has been shown in the database.

Following the launch of the database project the CIE has received various requests for funding or requests for information on funding possibilities. The database will help to promote future projects, creates a platform for project proposals and encourages the collaboration between various institutes and experts.

Share: The database project and the organised stakeholder meetings have given a platform for stakeholders to exchange thoughts, to discuss heritage issues and in to come up with new ideas in a collaborative setting.

Stakeholders were invited to actively take part in the preparatory phases of project, to equally contribute to discussions and to express views on future cooperation. A feeling of reciprocity, coherence and joint-ownership occurred.

The CIE received many emails, in which experts, organizations and projects were introduced and further information was exchanged. The CIE received copies of conversations between national and regional organizations in which they informed their members or colleagues about the database project.

7.4 Conclusions with regard to the target group

The various goals set up with regard to reaching the relevant target groups were successfully fulfilled. Over 250 people were reached in person and many more by email.

Promotional activities were undertaken to inform associations, experts and organizations about the database project. Stakeholder meetings provided a very fruitful and interesting platform for stakeholders of all levels (academic, governmental, cultural and grass-root) to exchange thoughts on the Dutch-Australian heritage cooperation.

Experts, organizations, politicians and policy workers have responded very positive about the projects. A complete overview of past, current and future projects is regarded as very welcome.

7.5 Conclusions about the qualities of the executive institute

The project was executed by the CIE - Centre for International Heritage Activities in close collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canberra and the Consulates of the Netherlands in Australia. Except for the Northern Territory, all states have been visited.



Despite the limited means for the organisation of the meetings, the late notice to the participants about the meetings, and the very basic facilities over 130 people took part in the stakeholder meetings. This indicates a sincere interest in the database project and a willingness to contribute to the discussions on future collaboration between the two heritage fields.

8. Recommendations and Follow up

Based on the communications, interviews and meetings that took place during the inventory from January 2011 till end of May 2011 the CIE came to the following recommendations.

8.1. Recommendations

The inventory of the Australian Dutch heritage has shown that from the perspective of a future heritage cooperation on different levels, there is a need for further documentation and analysis of mutual heritage projects, activities and involved organisations and experts.

The mutual cultural heritage and the heritage cooperation that have come forth out of this large-scale emigration is under pressure.

An analysis and inventory of the Dutch emigration under the emigration policy after the Second World War and the cultural life of the Dutch community in the settlement countries is desirable. Other settlement countries have also expressed a desire for documentation and analysis of the mutual heritage that has come forth out of the Dutch post war emigration. A large scale inventory in several settlement countries is one of the options.

Cut backs force those involved in the heritage fields to become more self sufficient and less depending on donations and grants. **Tourism is an important source of income for the cultural and heritage sectors.** During the inventory various ideas were put forward to combine the 2012 and 2016 celebrations and other future events with tourism (e.g. the historical cruises along the Abrolhos islands and the voyage of the replica Batavia Longboat to Jakarta, repeating the trip undertaken in 1626).

The relations with the **Aborigines** remain one, which attracts exposure and draws the attention to the Dutch first contacts with the Australian continent. This theme and the **Dutch contribution in the Pacific War** have been rather under exposed during the 2006 celebrations. It is recommended to further promote this theme during the 2012 and 2016 events.

Educational exchanges as example of educational heritage cooperation: The educational exchange between the Calvin School in Kingston, Tasmania and Gomarus College in the Netherlands is one of the upcoming exchange programmes that are scheduled to take place. These exchanges have been arranged individually by the educational institutes and can be an example for other exchange programmes in Australia.

It is recommended to **cooperate in the 2012 and 2016 events with national institutes and organisations and local and regional branches.** Coordination and promotion of the activities can easily be achieved through the mother Organisation. The National Trust of Australia expressed interest to collaborate in future events. It has branches in all states of Australia.

The Australian government needs to **take ownership** of the mutual cultural heritage. Active participation and promotion in future activities are essential to the mutual cultural heritage and the Dutch culture in Australia. Furthermore they need to take ownership in the 2012 and 2016 events.

Academics are important partners in the organisation, execution and coordination of projects. Their research tends to be scientifically supported and the outcomes of their research could result in publications. Many academics, Research Fellows and Professors have responded very positively to the database project and showed interest in organising a project for 2016, if financial means are available.



In order to avoid unexpected expenses and financial distress in the organisation of future activities, it is recommended **to set up an action plan with information on sponsors and a time frame for fundraising**. Commercial partners and businesses should be involved in the organisation of future activities. However, Multinationals of Dutch origin do not particularly want to promote themselves as Dutch, rather as international.

A central coordinating body for the organisation of the 2016 event is necessary. The tasks of the Stakeholder Contact Group should be outlined more concretely. It is advisable to appoint a small group of experts to directly advise the Dutch and Australian Embassies and to make plans for activities concrete.

The overall cooperation between organizations and experts in the Netherlands and Australia may be intensified. At the moment most activities and programmes both in the Netherlands and Australia are not organised or executed in collaboration with counterparts in the other country.

It is recommendable to **clearly define the mutual cultural heritage of Australia and the Netherlands**. Through the identification of tangible and intangible elements a framework can be outlined. This helps to promote Australian-Dutch heritage and to understand the scope of the collaboration.

In addition it is recommendable to **establish partnerships with local, regional and national museums and institutes**. The Mutual Cultural Heritage of the Netherlands and Australia does not only speak to those of Dutch ancestry. The historical ties between the Netherlands and Australia date back to 400 years. Moreover, the Dutch presence in Australia has remarkably influenced the Australia of today. The interest in the Dutch-Australian heritage supersedes the Dutch community level. Therefore, in light of the 2106 events it is advisable to establish partnerships with national institutes both in the Netherlands and Australia, to achieve the organisation of multiple exhibitions on Dutch-Australian heritage on local, regional and national level.

In order to create carrying capacity on a local level in Australia and the Netherlands **the younger generation needs to be involved**. Australians of Dutch ancestry tend to be very interested in their family history and Dutch heritage.

Depending on the scope of the 2012 and 2016 events it is **advised to draft a road map**, which provides a detailed scheme of steps to take, including the deadlines and the preparations that need to be undertaking.

The database project needs to be further promoted. The visit of Koosje Spitz to Australia resulted in great enthusiasm. It is important to keep up this spirit and stay in close contact with the stakeholders in the heritage fields in Australia and the Netherlands.

The response to the database project was heart-warming. Experts, organizations and volunteers have contributed to the content, shared ideas on the future cooperation and promoted the database. Their contribution should be acknowledged, **concerns should be taken seriously and disappointment avoided**.

8.2. Follow up

Taking into account the conclusions and recommendations in this report, it is advised to undertake the following steps:

- Draft a detailed and extensive roadmap for the 2012 and 2016 events;
- In the organisation of future events take into account past experiences and examples of good practise. 2006 provides a good basis for the 2016;



- The mandate of Stake Holder Contact group needs to become more concrete. Answer to the request of various experts to establish a select advisory body to coordinate the 2012 and 2016 events;
- Experts and organizations need to be encouraged to draft concrete proposals for future activities. This helps to decide already in an early stage of the preparations which projects are feasible and interesting to invest in. Once concrete proposals exist, fundraising can start;
- Avoid the 2016 events to become a Dutch celebration. The Australian government and professional institutes need to actively participate in the organization of the events. Both the Netherlands and Australia need to take ownership in mutual cultural heritage cooperation;
- Partnerships between national institutes and organizations need to be further stimulated. Various maritime and migration museums have expressed their interest and willingness to take part in the 2016 events. These museums should be contacted as soon as possible to make plans concrete;
- Social media and Google applications are useful tools in the promotion of the Dutch-Australian heritage, to encourage mutual heritage cooperation and to map the scope of the Dutch-Australian heritage;



9. Press coverage

References to the Australian-Dutch Heritage Cooperation Project were made in magazines, newsletters on the radio and on websites. The following news items on the database project exist:

Articles:

- Australia on the Map. (2011). AOTP to be part of international heritage project. In *Map Matters* – Issue 14 June 2011.
- Dutch Australian Society. Abel Tasman Inc. (April 2011). Correspondence: Centre for International Heritage Activities in Cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Dutch Australian Cultural Heritage Project. In *Tasman Telegraph* – Issue April 2011. Retrieved from http://www.dutchaustraliansociety.org.au/resources/tasman_telegraph/tt_apr11.pdf
- Hendrika Crijns-Coenen. (2011). The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) announce: Australian Dutch Cultural Heritage Database Project. In *Holland Focus* – vo. 6 no. 3 – May/June 2011.
- National Trust of Australia (WA). (2011) In *Trust News*. Retrieved from: www.ntwa.com.au

Video and audio material:

- SBS Radio. (February 14, 2011). CIE Australian-Dutch Database. Video and audio material. Retrieved from: <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/dutch/highlight/page/id/144431/t/CIE-Au>
- Interview with Yvonne Davis of SBS Radio Melbourne (April 27, 2011).
- Interview with Harry Crijns at the Dutch Community Radio Perth (WA) on 6EBA 95.3 MHz. (February, 2011). Retrieved from: <http://www.mrtawa.org.au/1/dutch%20radio.php>
- *Koosje Explains: the Dutch Australian Heritage Cooperation Project*. (2011). Video material courtesy of the Dutch Australian Cultural Centre (NSW) and Joop Mul. Retrieved from: http://youtu.be/PoTOMo5XT_g and <http://youtu.be/-oURC7jkd28>
- Stakeholders meeting- Australian Dutch Heritage Cooperation Project. (2011). <http://youtu.be/tn6tWgIcXXg>

Launch Cultural Heritage Connections and Heritage Day:

- SBS Radio. (January 28, 2012). Interview with H.E. Willem Andreae on the Heritage Day on 21 February in Fremantle. Audio material. Retrieved from: <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/dutch/highlight/page/id/200903/t/Dutch-Australian-Heritage-Day>
- Western Australian. (20 February 2012). *Celebration Marks WA-Dutch Links*.
- Fremantle Herald. *New Dutch wreck discovery*. (25 February Volume 23, nr 8). *Celebrating 400 years of Dutch-Australian shared Heritage*, e-newsletter, Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities of Australian, <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/livingheritage/e-newsletter/index.html#three>.
- Dutch Courier. (April 2012). *News from WA – Australian-Dutch Mutual Heritage Platform and the Heritage Day*.
- DACC, <http://dutchfederation.org.au/excerpts/heritageday.htm>.
- CIE Press Centre, <http://www.heritage-activities.nl/news-events/press-centre/press-release-australian-dutch-heritage-day>.
- Netherlands Embassy news page, <http://australie.nlabassade.org/bijlagen/nieuws/media-release---australian-dutch-heritage-day-in-fremantle.html>.