

ERASMUS

FOUNDATION

NETHERLANDS AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

SECRETARY:

Mr. B. Van Driel,
P.O. Box 130,
Caulfield.

1st September, 1966.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ERASMUS FOUNDATION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under the terms of our Constitution and in accordance with the mandate given to your Executive Committee at our formation-meeting in September last year, we have pleasure in now submitting to you the first annual report of the Erasmus Foundation.

Although receiving your vote of confidence at the time, we were mindful from the start of some doubt and some criticism expressed at the foundation-meeting as regards the possible lifespan of the Society and the annual fee for members.

Consequently, we set out to do two things first :

1. put the Erasmus Foundation as quickly as possible on a healthy basis from a membership point of view, thus ensuring continuity.
2. endeavour to do more and better than the bi-monthly meetings which we promised our members in September 1965.

You will readily recognize that the two are interconnected. An interesting and regular programme is bound to guarantee an increase in membership and growing numbers ensure a higher income which makes such programmes possible.

Your Committee feels that they have succeeded to a satisfactory degree in both instances in our first year of operation. With the exception of the summer-holiday-break, we have given our members a monthly meeting on a variety of interesting and challenging subjects and per 30th June we had more than 100 families as financial members on record.

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Basing ourselves on the reaction from members and guest-speakers as well as on the number of applications received after each successive meeting, we are confident in predicting a good future for the Erasmus Foundation.

It is worth recording, in our opinion, that the Erasmus Foundation has succeeded in creating an atmosphere of friendship and belonging. Also our guest-speakers have commented on this point, so much so that some came to later meetings and became members of the Society.

During the year under review your Executive Committee awarded two honorary memberships: one to Dr. H. Scholte, the other to our foundation-secretary Ir. B. Sorgdrager, both in recognition of special services rendered to our Society. Nevertheless, this was not intended to create precedents and such awards will at all times be carefully weighed.

With this report goes a copy of our Constitution and by-laws for your perusal. Your rights and privileges are now properly established and, subject to members' approval, the Society will be legally constituted. Accordingly and at the expiration of its term of mandate, your present Committee will retire at the annual meeting, and a new Committee elected to hold office for the next twelve months.

A special vote of thanks goes to Mr. J.S. Doyle, solicitor and partner in the firm of Coltman Wyatt & Anderson, for his valuable service in shaping our Constitution.

Also accompanying this report is a financial statement by our Treasurer, who will make some explanatory observations during the annual meeting.

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In this section we wish to record a vote of thanks to our honorary auditors, Messrs. Peat, Marwick & Mitchell.


Our past performance in programming is, no doubt, fresh in your mind, and we will therefore abstain from listing again the various speakers and subjects. We feel that each meeting had its own attraction and merit and all speakers, through their prominence and expert knowledge, have contributed to the success of our first year.

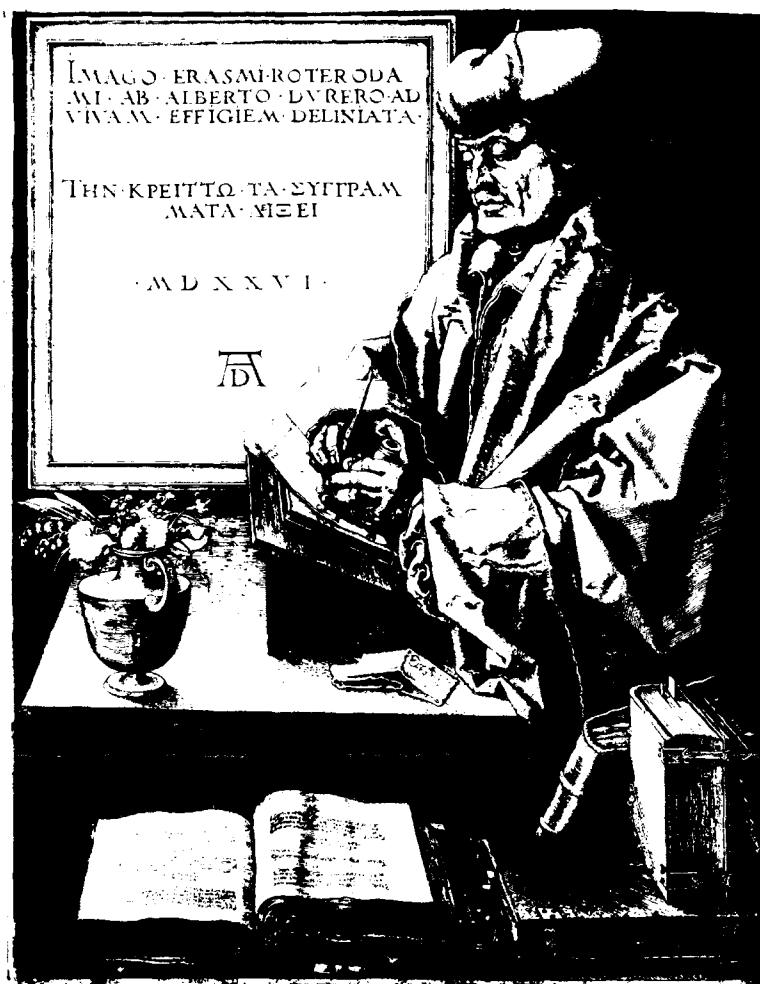
For the coming twelve months we have already assured ourselves of acceptances from a number of leading speakers on most interesting subjects, and also have another film night in mind, as well as a musical event by worldclass artists. We are confident that next year's programme will appeal to the majority of our members; still, any suggestions you may have will be gratefully received by our Secretary.

Finally, your Committee requests the co-operation of all members continuing to introduce new friends to the Erasmus Foundation. All guests are potential new members, and by further increasing our membership we strengthen our financial position to the benefit of all.

In conclusion, we thank you for your past support and trust that you will continue to get a great deal of enjoyment by your membership.

THE ERASMUS FOUNDATION.


J.J. Voordijk,
President.



The objective of the ERASMUS FOUNDATION is to forge the cultural links between the Netherlands and Australia . The objects^{ives} of the Society , as defined in the Constitution , are to promote understanding and friendship between Australians and Netherlanders and to familiarise members with the culture of ~~their countries of origin~~ *both countries* . Expression of these objects is given mainly in the form of lecture - and film - nights . A list of subjects and speakers is attached .

The reasons why our Society is named after the Dutch philosopher DESIDERIUS ERASMUS are historic and symbolic .

Historic : because Erasmus was one of the most brilliant thinkers of the Renaissance . He was a migrant in England and Switzerland .

The symbolic reason is derived directly from the recent history of Europe , when during and after W.W.II considerable numbers of Dutch individuals have come to live in Australia . They became aware of the great cultural future of Australia and wanted to make their own contribution to this future .

Although many cultural manifestations need neither spoken nor written language to support their impact , the proper use of language more often than not is essential for expressing oneself .

Erasmus had the great advantage that Latin was the common language among scholars in his days , thus the choice of language was no issue for him .

However , for the promoters of the ERASMUS FOUNDATION this choice of language was a crucial issue .

On the one hand : the importance of language as a cultural heritage and the fact that considerable numbers of Australian students show great proficiency and interest in the Dutch language are convincing arguments for the use of the Dutch language in our meetings .

On the other hand : many permanent settlers of Dutch origin are aware that the generations of their children and more certainly of their grandchildren tend to loose mastery of the Dutch language .

This latter trend together with the desire to attract the greatest possible number of native Australians as members of the " ERASMUS FOUNDATION " are convincing arguments against the use of Dutch , but for the use of English as the language to be used in our meetings .

For the time being it was decided to use English .

However , when our Australian membership falls to a very low level the arguments to use the Dutch language loom large .

MAY THE ABOVE MOTIVATE YOU TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP !

Our Honorary Secretary is Mr. P.C. Downie . Telephone (priv.) 842 3270
Business address : 12 Lansdowne Street East Melbourne 3002 Tel. 41 1580 .

ERASMUS FOUNDATION
(Netherlands Australian Cultural Society).

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1966.

Surplus	\$311.47	Cash at Bank	\$311.47
	<u>311.47</u>		<u>311.47</u>
	<u>311.47</u>		<u>311.47</u>

We have examined the above balance sheet and accompanying statement of receipts and disbursements with the accounting records of Erasmus Foundation, Netherlands Australian Cultural Society. In our opinion the balance sheet and statement of receipts and disbursements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the affairs of the Foundation.

Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.,
Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.

Melbourne.
30th August, 1966.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1965
TO 30TH JUNE, 1966.

Receipts:

Subscriptions	\$929.50
Bank Interest	6.32
	<u>935.82</u>

Less Disbursements:

Function Expenses	\$514.44	
Subscriptions and Donations	44.00	
Printing and Stationery	64.36	
Bank Charges	1.55	\$624.35
	<u>624.35</u>	
Balance carried forward 30th June, 1966.		<u>311.47</u>

(Signed) J. Kreveld

Treasurer.

Secretary :

B. Van Driel,
P.O. Box 130,
Caulfield, 3161.

Tel : 50-5269

CIRCULARTO FOUNDATION MEMBERSNOMINATION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1967/1968

In accordance with the Constitution for the annual election of Office-Bearers, nominations are hereby invited for election to the following offices which become vacant at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 14th September, 1967, viz :-

	<u>Retiring Officers</u>
President	Mr J. Voordijk
Vice-President	Mr J. van der Noordaa
Secretary	Mr B. Van Driel
Treasurer	Mr J. Kreveld
Executive Member in charge of Programming	Mr S. Kruytbosch

Mr van der Noordaa and Mr Kruytbosch will not be available for re-election, but will remain active on the sub-committee. All other retiring office-bearers offer themselves for re-election.

Your committee wishes to stress the importance of your nomination of capable candidates. The wisdom of your choice will be a most influencing factor in the future of your Foundation.

Please fill in the enclosed forms as indicated, and return same not later than 12.00 noon on the seventh day of September, 1967. If more than one nomination for any office is received, a secret ballot shall be conducted.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that only one member of the family may vote. Please bring along your membership cards.



B. Van Driel
Secretary