

# Dutch Cultural Profile

An initiative of  
HACC

Multicultural  
Advisory Service

July 2012



Published 2012 by:

Diversicare

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## **Dutch Cultural Profile**

Thanks are given to the following people:

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... and to all those people who have provided comment about this cultural profile.

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## **Disclaimer**

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This cultural profile received funding assistance from the Queensland Government through the Home and Community Care Program.

# Dutch Cultural Profile

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This profile of the Dutch cultural community is one of the projects undertaken by Diversicare's Special Projects and Services Development Team, with funding from the Home and Community Care Program.

One of the aims the HACC Program is to provide resources for aged care service providers to better meet their clients' needs from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This booklet is about ensuring that needs of older people from a Dutch background are met.

This profile is intended to provide some insights into the Dutch culture.

Two things are important to notice. First, each person is unique and has his/her own individual necessities which need to be considered when planning care.

Second, Dutch culture in Australia differs a lot from the Dutch culture in modern Holland, and features from both cultures are evident in Australia today.

The profile provides useful information about a range of topics and resources including books, articles, visual aids and services.



This symbol is used to indicate a “tip”, which you, as the caregiver of a person who was born in The Netherlands, may find useful in your day-to-day support of that person.

In an effort to maintain the accuracy of this profile and improve its contents for all stakeholders, we encourage readers to complete the feedback form on the last page to inform us of any inaccuracies or other resources available. It is considered that this feedback will assist us to maintain a user relevant and quality resource.

Yours sincerely

**Vivienne McDonald**

*Director*

# Background

The Netherlands is situated in north-western Europe and borders Germany to the east, Belgium to the south, and the North Sea to the west and north.

The name "Netherlands" means "Low Lands" in reference to the fact that it is predominately an alluvial plain of which nearly a quarter lies below sea level, protected from the ocean by dykes and dunes.

The Netherlands is also a relatively small country (34,425 square kilometres) and yet it is the most densely populated country in Europe.

The Netherlands is a constitutional monarchy and is divided into twelve provinces with Amsterdam as the capital. The government meets in The Hague. The Head of State is Queen Beatrix and **the Prime Minister is Mark Rutte.**



## History

Dutch national identity emerged during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries arising from its struggle for independence from Catholic Spain during the Eighty Year's War (1568–1648). The Dutch people received independence from the House of Habsburg in the Treaty of Munster in 1648.

After a brief period of prosperity by 1750 the Netherlands was one of the poorest nations in north-western Europe. In 1813, at the end of the French occupation (1795–1813), William I of the House of Orange-Nassau accepted the throne and became the first Dutch king. The Dutch nobility never held a position of prominence or influence in Dutch society. Only after constitutional reforms in 1851 did the nation begin to industrialise.

Rural–urban migration and especially the establishment of male suffrage in 1887 undermined traditional ways of life in the eyes of some politicians.

The Anti-Revolutionary Party was founded in 1878 to reverse that trend. That party advocated autonomy for different political and religious communities. Its initiative resulted in the early twentieth century in a process of vertical segmentation or pluralism known as pillarisation.

Pillarisation meant that each substantial subsection of the Dutch population was able to participate in social institutions and organisations (labour unions, schools, universities, political parties, social clubs, churches, newspapers, and radio stations) that catered to its specific needs.

The four main pillars were Catholic, Protestant, socialist, and conservative. Intensive cooperation and negotiation between these pillars took place among national politicians.

Secularisation and emancipation in the late 1960's resulted in depillarisation because of a greater vertical social mobility, growing intermarriages, and a declining identification with each of the four pillars.

A strong self-conscious national identity did not develop in the Netherlands because of these centrifugal historical processes, and this denial of a national identity became a hallmark of Dutch culture. Religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity is considered the essence of Dutch culture. The persistence of sizable religious and regional minorities and the decentralisation of administrative power has allowed cultural diversity to survive.



**Tip:** Religious, cultural and ethnic diversity is considered the essence of Dutch culture.

## National symbols

The display of the national flag and the singing of the national anthem are important expressions of identity for a decreasing number of citizens. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes in the colours red, white, and blue. Very often there is an orange wimple attached to show loyalty to the house of Orange.

Orange is the Dutch national colour and is worn at major sporting events and special days such as Queen's Day which celebrates Queen Beatrix's birthday.



The national anthem is the *Wilhelmus* - a rebel song stemming from the independence war against Spain and was adopted as the national anthem in 1932. To listen to the anthem go to <http://www.nationalanthems.info/nl.htm> and click on the MP3 to listen. Usually only the first two verses are sung.

## Wilhelmus (English)

1. William of Nassau, scion  
Of an old Germanic line,  
I dedicate undying  
Faith to this land of mine.  
A prince I am, undaunted,  
Of Orange, ever free,  
To the king of Spain I've granted  
A lifelong loyalty.
2. I've ever tried to live in  
The fear of God's command  
And therefore I've been driven  
From people, home, and land,  
But God, I trust, will rate me  
His willing instrument  
And one day reinstate me  
Into my government.
3. Let no despair betray you,  
My subjects true and good.  
The Lord will surely stay you  
Though now you are pursued.  
He who would live devoutly  
Must pray God day and night  
To throw His power about me  
As champion of your right.
4. Life and my all for others  
I sacrificed, for you!  
And my illustrious brothers  
Proved their devotion too.  
Count Adolf, more's the pity,  
Fell in the Frisian fray,  
And in the eternal city  
Awaits the judgement day.
5. I, nobly born, descended  
From an imperial stock.  
An empire's prince, defended  
(Braving the battle's shock  
Heroically and fearless  
As pious Christian ought)  
With my life's blood the peerless  
Gospel of God our Lord.
6. A shield and my reliance,  
O God, Thou ever wert.  
I'll trust unto Thy guidance.  
O leave me not ungirt.  
That I may stay a pious.  
Servant of Thine for aye  
And drive the plagues that try us  
And tyranny away.
7. My God, I pray thee, save me  
From all who do pursue  
And threaten to enslave me,  
Thy trusted servant true.  
O Father, do not sanction  
Their wicked, foul design,  
Don't let them wash their hands  
in  
This guiltless blood of mine.
8. O David, thou soughtest shelter  
From King Saul's tyranny.  
Even so I fled this welter  
And many a lord with me.  
But God the Lord did save him  
From exile and its hell  
And, in His mercy, gave him  
A realm in Israel.
9. Fear not 't will rain sans ceasing  
The clouds are bound to part.  
I bide that sight so pleasing  
Unto my princely heart,  
Which is that I with honour  
Encounter death in war  
And meet in heaven my Donor  
His faithful warrior.
10. Nothing so moves my pity  
As seeing through these lands  
Field, village, town and city  
Pillaged by roving hands.  
O that the Spaniards rape thee  
My Netherlands so sweet  
The thought of that does grip me  
Causing my heart to bleed.
11. Astride on steed of mettle  
I've waited with my host  
The tyrant's call to battle  
Who durst not do his boast  
For, near Maastricht ensconced,  
He feared the force I wield  
My horsemen saw one bounce it  
Bravely across the field.
12. Surely if God had willed it,  
When that fierce tempest blew,  
My power would have stilled it  
Or turned its blast from you.  
But He who dwells in heaven,  
Whence all our blessings flow,  
For which aye praise be given,  
Did not desire it so.
13. Steadfast my heart remaineth  
In my adversity  
My princely courage straineth  
All nerves to live and be.  
I've prayed the Lord my Master  
With fervid heart and tense  
To save me from disaster  
And prove my innocence.
14. Alas! my flock. To sever  
Is hard on us. Farewell.  
Your Shepherd wakes, wherever  
Dispersed you may dwell.  
Pray God that He may ease you.  
His gospel be your cure.  
Walk in the steps of Jesus  
This life will not endure.
15. Unto the Lord His power  
I do confession make  
That ne'er at any hour  
Ill of the king I spake.  
But unto God, the greatest  
Of Majesties I owe  
Obedience first and latest  
For Justice wills it so.

The complex relationship the Dutch people have with the sea is also notable. The Dutch take great pride in their struggle against the sea and the reclaiming of land which they view as their mastery over nature.

## Wilhelmus (Dutch)

1. Wilhelmus van Nassouwe  
Ben ik van Duitsen bloed  
Den vaderland getrouwe  
Blijf ik tot in den dood  
Een Prince van Oranjen  
Ben ik vrij onverveerd  
Den Koning van Hispanjen  
Heb ik altijd geëerd
2. In Godes vrees te leven  
Heb ik altijd betracht  
Daarom ben ik verdreven  
Om land om luid' gebracht  
Maar God zal mij regeren  
Als een goed instrument  
Dat ik zal wederkeren  
In mijnen regiment
3. Lijdt u mijn onderzaten  
Die oprecht zijn van aard  
God zal u niet verlaten  
Al zijt gij nu bezwaard  
Die vroom begeert te leven  
Bidt God nacht ende dag  
Dat hij mij kracht wil geven  
Dat ik u helpen mag
4. Lijf en goed al te samen  
Heb ik u niet verschoond  
Mijn broeders hoog van namen  
Hebben 't u ook vertoond  
Graaf Adolf is gebleven  
In Friesland in den slag  
Zijn ziel in 't eeuwig leven  
Verwacht den jongsten dag
5. Edel en hoog geboren  
Van keizerlijken stam  
Een vorst des rijks verkoren  
Als een vroom Christenman  
Voor Godes woord geprezen  
Heb ik vrij onversaagd  
Als een held zonder vrezin  
Mijn edel bloed gewaagd
6. Mijn schild ende betrouwen  
Zijt gij o God mijn Heer  
Op u zo wil ik bouwen  
Verlaat mij nimmermeer  
Dat ik doch vroom mag blijven  
Uw dienaar t'aller stond  
Die tirannie verdrijven  
Die mij mijn hert doorwondt
7. Van al die mij bezwaren  
En mijn vervolgers zijn  
Mijn God wilt doch bewaren  
Den trouwen dienaar dijn  
Dat zal mij niet verrassen  
In haren bozen moed  
Haar handen niet en wassen  
In mijn onschuldig bloed
8. Als David moeste vluchten  
Voor Saul den tiran  
Zo heb ik moeten zuchten  
Met menig edelman  
Maar God heeft hem verheven  
Verlost uit alder nood  
Een koninkrijk gegeven  
In Israël zeer groot
9. Na 't zuur zal ik ontvangen  
Van God mijn Heer dat zoet  
Daar na zo doet verlangen  
Mijn vorstelijk gemoed:  
Dat is dat ik mag sterven  
Met eren in dat veld  
Een eeuwig rijk verwerven  
Als een getrouwe held
10. Niet doet mij meer erbarmen  
In mijnen wederspoed  
Dan dat men ziet verarmen  
Des Konings landen goed  
Dat u de Spanjaards krenken  
O edel Neerland zoet  
Als ik daar aan gedenke  
Mijn edel hert dat bloedt
11. Als een Prins opgezeten  
Met mijner heires kracht  
Van den tiran vermeten  
Heb ik den slag verwacht  
Die bij Maastricht begraven  
Bevreesde mijn geweld  
Mijn ruiters zag men draven  
Zeer moedig door dat veld
12. Zo het den wille des Heren  
Op die tijd had geweest  
Had ik geen willen keren  
Van u dit zwaar tempeest  
Maar de Heer van hier boven  
Die alle ding regeert  
Die men altijd moet loven  
En heeft het niet begeerd
13. Zeer prinselijk was gedreven  
Mijn prinselijk gemoed  
Standvastig is gebleven  
Mijn hert in tegenspoed  
Den Heer heb ik gebeden  
Van mijnes herten grond  
Dat hij mijn zaak wil reden  
Mijn onschuld doen bekend
14. Oorlof mijn arme schapen  
Die zijt in groten nood  
Uw herder zal niet slapen  
Al zijt gij nu verstrooid!  
Tot God wilt u begeven  
Zijn heilzaam woord neemt aan  
Als vrome Christen leven  
't Zal hier naast zijn gedaan
15. Voor God wil ik belijden  
En zijner groter macht  
Dat ik tot genen tijden  
Den Koning heb veracht  
Dat dat ik God den Here  
Der hoogster Majesteit  
Heb moeten obediëren  
In der gerechtigheid

The complex relationship the Dutch people have with the sea is also notable. The Dutch take great pride in their struggle against the sea and the reclaiming of land which they view as their mastery over nature.

## Population

Dutch people are seen as a tolerant people. The ethnicity of the Netherlands comprises Dutch 83% and others at 17% (9% of which are of non-Western origin: mainly Turks, Moroccans, Antilleans, Surinamese, and Indonesians).

This diverse ethnic mix arises post-World War II when there were at least three distinct movements into the Netherlands. Dutch-speaking Indonesians arrived at the height of the post-war economic upswing after Indonesia's independence in 1950. Today these Dutch Indonesians have had time to secure a stable position in Dutch society.

Many Dutch-speaking Surinamese arrived after Suriname became independent in 1975. The position of the Surinamese improved during the 1980's and 1990's. Further, local residents of the Netherlands Antilles have been migrating to the Netherlands since the mid-1970's in search of work and schooling. The 1990's were marked by the immigration of substantial groups of refugees from West Africa, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and the Balkans, and today these groups are some of the most disadvantaged in Dutch society. Amongst this group, fluency in the Dutch language is low.



**Tip:** Don't assume that someone who speaks the Dutch language comes from the Netherlands.

## Language

The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch and it is used in all official matters: by the media, and in all educational facilities. Dutch closely resembles German in both syntax and spelling. Friesian is the second official language of the Netherlands and is spoken by half a million Friesians. In addition, there are a further twenty-five major dialects of Dutch.

Dutch is also the official language in Flanders, Belgium, where it is called Flemish. Creole languages are increasingly replacing Dutch in Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles as decolonisation progresses. Afrikaans, which is widely spoken in South Africa, is also related to Dutch.

## Migration to Australia

In Australia, the 2006 census indicated that 26,141 (33%) of Dutch-born Australians speak Dutch at home; however, many more Dutch-born Australians speak English at home (64%). Proficiency in English was self-described as 'very well' by 27%.

The Dutch population has a long history of migration to Australia with a significant number of Dutch migrants arriving post-World War II. Many Dutch people lost their lives during the German occupation and Allied bombing, and as Europe was facing economic and social devastation, survivors were encouraged by the Dutch and Australian governments to immigrate to Australia.

The Netherlands Australia Migration Agreement (NAMA) of 1951 facilitated the immigration of Dutch people into Australia, including those residing in the Dutch East Indies.

Many migrants applied for assisted passage to Australia during the post-World War II migration boom. (National Archives of Australia website)

## Australian Statistics

The Dutch-born population is one of the oldest culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population groups in Australia, and Victoria is home to the largest number of Dutch-born immigrants.

According to the 2006 Australian Census 310,089 persons resident in Australia claimed Dutch ancestry either alone or in combination with another ancestry, and 78,927 persons declared they were born in the Netherlands.

As the level of immigration from the Netherlands has dropped significantly from the 1980's (79% of Australian residents born in the Netherlands arrived before 1980), their population is ageing.

At the time of the 2006 Census 52% of the Dutch-born population were aged sixty years or older. Of the Australian residents who were born in the Netherlands 59,502 or 75% were Australian citizens at the time of the 2006 census.

## Dutch Characteristics

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Adjectives most often used when describing the Dutch are that they are: down to earth, speak their minds, are direct and don't mince words, egalitarian, thrifty, modern, clean, open-minded, honest, casual, independent, non-emotional (in public), and multicultural.

They have a strong desire to order their time in agendas and on calendars. Dutch children are given their first agenda at primary school to write down scheduled lessons and homework. A full agenda signifies a full life.

The Dutch are very punctual and showing up even five minutes late is considered inappropriate. As a result, everything has to be done at fixed times: there is a time to work; a time to clean the house; a time to drink coffee; and a time to visit friends.

The Dutch do not line up and show almost no consideration in public for a person's status, gender, or age. The use of the formal "you" (*U*) to address a person is becoming less common; whereas, the growing importance of the informal "you" (*jij*) is meant to illustrate a commitment to equality.

# Customs in Everyday Life

## Dress

These days Dutch people wear the same sort of clothes that other people in Europe wear. Each area of The Netherlands had its own costume, so that there are actually many traditional Dutch costumes.

The most well-known part of the traditional Dutch costume are the wooden clogs. Long ago, only very rich people could afford leather shoes and so ordinary people wore shoes made of wood. The shapes of the clogs were all different and depended on what area of the Netherlands they came from.

Today, some people working in the countryside still wear them occasionally as they are cheaper and easier to wear than gumboots.



A few people wear traditional costumes regularly, but they are people working in places where tourists visit. Some old people can sometimes be seen wearing their traditional costumes. In country villages on special occasions (such as weddings and fairs), some people wear their traditional costumes.

The traditional costume for women consists of a long skirt and a blouse with an apron and perhaps a shawl or shoulder decorations. Hats vary according to the area.

There are changes to the costume for special days and Sundays such as better fabric, lace and jewellery. If a woman can afford leather shoes then she wears them with the special costume, and would keep the wooden shoes for day wear.

The costume will vary according to the area. In some places the women's skirts would be striped, and they would wear a jacket with short sleeves and an embroidered scarf at the neck.

Men's basic traditional costume is generally wide woollen pants with silver buttons on the front square flap. They wear a shirt, jacket and a cap. Again, there are differences according to the area the man comes from, particularly in the shape of the hat.



## Greetings

Compared to most cultures, the Dutch are reserved in public and do not often touch each other or display anger or extreme exuberance. The Dutch avoid superlatives. Compliments are offered sparingly.

The Dutch speak directly and use a lot of eye contact. To some people from other cultures this may seem intimidating: especially in cultures where matters are discussed with extreme care and politeness — but it is the way the Dutch prefer to communicate.

They either shake hands or say their name (first and/or surname) when they meet and depart. Or, in the case of women and closely acquainted men and women, they kiss each other three times, alternating on the cheeks. They use one hand to shake hands and typically let go after a very short time. To continue to hold onto someone's hand is mostly considered inappropriate.

First names are only used with people of the same age, even in the family. Within the family circle and close friends, children are encouraged to address elders as “Aunt or Uncle”. Strangers are always addressed as “Mr or Mrs”.



**Tip:** When something is "not bad", "okay" or "nice", it should be perceived as praise.

English Greeting	Dutch	Closest English Pronunciation
Hello	hallo, hoi (popular/dialect)	HALLO
Good Morning	goede morgen, Goeie morgen	GHUDE MORG-HEN, GHUIE MORG-HEN
Good Afternoon	goede middag, Goeie middag	GHUDE MIDDAGH
Good Evening	goede avond, Goeie avond	GHUDE AVOND
Sleep Well	welterusten	VELTE-RUST-EN
Goodbye	tot ziens, doeie (popular)	TOTT-SINDS , DUI
Yes	ja	YAA
No	nee	NEAR
Thank you	bedankt, dank u, dank u wel (polite), dank je wel (casual)	BE-DUNKT, DUNK –U, DUNK U VEL

The Dutch are not afraid of meeting new people or people from other cultures and are generally interested in others, and what’s going on in the world. They will easily engage in conversation with strangers.

When entering a room it is customary to shake hands with everyone present, then to shake hands again on leaving. If there are too many people to shake hands with and the setting is informal, publicly identifying yourself will suffice. Usually an acquaintance will introduce a visitor to others otherwise the guest introduces himself. The Dutch consider it impolite not to identify oneself.

The Dutch expect eye contact while speaking with someone. Looking away or staring at the ground is considered impolite and may be perceived as disinterest or lying. When yawning, coughing or sneezing, the mouth should be covered with a flat hand or fist.

The Dutch tend to be reserved in using hand gestures. Keeping your hands in your pockets (mainly practised by people from the East who are called Tukkers), or having your arms crossed, may be interpreted as a sign of disinterest.

The crazy sign is made by tapping the centre of your forehead with your index finger. This gesture is considered rude. To make things more complex, the sign indicating someone is smart or intelligent is made by tapping the area around the temporal bone (just above the ear) with the index finger.

To make things even more complicated, the crazy sign can also be made by twisting your index finger around the temporal bone; however, there is a slight distinction. This particular gesture indicates insanity, whereas tapping the forehead usually indicates stupidity. Using the middle finger for pointing something out (like on a map) is not considered rude, but it does draw attention.

Winking at strangers will generally be perceived as a sexual advance and is unlikely to be appreciated.

Whispering in the presence of other people is considered impolite. A whispered conversation in the company of unacquainted people in a relatively confined public place may also be considered impolite.

### **Names**

Older Dutch-born people prefer to be addressed using their title, for example, Mr, Mrs and Dr. Women traditionally take their husband's surname on marriage. When widowed, some women may attach their maiden name to their husband's surname.

Many Dutch surnames begin with the prefix 'de' (the) or 'van' (from). These are neglected in an alphabetical order. A Dutchman named 'de Vries' will say his last name starts with a 'V'. In addition, if the prefix 'de' or 'van' is used, it is in lower case. If the first name or initial is absent, the prefixes start with capitals (Jan de Vries/J. de Vries versus meneer ('Mister') De Vries/De Vries).

'Gezelligheid' (a sense of cosiness, atmosphere, sharing, and company) is a key characteristic of Dutch culture and is reflected in the décor at home.

The Dutch tend to be assertive and direct which sometimes can be interpreted as tactless and arrogant. Eye contact is valued and it is customary for Dutch-born people to shake hands on being introduced, and when leaving.

The Dutch are renowned for their humour of a happy and celebratory nature; however, whilst it's not considered deviant to smile or show signs of mirth when socialising, outright laughter is rare. Similarly, public displays of grief are considered bad form.

The Dutch value personal space and tend to avoid physical contact, even among friends. When standing in a group or when talking to one another they tend to keep their distance.

## Marriage

Dutch people are free to choose their spouses. The common basis for marriage is most often love. This does not mean people marry independently of the constraints of class, ethnicity, and religion. The choice of a partner is often class-based.

Monogamy is the only marriage form allowed. Many Dutch couples live in a consensual arrangement as opposed to formal marriage. Same-sex couples can marry and have the same rights as heterosexual couples.

The marriage ceremony may consist of two separate formal events: the municipal registration, and a religious ceremony, with the latter being optional. The couple hold a wedding reception where friends and relatives gather to celebrate the nuptial engagement.

## Domestic Situation

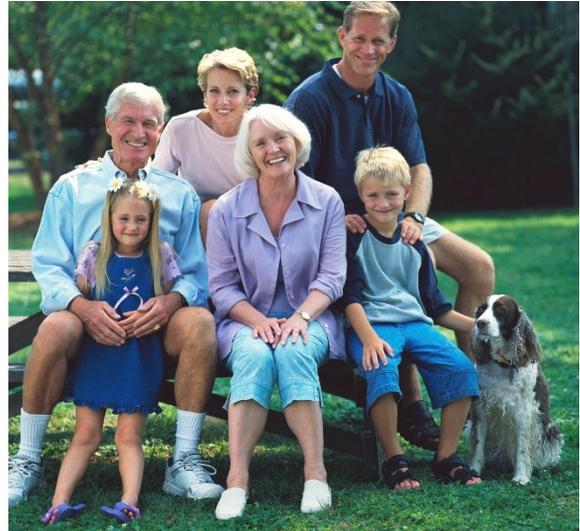
Although women and men are equal before the law and the trend toward gender equality is noticeable, women and men still occupy distinct functions in Dutch society.

The differences between men and women are especially noticeable within the nuclear family. The principal authority in the household is generally the man, although there is a trend toward more equality of marriage partners. Women meanwhile perform the role of homemaker. Women tend to be under-represented in leadership positions, in politics, and in the economy.

## Family Structure

The nuclear family is the most common family unit although it is increasingly losing ground to single-parent families; couples without children; and single-person households. Extended family households are rare.

The Dutch also make a distinction between relatives by marriage and relatives by blood. Blood relatives are considered more important than marriage-linked relatives. Solidarity and support (financial and emotional) are usually directed at the closest kin (parents, children, and siblings). This is also illustrated by prevailing inheritance patterns. Disinheritance is not permitted by law. Every child receives an equal share.



## Religion

The largest religious congregation in the Netherlands is Catholic (30%), followed by Reformed Protestant (14%), Dutch Reformed-Calvinist (7%), and Muslim (4%). More obvious, however, is the fact that 40% are not religious or connected to a denomination.

The extremely rapid secularisation of the Netherlands after the 1960's meant that religion played a decreasing role in framing people's social and cultural lives.

According to the Australian 2006 census data, 61% of Dutch-born Australians recorded their religion as Christian, and 29% as "no religion".



**Tip:** The Dutch who settled in Australia migrated at a time when the Muslim religion would have been less represented. This means Dutch-born Australians are more likely to be Catholic, Calvinist or Protestant.

## Churches

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The Dutch community has a strong affiliation with Churches.

### **Dutch Congregation of the Uniting Church**

PO Box 1259, Capalaba QLD 4157

Phone: (07) 3822 7680 (source: Queensland Multicultural Resource Directory 2011)

Minister: Rev. Doctor H Spykerboer

### **Christian Reformed Church of Inala**

44 Poinsettia Street, Inala QLD 4077

Phone: (07) 3372 1753

Minister: Rev Bill Wiersma

### **Christian Reformed Church of Tivoli**

42 Church Street, Tivoli QLD 4305

Phone: (07) 3812 0808

Minister: Rev. de Bruyen

### **Christian Reformed Church of Goodna**

65 Stuart St, Goodna QLD 4300

Phone: 0423 814 700

Minister: Rev. Josh Hagedoorn

### **Christian Reformed Church of Bray Park**

10 Youngs Crossing Road, Bray Park QLD 4500

Phone: (07) 3882 1989

## Pensions

The Netherlands and Australia have a formal agreement with respect of pension payments. Dutch people may get pensions from both the Netherlands and Australia.

It is everyone's own responsibility to check if they are eligible to receive a pension from the Netherlands, and apply for it.

Centrelink have available a fact sheet in English or Dutch about the pension agreement between Australia and the Netherlands and what it means for you and what is involved.

This fact sheet can be found at the following website address:

[http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/int009\\_1003\\_a/\\$file/int009\\_1003en.pdf](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/int009_1003_a/$file/int009_1003en.pdf)



## Sports

Football (soccer) is the most popular sport in the Netherlands along with speed skating. It is common for Dutch children to learn how to skate at an early age. Long distance skating and all-round tournaments are the most popular and most successful sports for the Dutch. Hockey has gained popularity – The Netherlands and Australia are the top teams.

Whenever the national team engages in international competitions, orange mania reigns. People dress in orange (in deference to the name of the royal family), raise national and orange flags, and decorate houses and streets as a patriotic feeling of athletic superiority floods the nation.

The *Elfstedentocht* ("Eleven-City Tour") also raises national awareness. This speed-skating event in Friesland occurs only occasionally as it takes a prolonged period of frost to harden the ice.

There are a lot of bicycles in Holland. Bike riding is viewed less as a sport: rather it's a major form of transportation. Bikes have the right-of-way and everyone else must yield to them.



*Kolf Players on Ice*

Hendrick Avercamp (1625)

## Arts and Crafts

The Dutch are fond of hobbies with crochet and knitting being popular.

There is also a history of folk painting with the *Hindeloopen* style most notable. It's named after a little harbour village in the northern province of Friesland in the Netherlands where at the beginning of the 17th century woodcarving became very popular.

The *Hindeloopen* style is distinguished by a mass of acanthus scrolls and small flowers. Favourite flowers are daisies, poppy heads, roses, chrysanthemums and tulips.

Many *Hindeloopen* designs are painted in tones of a single colour, for example, blues or browns. Dutch sceneries are also sometimes included in *Hindeloopen* designs and are painted in a simplistic manner paying little attention to proportion.



## Socialising

Coffee has a strong social significance. Neighbours often invite each other over for a cup of coffee with the usual one biscuit. Coffee-drinking rituals reveal the core meaning of the crucial Dutch word *gezelligheid* ("cozy," "sociable," or "pleasant").

The Dutch hardly ever invite people over for dinner with whom they are not closely acquainted. Family visiting is very important as is coming together at social events.

When invited to someone's home it is polite (but certainly not required) to bring a small gift for the hostess. Sending flowers is considered inappropriate, but bringing them on the day is acceptable. A bottle of alcoholic beverage (usually wine) can also be brought as a gift but implies either a closer relationship or a more momentous occasion. Gifts are unwrapped and admired immediately after receiving.; however, 'envelopes' should be opened after everyone has left.

Another tradition is that of serving *beschuit met muisjes* when people come to visit a new-born baby and its mother. (*Beschuit* is a typical Dutch type of biscuit, and *muisjes* are sugared anise seeds). Other popular toppings include chocolate *muisjes* (*hagelslag*) and chocolate flakes.

## Social Clubs

### **The Dutch Club NAQ in Richlands**

123 Pine Road, Richlands QLD 4077

Phone: (07) 3271 5662

### **Dutch Australian Community Action Federation – Qld Inc (DACA Qld)**

PO Box 235, Ashgrove QLD 4060

Website: [www.cybadex.com/daca](http://www.cybadex.com/daca)

This agency offers

- Dutch Helpline (07) 3393 0079
- Friendly Visiting Network to organise a volunteer visitor (further information in contacts section)
- DACA Resource Centre located at the Prins Willem Alexander Village at Birkdale. The resource centre has been established to collect Dutch-Australian (historical) material such as books, magazines, newsletters and videos, to be preserved for future generations.

### **Limburgse Carnival Club “The Stirrers”**

Phone: (07) 3353 2450

### **Gold Coast Community Association**

Phone: (07) 5534 4057

## Literature

Many books are available in Queensland libraries on request.

## Songs

This website has 10 of the best Dutch songs ever made – seems to be short excerpts of the songs <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTGMirK-UyA>

### Titles are in Dutch:

- Song 1 Papa
- Song 2 Niet of Nooit Geweest
- Song 3 Annelie
- Song 4 15 Miljoen Mensen
- Song 5 Ik Leef Niet Meer Voor Jou
- Song 6 Lente Me
- Song 7 Mijn Moeder
- Song 8 Testament
- Song 9 Anne
- Song 10 Ik Wou Dat Ik Jou Was

On this website <http://www.liedjesland.com/Liedjes/Sinterklaas> there are 17 Christmas songs that can be listened to simply by clicking on whichever is desired: The history of Sinterklaas is an interesting one. Father Christmas is one relation but Sinterklaas was a bishop from Spain and the

- ♪ Arme Zwarte Piet
- ♪ Daar wordt aan de deur geklopt
- ♪ Dag Sinterklaasje
- ♪ De zak van Sinterklaas
- ♪ De beat van piet
- ♪ Het paard van Sinterklaas is ziek
- ♪ Hij komt, de lieve geode Sint
- ♪ Hoog in de speelgoedbergen
- ♪ Hoor de winde waait door de bomen
- ♪ Hup hup holladijee
- ♪ Ik ben tock zeker Siinterklaas neit (Kinderen voor Kinderen)
- ♪ Jongens heb je het al vemomen
- ♪ Langzame Piet en vlugge Piet
- ♪ O kom er eens kijken
- ♪ Op de hoge, hoge daken

- ♪ Pietenverdriet
- ♪ Sinterklaas (wie kent hem niet) ( Het Goede Doel)
- ♪ Sinterklaas die geode heer
- ♪ Sinterklaas is jarig
- ♪ Sinterklaas bonnen bonne bonne
- ♪ Sinterklaas kom maar binnen
- ♪ Sinterklaas Kapoentje
- ♪ Sinterklaas op zijn witte paard
- ♪ Waar blijft nour die Sint
- ♪ Wie komt er alle jaren
- ♪ Zachtjes gaan de paardevoetjes
- ♪ Zie de maan schijnt
- ♪ Zie ginds komt de stoomboot
- ♪ Zwarte piet ging uit fietsen
- ♪ Zwarte Pieten Gymles

original gift was an orange.  
**The song titles available are:**

## Dances

The history of Dutch dancing began in 1935 with local high school girls performing at the *Tulip Time Festival*. They were dressed in costumes and were called “Klompens Dancers.” Today’s dancers wear costumes patterned after the traditional dress of the Dutch Provinces. Each costume is handmade by local seamstresses and carefully inspected before it is worn in the Dutch Dance performances. There are currently over 1,100 Dutch Dancers.



This dance (performed in the United States) can be viewed online at the website:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-ZFQQSvvo4&noredirect=1>

Another version is found on the website:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tHSMEDkK2s>

To learn the tulip dance via video can be found at:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igNU1XqOzd8>

## Television

If you have internet connection and Windows Media Player software, a large number of television programs can be viewed live.

This website address has a very large number of stations that you can click on to view live.  
[wwitv.com/television/148.htm](http://wwitv.com/television/148.htm) (NB: the text on this site is in Dutch)

## Radio

If you have internet connection and Windows Media Player software, a large number of radio stations can be listened to live.

This website has a large number of stations that you can listen to live.  
[www.listenlive.eu](http://www.listenlive.eu) (NB: the text on this site is in Dutch)

## Magazines

Many are available in abridged forms via the internet:

### Libelle

[www.libelle.nl](http://www.libelle.nl)

### Margriet

[www.margriet.nl](http://www.margriet.nl)

### Plus

[www.plus.nl](http://www.plus.nl)

### Panorama

[www.panorama.nl](http://www.panorama.nl)

### Elsevier

[www.elsevier.nl](http://www.elsevier.nl)

## Newspapers

The following newspapers are available online.

### Trouw

Dutch Newspaper covers national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.trouw.nl](http://www.trouw.nl)

### NRC Handelsblad

Dutch Newspaper covers national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.nrc.nl](http://www.nrc.nl)

### Het Financieele Dagblad

Dutch Newspaper covers national and international news (in Dutch)

<http://fd.nl/>

### Algemeen Dagblad

Dutch Newspaper covers national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.ad.nl](http://www.ad.nl)

### Dagblad van het Noorden

The biggest newspaper of the Northern Provinces, widely respected (in Dutch)

[www.dvhn.nl](http://www.dvhn.nl)

### Expatica.com: Dutch News

Expatriate site with a daily coverage of the main stories in the Dutch media

[www.expatica.com/nl/news/dutch-news-list.html](http://www.expatica.com/nl/news/dutch-news-list.html)

### Het Parool

Dutch Newspaper, national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.parool.nl](http://www.parool.nl)

### De Telegraaf

Dutch Newspaper, national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.telegraaf.nl/](http://www.telegraaf.nl/)

### De Volkskrant

Dutch Newspaper, national and international news (in Dutch)

[www.volkskrant.nl](http://www.volkskrant.nl)



## Koninginnedag (Queen's Day) 30<sup>th</sup> April

The previous Queen had her birthday on 30 April. This day turned into a huge national birthday party - Queen's Day - even though Queen Beatrix was born on 31 January. Every city holds its own festivities. The centres of cities are filled with activities for children and grown-ups, for example, very large car boot sales (or jumble sales), and music events are held. The majority of the people wear something orange on the day.

## Liberation Day 5<sup>th</sup> May

Remembrance of Dutch casualties in World War II is celebrated on Memorial Day, 4th May. The nation observes a minute's silence at 8pm to commemorate those who died in the war. The 5th May celebrates the end of the German occupation in 1945. Most major cities stage elaborate festivities and music festivals.

## Easter Fires 11<sup>th</sup> November

A regional tradition, Easter Fires celebrate the feast of Saint Maarten on the evening of 1st November. Children go door-to-door with paper lanterns and candles, and sing songs in return for treats.

## St Nikolaas Eve or the Feast of Sint Nicolaas (Sinterklaas) 5th December

Family members and friends exchange gifts on the eve of Saint Nicolas' Day (5 December), while children receive gifts on his birthday (6 December).

## New Year's Eve 31<sup>st</sup> December

On New Year's Eve, the Dutch reflect on the year that has passed and gather with friends rather than family members. The New Year is welcomed with champagne and fireworks, and resolutions are made.

## Other Celebrations

Celebration	Date
Nieuwjaarsdag (New Year's Day)	January 1
Goede Vrijdag (Good Friday)	April 6
Eerste Paasdag (Easter Sunday)	April 8
Tweede Paasdag (Easter Monday)	April 9
Koninginnedag (Queen's Day)	April 30
Bevrijdingsdag (Liberation Day)	May 5
Hemelvaartsdag (Ascension Day)	May 17
Eerste Pinksterdag (Whit {Pentecost} Sunday)	May 27
Tweede Pinksterdag (Whit {Pentecost} Monday)	May 28
Eerste Kerstdag (Christmas Day)	December 25
Tweede Kerstdag (Boxing Day)	December 26



St Nikolaas Feest

## Meal Protocol

With the Dutch, food does not play a major role in hospitality, and sharing a meal is not necessarily considered a social occasion. Offering food is not considered imperative for making someone feel welcome although coffee, tea, fruit juice or a soft-drink is usually offered to guests. Guests should not expect a meal unless the invitation mentions it.

The Dutch hardly ever invite people for dinner with whom they are not closely acquainted. Instead, coffee is of a strong social significance. Neighbours often invite each other over for a cup of coffee with the usual one cookie, and the morning coffee break at work is a sacred institution. Coffee-drinking rituals reveal the core meaning of the crucial Dutch word *gezelligheid* ("cozy", "sociable", or "pleasant").

## Meals

A typical Dutch breakfast usually consists of several varieties of bread, thin slices of Dutch cheese, prepared meats and sausage, and butter and jam or honey. As well, often a boiled egg is included together with coffee, tea, chocolate, and fruit juice. Porridge instead of cereal is eaten due to the cold climate, and this may still be the preference for older Dutch-born people.

A working lunch may be *koffietafel*: once again with breads, various cold cuts, cheese and preserves. The most common daytime snack are *broodjes* (sandwiches) or *broodjeswinkels*. Other popular toppings include chocolate sprinkles (*hagelslag*) and chocolate flakes (*vlokken*). Filled pancakes are also very popular. Lightly salted 'green' herring may also be a choice.

Dinner, usually served between 5-7pm, is a two or three-course meal that often begins with soup. More substantial dishes are generally reserved for the evening meal and include *erwtensoep* (thick pea soup served with smoked sausage, cubes of bacon, pig's knuckle and brown or white bread), *groentensoep* (clear consommé with vegetables, vermicelli and meatballs), *hutspot* (potatoes, carrots and onions), *klapstuk* (an accompaniment of stewed lean beef), and *boerenkool met rookworst* (frost-crisped kale and potatoes served with smoked sausage).

Favourite Dutch desserts include *flensjes* or *pannekoeken* (25 varieties of Dutch pancake), *waffles met slagroom* (waffles with whipped cream), *poffertje* (small dough balls fried and dusted with sugar), and *spekkoek* (alternate layers of heavily buttered sponge and spices from Indonesia) which translated means 'bacon cake'.



The local spirit is *jenever* (Dutch gin) normally taken straight and chilled as a chaser with a glass of beer, or it is sometimes drunk with cola or vermouth. Favoured brands are Bols, Bokma, Claeryn and De Kuyper.

## Recipes

The website [www.godutch.com/newspaper/recipes.php](http://www.godutch.com/newspaper/recipes.php) has an extensive listing of Dutch recipes under the following categories:

- **Soups and Stews**  
Lentil Soup, Flemish stew, Ratatouille New Years' Eve Chicken Stew, “Snert”- bean soup, and many more...
- **Meats and Fish**  
Spanish Bacon, Mussel Soup, Poached Fish, Hash Chicken Livers with Apricots, and many more...
- **Cakes and Biscuits**  
Coffee Charlotte Pancakes with sausage, Friar’s pancake, Hoorn-style Fish Cakes, Utrecht sweet-heart cake, and many more...
- **Breads and Puddings**  
Plum Duff, Sweet Bread, Sticky buns, Zeeland-style Philosopher, Coffee custard, and many more...
- **Fruits and Vegetables**  
Spinach and soldiers, Naked babies in the grass, Red cabbage, Twente-style Beans with Apples and Pork Rhubarb Compote and Stewed Pears, “Hete Bliksem”- potato and apple stew, and many more...
- **Desserts and Pies**  
Dutch eggnog, Semolina Pudding with Currant Sauce, Hague Bluff, Rhubarb Compote and Stewed Pears, Sausage rolls Brabant-style, apple sauce dessert, and many more...
- **Eggs and Cheese**  
Russian Eggs, Macaroni Dutch-style Hidden Eggs, Farmer’s omelette, Stuffed omelette, and many more...
- **Beverages and Breakfast**  
Dutch eggnog, Buttermilk Porridge, Brandied Raisins, Pancakes with sausage, French Toast the Dutch Way, and many more...
- **Special Occasions: New Year’s Eve**  
“Oliebollen and Appelflappen” – variety of deep fried donuts.
- **Birthdays**  
“croquetten and bitterballen” are served with alcoholic beverages; tarts and cake with coffee, and small children will be offered soft drink or chocolate milk.

## Recipes

### Sauerkraut (serves 6)

#### Ingredients

- 2kgs Nicola or Dutch cream potatoes
- 300g diced bacon
- 800g Sauerkraut (The one I have is Weinkraut – which has cabbage, white wine and salt)
- 1 Rookworst
- a few knobs of butter
- pepper to taste
- milk

#### Method

1. Add diced bacon to frying pan and cook until crispy. Retain the fat.
2. Boil the potatoes until soft enough to mash.
3. In a separate saucepan bring the sauerkraut and juices to the boil. Add the Rookworst sausage on top of the sauerkraut and gently simmer for about 10 minutes or until fully warmed.
4. Drain and mash the potatoes, adding a knob of butter and enough milk until it is creamy.
5. Add the bacon pieces and fat to the mash.
6. Remove the sausage from the pan and set aside.
7. Add the sauerkraut to the mash and mix in the bacon.
8. Cut the sausage into about 6 pieces.
9. Plate up each person with a huge mound of zuurkool (mash) and a piece of sausage.



**Tip:** This dish tastes even better the next day, reheated. So don't throw the leftovers away!!

## Recipes (continued)

### Huzarensalade (Festival Potato Salad)

#### Ingredients

- 300g gravy beef (slow cooked in butter till very tender)
- 2kg mashed potatoes (floury)
- 2 tins peas and carrots
- 12 cocktail onions, sliced
- 8 sweet/sour gherkins sliced
- ½ tin beetroot chopped
- 1 small jar Heinz salad dressing
- whole egg mayonnaise to taste
- salt & pepper to taste

#### Method

1. Mix thoroughly and cover with thin layer of mayonnaise.
2. Decorate with hard boiled egg slices, tomato, gherkins and a sprinkle of paprika.

## Food Sources

### The Dutch Shop

Shop 15, 1136-1150 Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

### The Dutch Club NAQ

123 Pine Road, Richlands Qld 4077

Phone: (07) 3271 5662

## Online Dutch food shopping

### It's all Dutch to me

[www.itsalldutchtome.com.au/](http://www.itsalldutchtome.com.au/)

### Dutch Food .com

[www.dutchfood.com.au/](http://www.dutchfood.com.au/)

## Restaurants

### Café de Tantes (Wednesdays only)

Netherlands Retirement Village

62 Collingwood Road, Birkdale QLD 4159

Phone: (07) 3822 0800

Web: [www.dutchvillage.com.au/](http://www.dutchvillage.com.au/)

### Dutch Bite Cafe

88 Eagle Heights Road, Eagle Heights QLD 4271

Phone: 0408 070 253

## Health

Health care is almost completely the responsibility of the State as the Dutch institutionalised their health and care services many years ago; therefore, care for the aged and the disabled in the recent past took place primarily in institutionalised settings. Today, the focus is more on Community Care and Supported Living Centres.

Almost everyone in the Netherlands carries medical insurance. The unemployed and low-income families are protected by public health insurance, while higher-income families have private insurance.

Asking personal questions is equally inappropriate as the Dutch are private and feel uncomfortable answering questions they deem too personal. These problems may be avoided by partially acknowledging in advance that a question may be rude or intrusive.

## Traditional Healing

Dutch people practice a western model of health in conjunction with alternative therapies – mostly herbal teas and other herbal remedies.

## Mental Health and Disability

The disabled and mentally ill tend to be an invisible group in Dutch society since they are predominantly cared for in specialised care facilities. The Dutch believe medical expertise is better in specialised facilities and that the care for a disabled person places too heavy a burden on the family. However, there is an increasing trend towards home care.

## Ageing

The Dutch are more likely to have extended family ties and to take care of their elderly at home. The Dutch-born elderly often have a need to be closer to their roots as they age and family visits are very important. This can be difficult within Australian families as Australian-born Dutch children often don't maintain or learn the Dutch language and culture.



Beliefs about death and the afterlife correspond to the doctrines of the major religions. The deceased is either buried or cremated. All burials and cremations are arranged by professional undertakers.

Funerals are attended by invitation only (though a general invitation may be placed in the form of a newspaper ad if the deceased was well known, or if family members and friends can't be traced) and an invitation may be for a specific part of the funeral only. The funeral may or may not include a church service.

A funeral is often spread over several locations. Gatherings are at a funeral home or a family residence where farewells may be said to the deceased in an open casket followed by a church service or a non-religious service at a funeral home or cremation centre. A burial may follow a church service. The funeral wake concludes at the funeral parlour or a reserved room in a restaurant where sandwiches and drinks are offered.

Transportation between the different locations is usually by car which have their lights on, or are marked with a small flag to indicate a procession.

Generally people dress formally in black, dark blues or grays.

Funerals tend to be muted affairs. People keep their voices down but avoid more overt displays of grief. The mood usually lightens after the funeral itself and can become quite light-hearted at the reception afterward.

Sending flowers to a funeral is common practice but the displays are usually small. This is one of the few occasions that the Dutch usually send flowers rather than bring them, even when attending the funeral in person.

It is common when someone dies that printed cards (in white envelopes with a grey border) are sent to family and friends.

Many Catholics prefer burial to cremation.

There is a website called *InterNations* which provides an internet-based means of linking with Dutch Expats in Brisbane.

The website address is:

[www.internations.org/brisbane-expats/dutch](http://www.internations.org/brisbane-expats/dutch)

### **Friendly Visiting Network** (Dutch Specific)

PO Box 235, Ashgrove QLD 4060

Phone: (07) 3393 0079

Fax: (07) 3289 2067

Email: [annelies@mail2me.com.au](mailto:annelies@mail2me.com.au)

Web: [www.cybadex.com/daca](http://www.cybadex.com/daca)

Comments:

- Offers visits from Dutch speaking volunteers in order to minimise the social isolation of people from a Dutch speaking background (the elderly in particular) living at home, in residential facilities, or if hospitalised.
- To organise a visit ring the Dutch Helpline between 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Sunday. Visiting times are mutually agreed between visitor and recipient.
- Dutch Helpline (07) 3393 0079

### **Café de Tantes** (Wednesdays only)

Netherlands Retirement Village

62 Collingwood Rd, Birkdale QLD 4159

Phone: (07) 3822 0800

Email: [nrva@dutchvillage.com.au](mailto:nrva@dutchvillage.com.au)

Web: [www.dutchvillage.com.au/index.html](http://www.dutchvillage.com.au/index.html)

Contact: Mr Robin Christelow, Chief Executive Officer

### **Dutch Consulate in Brisbane**

Suite 2, Bellevue Terrace, 25 Mary Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15777, Brisbane City East QLD 4002

Phone: (07) 3839 9644

Fax: (07) 3839 2176

Email: [brisbane.consulate@netherlands.org.au](mailto:brisbane.consulate@netherlands.org.au)

Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00pm (by appointment only)

Contact: Capt. K. (Kasper) Kuiper, Honorary Consul

# Bibliography

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Dutch Cultural Profile

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<http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/netherlands.htm>

<http://www.miceastmelb.com.au/documents/mep/H&PCarekit.pdf>

**Culture of The Netherlands: history, people, clothing, women, beliefs, food, customs, family, social**

<http://www.everyculture.com/Ma-Ni/The-Netherlands.html#ixzz1oy65Yruw>

**Dutch recipes**

<http://www.godutch.com/newspaper/recipes.php>

## Correction / Addition Form

Please complete the following page if you are aware of either incorrect details or you know of additional resources that should be included.

Correction	
Listed Item	Correction
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