

# Newsletter

Issue March 2011

## The making of: The Events Calendar

Every year the NCA comes up with a new collection of cards made from photos taken and submitted by our members.

This year we received a lovely photo selection with beautiful doors and decided to use this theme to produce an Events Calendar (verjaardagskalender).

In the process we learned that an Events Calendar is something typically Dutch and we have enjoyed explaining how to use the calendar to locals and other expats who were not familiar with the concept. It's a calendar in which people keep track of birthdays and other recurring events so that the calendar is used again year after year.

We have a lot of Dutch members who think it makes a great gift for family and friends here and in Holland too.

### Special thanks to...

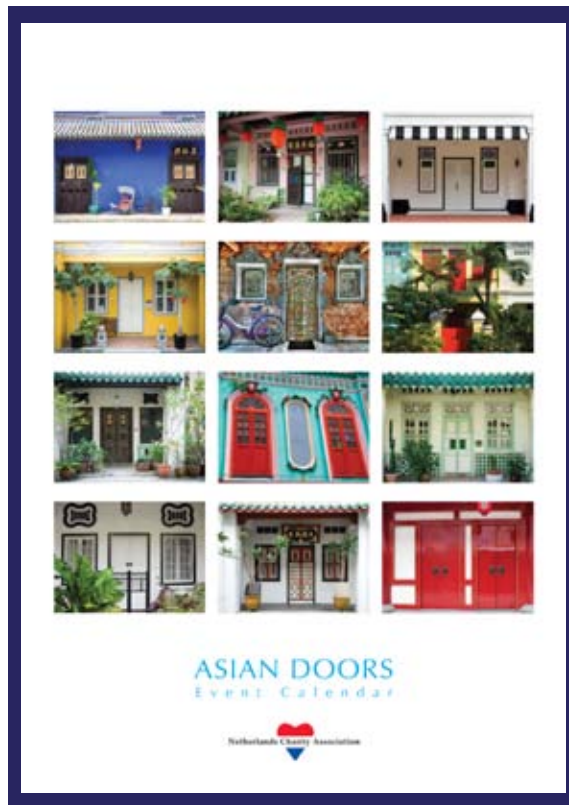
Anita Jansen and Denise Kool who took their cameras and visited picturesque lanes lined with old shop houses. John Bruinsma provided us with photos of a beautiful door in Bali and one in Melaka. Patricia Weijzen Peters gave us a funny door from China.

Gwen Weiss, who did a lot of photography for the NCA before she moved to Stockholm, provided us with a photo of a black and white house. Also Vincent Yeo, a professional photographer, helped with the project.

We are very happy with the look of the Events Calendar and are pleased to report that sales are going very well.

The calendar makes a nice and colorful addition to our other fundraising items, including our ever popular My Singapore Memories Game and our selection of all occasion greeting cards. We will continue to sell the Events Calendars at the local fairs and in the library of the Hollandse Club for only 15.00 dollars a piece.

**If anyone has a nice photo for the upcoming series of NCA Christmas cards please send it to us by the end of April.**



## Colofon

NCA committee

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Tineke Hiemstra

**Vice President**

Willy Rijkeboer

**Treasurer**

Anita Jansen

**Secretary**

Melinda Klanderman

**Members**

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Annette Kunst

Kate Hanam

**Honorary member**

Barbara Jansing

**Production newsletter**

Corine Regelink

Melinda Klanderman

**NCA Mailing Address**

22 Camden Park

Singapore 299814

**Secretariat**

info@nca.org.sg

**Website**

www.nca.org.sg

**Membership**

S\$ 50 yearly

(more is always welcome)

DBS Bank:

7171 014 - 014 900 181 0

**All amounts go directly to our charities.**

**All donations are welcome and much appreciated!**

The NCA reaches out to the elderly, the chronically ill, the physically and mentally handicapped and orphans and children of disrupted families in Singapore, in terms of financial support and voluntary work.

Registered in Singapore.

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## Donations and support

**In 2010 the NCA supported 8 local Charities with a total of S\$ 55,000. Thank all of you for your financial support!!**

The committee is very proud of the substantial amount raised by the Netherlands Charity Association. Annual membership contributions make up an important part of the funds (S\$ 6,905 in total) and we are very happy that an increasing number of members pay even more than the S\$ 50 fee. We are also thankful to our private and corporate sponsors for their generous donations totalling over S\$ 15,000!

In 2010 we organized our annual events: the well known Garage Sale and of course the Charity Christmas Fair. Although there were less visitors these days than in previous years, those who came spent a good deal of money and bought many of the items including not only the special Hollandse Producten, but also nice items from local shops and the beautiful (handmade) products from the Charities. These fundraising events brought us S\$ 21,250 nett !!

During the year the sale of NCA cards and Memory Games was a great succes. And since November we are proudly selling our latest item, the Events Calendar (verjaardagskalender).

And let's not forget the Workshops (total S\$ 2,800 nett) and our newest fundraising activity: Fun & Shop. For the latter, we did not know what to expect. We must say, it is a surprising success! Members who hosted personal events asked their guests for Fun & Shop donations rather than gifts.

Via Fun & Shop the NCA received nearly S\$ 1,700. Many thanks to these generous members! We hope that in 2011 even more members will think about Fun & Shop when they host private or corporate functions.

### **How to spend the money?!**

After all the work was done, we had a final decision to make.... How to spend the money?!

Given that the majority of PolyTechnic students today have access to school funds through scholarships and tuition loans, we have started helping other young people towards a better future. "Our" two Poly students will be supported by the NCA until they graduate in April 2012.

Via Breadline Group we made a special donation for an "O-level" student who would otherwise not be able to study without our financial help.

Now that Boys' Town and SPD (Society for the Physically Disabled) are growing into bigger charities with much more support from the government and other huge donations, we supported both, but with a smaller amount than in previous years. The NCA is looking for more smaller local charities to support in future, which will eventually replace these bigger well established charities.

On the other hand, because of the very good work that H.O.M.E and Breadline Group are doing with their small budgets, these two organisations were very glad to receive even more funding from the NCA then in earlier years.

Donations also were made again to Sanctuary House, The Good Shepherd Centre and the Singapore Leprosy Relief Association.

Thank you all for your financial support!!

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## Have Fun & Shop

Surprise your friend, mother, father, colleague or that special someone with 'one month of education', 'play dough' or a 'baby shower'. Or if you are organizing an event or party you can ask your guests to make a donation to Fun & Shop in your name rather than bringing along a gift. A memorable token gift, because with gifts from Fun & Shop you also support a charity, thereby giving others a gift they too will never forget. It is a wonderful way to do something really meaningful for those in need.

### How does it work?

Go to the NCA website: [www.nca.org.sg](http://www.nca.org.sg)

1. Click on the gift you choose to give.
2. Provide us with the details of the person you want to give the present to and your own details by filling in the order form.
3. Transfer your donation amount to the NCA by bank, cheque or cash and we send an e-mail to the person you are giving the present with an image of the gift you selected along with your personalized message as a special remembrance!

*The NCA has chosen to support the following charities with Fun & Shop:*

*The Breadline Group, H.O.M.E., Good Shepherd Centre, Boys' Town, The Society for the Physically Disabled, Sunbeam Home, Students at the Singapore Polytechnic, Sanctuary House and the Singapore Leprosy Relief Association (SILRA).*

Shopping Bag (S\$ 60)  
Breadline Group



One Month of Education for  
Polytechnic Students (S\$175)



Play Dough (S\$ 20)  
Children's Society



Baby Shower (S\$ 50)  
Sanctuary House



Lesson 'The School of Tomorrow'  
(S\$ 75) Boy's Town



Sewing Kit (S\$ 45)  
Good Shepherd Centre



Cleaning Supplies (S\$ 15)  
H.O.M.E.



Transport Fee (S\$ 10)  
Society for the Physically Disabled



Medicine (S\$ 30)  
Singapore Leprosy  
Relief Association



### The Christmas Fair your affair?

Being an NCA member you might have noticed our request for feedback concerning our latest Christmas Fair just before the holidays last December and earlier this year.

Although we had a low response rate we are very happy with the questionnaires returned to us, and we are grateful you took the effort to do so. The outcome surely gives us some indication as to how you experienced our annual Christmas Fair.

It turns out that the majority of respondents had a moderate to positive outlook on the Fair, but they do not take a great interest in visiting more than 5 fairs a year. All the respondents were Dutch, and we are not sure if this had an effect on the responses. The Dutch products and the Christmas Fair itself are the reasons most mentioned for coming to the fair.



For a minority of people the Dutch products alone are the main attraction to visit the venue.

It was interesting to note that most people did not give any guidelines on how much they are willing to spend on products. On the other hand prices at the Fair as such are considered just fine. Regarding the variety of the Dutch products available, respondents are very satisfied.

Suggestions to widen the range with appelstroop, Hema products and rookworst and creative presents will certainly be considered by the NCA.

The impression visitors have of the Fair decorations is moderate to good. 'More decor in Christmas spirit', and 'more style' were mentioned by a few. Only a handful of people found the location to be stuffy and dark, and suggest making the décor a bit more glamorous.

The opinions on the number of booths at the Fair were quite divided. A small amount of the remarks included 'unorganized', 'no overview of the room' and sometimes 'too many booths'.

We received a suggestion to work more up in the air by decorating the ceiling and putting up more esthetic booth backgrounds.

As stated earlier, we as members of the NCA committee are thankful with all the above comments, even though we are very much aware of the fact that we have not received much feedback (either critical or positive).

However be assured that by the time you are reading this summary we have already begun to organize the next Fair and that decisions will be made on how best to implement your feedback.

We hope to see you again at our **next Christmas Fair on November 17, 2011!**

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## Queen's Day 2011: save these dates!

The Dutch organisations in Singapore are very pleased to inform you of the upcoming events:

**Wednesday 20 April: Queen's Night at Harry's @ Boat Quay**  
14th edition of this traditional event in Singapore  
Don't forget to wear orange! Sponsored by Heineken

**Saturday 23 April: Orange Ball at the Hollandse Club**  
With a performance of the winner of Dutch Idols!

**Thursday 28 April: Queen's Day Reception**

**Hosted by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

This year, 1 reception will be hosted for the Dutch community, the Corps Diplomatique and Singaporean officials.  
Location: The Concourse, Suntec Singapore. **All Dutch people in Singapore are welcome!**

**Friday 29 April: Queen's Day at the Hollandse School**

The annual celebration of Queen's Day for the children at the Hollandse School and their parents.

**Saturday 30 April: Flea Market ('Vrijmarkt') at the Hollandse Club**

All children are invited to join and sell their second-hand items at the flea market at the Hollandse Club!



## Invitation to the NCA 2011 Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to inform you that our honorary member Mrs. Barbara Jansing has kindly offered to host the AGM at the ambassador's residence. She welcomes all NCA members and those who are interested in NCA activities or in becoming members to join us on:

**Tuesday April 26th, 2011 at 23 Ridout Road starting at 11am.**

**The AGM will immediately be followed by a presentation from H.O.M.E., a local charity receiving financial support from the NCA.**

*Please note that only NCA members are eligible to vote at the AGM.*

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## Did you Remember to get your Memory Game yet?

Introduced in 2007, it has become 1 of our most popular NCA items: The NCA My Singapore Memories game set. And now it's more available than ever, in our recently produced third edition!

These easily recognized images make our My Singapore Memories game fun for people who live here, and are a refreshing walk down memory lane for anyone else who knows the city. The Memory tiles are colorful pictures of everyday Singapore icons like Singapore taxis, chicken rice, parking coupons, orchids, the Flyer and many more favorites (50 sets in all).

At an affordable S\$25 no coffee table here or abroad should be without. We are pleased to inform you that our Memory game is available not only at the Hollandse School reception desk and at the Hollandse Club library, but also at the following retail outlets:

Childrens Show Case @ 81 Loewen Road Tanglin Village

Colour Junction Kodak Express@ Tanglin Mall #B1 – 05

Pharmaplus@ 1 Orchard Boulevard #01-04Camden Medical Centre

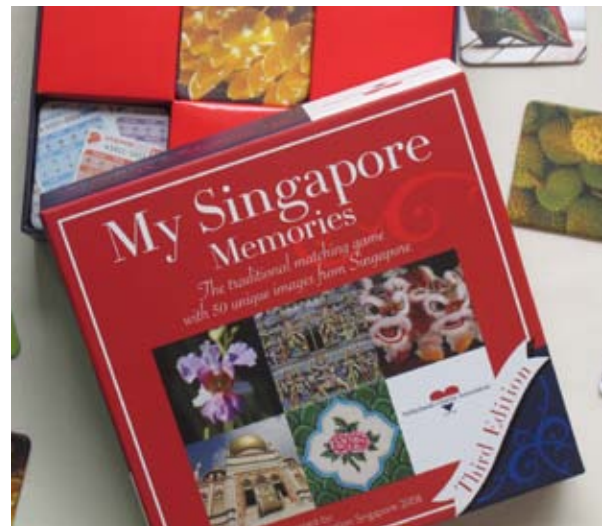
Songbitz @ Holland Village Shopping Centre #03-03

The Tango Mango Bookshop, 163 Tanglin Road in Tanglin Mall

Toy Station @ Serene Centre #02-09

Trippies @ Kampong Glam 42 Bussirah Street

Or send us an email at [info@nca.org.sg](mailto:info@nca.org.sg) for more information.



## Upcoming NCA events

### NCA Annual General Meeting

Date: April 26th, 11.00am – 1.00pm

Place: 23 Ridout Road (Dutch Ambassador's Residence)

### The May Fair

Date: May 13th, 10.00am – 17.00pm

Place: The Hollandse Club

### NCA Garage Sale

Date: May 22nd, 9.00am – 12 noon

Place: The Hollandse Club

### Annual Charity Christmas Fair

Date: November 17th, 10.00am – 17.00pm

Place: The Hollandse Club



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## Garage Sale - volunteers and 2nd hand items needed

If you have any items that you no longer use or need, please donate them to the NCA Annual GARAGE SALE taking place at **the Hollandse Club on Sunday May 22nd, 2011.**

We will be collecting items on the following dates:

At 64 Sime Road on

Monday: 16 May 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Thursday: 19 May 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

And

The Hollandse Club,

22 Camden Park, Rotterdam Room

Saturday: 21 May 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm



If you are able to volunteer:

- on one of the above dates to help an NCA Committee member with the collection and sorting of items as they are dropped off at Sime Road - we would be most grateful.
- on Saturday, May 21st from 4pm-6pm at the Hollandse Club with setting up the tables and putting out all the items for the Garage Sale, then again we would be most grateful.
- on Sunday, May 22nd during the Garage Sale from 9:00 – 12:30 or any time in between, we would be most appreciative.

## MAY FAIR

This year the annual May Fair will be held at the Hollandse Club on Friday, May 13th. Every year the NCA participates with several stands. The proceeds of all our sales go to the local charities we support.

At one stand we sell our greeting cards, Memory Games and now our newest fundraiser the Events Calendar (verjaardagskalendar) featuring a theme of different colourful Asian doors. We also sell many Dutch food products and the pre-order forms for NCA members are already available.

Please pre-order your favourite Dutch foods to avoid disappointment as stocks are limited.



Finally we are proud that our cake stall, a wonderful initiative of Ingrid Muller now for many years, will also be present again at the May Fair. If you can volunteer on either May 12th to set up for the Fair, on May 13th to help out at one of our tables, or to bake something for sale at the cake stall – then please send us an email at: [info@nca.org.sg](mailto:info@nca.org.sg) and we will confirm back with further details.

Thanks in advance for your support!

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## Childrens' hearts in the right place

What began with selling their own toys, ended with selling NCA products to support our local charities.

Five wonderful kids: Lilly (8 yrs), Rosita (8), Mathilda (8), Esteban (6) and Brechje (8) have spent quite a bit of their leisure time doing NCA fundraising of their own free will.

With great enthusiasm and loving spirit they really went for it. At first they started at the gate of their home with a self made shop, selling a garage, old magazines and other toys.

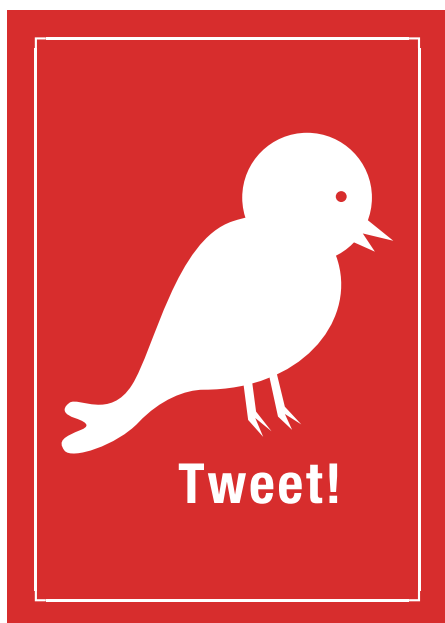
Later they made an external move to the entrance of their local Cold Storage to reach a larger public. Here the children expanded their products with NCA items like hearts and rabbit cards.

All together they raised 59 dollars and 90 cents. The NCA Committee is very touched and grateful for the efforts made by these 5 children.

As you can see Charity can start at any age!



## Paper Tweets ... did you know that...



- ... there is a notebook at the reception desk of the Hollandse Club where you can write down the amount that you leave behind in cash or cheque for the NCA?
- ... the NCA membership year runs from September to September?
- ... we are looking for photos for our new Christmas cards and our general all-occasion cards for 2011?
- ... we are looking for a dry indoor space to store our stock of Memory Games?
- ... we are updating our membership database - so if you have recently changed your contact details or e-mail address please let us know at [info@nca.org.sg](mailto:info@nca.org.sg)?
- ... we are looking for a Crea-Bea to start a new Crea Group to support to the NCA? Please send a mail to [info@nca.org.sg](mailto:info@nca.org.sg) for more info on how you can help and have fun at the same time.

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### H.O.M.E. is where the Heart is!!

An interview with Ms. Bridget Tan and Mr Jolovan Wham at the H.O.M.E. office (one of NCA's Charities) made us feel rather humble. Ms. Tan started H.O.M.E. in 2004 after her retirement. Inspired by her work as a Human Resource Manager she desperately wanted to do something good with her retirement money and her energy. Mr. Wham is Executive Director. Every month about 80-100 female and 60-70 male foreign workers seek and find help at H.O.M.E. (Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics).

These migrants come to Singapore to earn money and support their families in countries like the Philippines, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Recruited by agents they have to pay these agents back their entire salary for the first 8!!! months, as a fee for finding them a job.



With hope of a better future for themselves and their families, the women and men are not always very lucky with their employers. Unfortunately domestic workers are not covered by Singapore's Employment Act. Therefore it is possible that an employer can just let her/him work for too many hours a day, seven days a week. And then there is also the verbal and sometimes physical abuse. The only luck they have then is to find H.O.M.E.!

Ms. Tan tells us about the efforts H.O.M.E. makes to raise awareness for the issue of the foreign workers not being covered by law to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) in Genève. It is good to know that both the Netherlands Embassy and The Hague are supporting H.O.M.E.

A domestic worker tells us her story: "I am from the Philippines and came to Singapore almost 1 year ago to work as a maid. I was working for a boss. Not only did I clean the house, which included looking after many pets (4 dogs, 20 hamsters and an aquarium with very expensive stingrays), but I also helped at the hawker stall and the photo shop, both owned by the family. Most of the time I was working from 5 am till 1.30 am". Can one survive? She did, with help from H.O.M.E., that provides separate shelters for female (max 60) and male (max 30) migrants. Waiting for the MOM (Ministry of Manpower) or the police to investigate their case, they have to stay in Singapore to serve as a witness. These shelters provide protection, food and medical supplies.

After their case is closed the migrants can either return to their home-country, or may try to find a better employer in Singapore, mediated by H.O.M.E.

Women shelter residents are offered courses by United World College like cooking, computer use or dressmaking. Education and enhancement of skills (like IT and English) is an integral part of H.O.M.E.'s service to the migrant community. This gives the participants more self-confidence and also the abilities to find a new job. Volunteers also provide computer and English Language classes to male migrant workers.

Since 2004 H.O.M.E is based on the volunteer work of Ms. Bridget Tan. She has a staff of 1 parttimer and 10 full-timers, like a legal advisor to assist the abused and incriminated migrants and a social work manager. The H.O.M.E. team is supported by 112 volunteers. Apart from financial support, H.O.M.E. is very happy to receive donations of food supplies, cleaning products and products for personal care. Want to know more about H.O.M.E.? Bridget Tan and Jolovan Wham will talk about H.O.M.E. after our AGM on April 26th. You can also visit [www.home.org.sg](http://www.home.org.sg) for more information.

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## Final word from our President

Dear Members,

When we moved to Singapore for the first time in 1998 we quickly found out that this is a very easy place to settle into certainly compared with other countries where we had lived before.

Here we have first class schools and medicare, the Hollandse Club and a very well organised infrastructure. As an expatriate living in Singapore it is easy to forget that even here there are needy people who find it difficult to make ends meet.



When I attended a coffee morning organised by the NCA, of which I became a member, I found out that there were many different local charities looking for help and money for those in need. I joined a group of volunteers going to a children's home weekly with the aim of giving a helping hand to the attendants. The stories behind some of the children living there were really heartbreaking.

We left Singapore in 2001 and when we returned in 2005 the group was still going to the children's home, so I joined them again. Returning there after 4 years I could see that things had changed for the better, more children could attend school and after the children's home moved to a new location all children could go to school and fortunately the assistance of our group wasn't needed anymore.

This was good news but I also sadly noticed that the number of NCA members had decreased dramatically to a mere 35 and that there were even plans to stop the NCA altogether. The remaining members all felt that it was important to continue, as commitments had been made to support students for at least 3 years to come and other charities were counting on us as well. Together we formed a new committee in November 2005 and in the AGM of 2006 I became the President of this committee.

Over the last 5 years we have seen a steady flow of new members, given that we have an ever changing expat base, and at this moment we have 150 members as well as a committee with the drive and creativity to continue raising funds for the less privileged people in Singapore, just as the NCA has been doing for over 43 years. The organisation is truly alive and organises well known fund raising events on a regular basis.

Later this year both my husband and I will be moving back to The Netherlands and I will be leaving the NCA behind once again. Therefore I would like to take this last opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members for their dedication, efforts and friendship. Also, Willy Rijkeboer will be leaving the Committee now after nearly 3 years of service to the NCA, to join her husband in his new position in Australia. Willy thank you for everything that you have done for the NCA and I hope you settle in quickly to your new life in Brisbane.

Over the years I have really enjoyed the friendship and enthusiasm of everyone involved in the NCA and I hope you all will continue to give my successor as well as the entire Committee your same support.

I wish all of you the very best and I will continue to follow the NCA with much interest.

Kindest regards,

Tineke Hiemstra

# Newsletter

Issue March 2011

AIR FRANCE KLM

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