

**Not just the boss, but
colleagues too**

Antisocial behaviour: latest staff survey reveals culprits too. | p.6 |

**First catch
your hare**

Transmitters help Wageningen ecologists keep tabs on hares. | p.20 |

**'We split up during
the engagement'**

What will the university miss when VHL is gone? | p.22 |

RESOURCE [ENG]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 8 – 29 November

7th Volume

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

Living with student debt

'I wish I had spent every Saturday night working behind the bar'


p.12



>> JACK + GUERRILLA GARDENING

Jack Groot, ICT data base manager, Facilities and Services

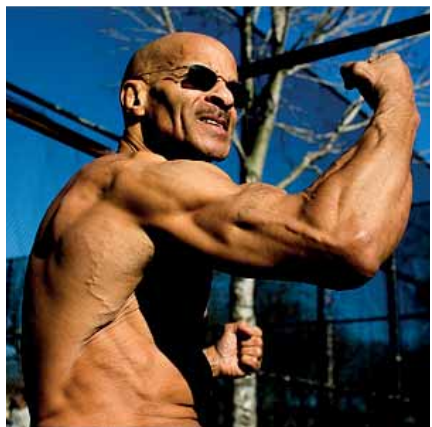
'Trees make me happy'

Some call it guerrilla gardening. Jack Groot calls it wild planting. He plants trees in public spaces. Why? 'The vegetation on the streets of Wageningen leaves much to be desired.' And also as a gesture towards compensating for his wood-fired heating system. 'Anyway, seeing your own trees all over the places makes a difference when you cycle around your neighbourhood.' But is it allowed? 'Well...'  RK / Foto: Guy Ackermans



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Sinterklaas

UNIQUE

Some people think Sinterklaas is unique to Dutch culture. That is not quite true. The Dutch element is that he doesn't arrive here at Christmas on a sleigh, but a few weeks earlier on a boat from Spain.

Not even Zwarte Piet (Black Peter) – a frequent subject of discussions about racism here – is unique. An Indonesian student was surprised to see that Dutch children are not in the least afraid of Zwarte Piet (see back page). In her country, he is a black man armed with a stick who whacks naughty kids and carries them off in a sack. That's how it used to be here too, but Zwarte Piet has metamorphosed into a cheery fellow who hands out spicy cookies called *pepernoten*. What hasn't changed is the ubiquity of Sinterklaas. One Chinese student wanted to see him arrive in Wageningen, but he was arriving at almost exactly the same time in Bennekom. He asked on Facebook, 'What's the final schedule of him in Wageningen and Bennekom?'

Perhaps it is the idea of assistant Sinterklaases that is a truly unique bit of Dutch heritage.

Gaby van Caulil



>> Kids in Indonesia are scared of Zwarte Piet. They think he will punish them | p.32

ONE IN TEN WORKERS EXPERIENCE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- **Antisocial behaviour not dealt with adequately.**
- **Confidence in executive board down again.**

In the past two years, one in ten workers have come up against antisocial behaviour, most often in the form of intimidation. Only a small proportion of the cases were dealt with adequately. This has come out of the 2012 Staff Monitor, a biennial survey of how we see our work and each other. This time intimidation and antisocial behaviour are asked about in more detail: what happened, who did it, and what action was taken?

The most common form of antisocial behaviour was intimidation or putting someone under pressure, which accounted for almost one quarter of cases. Next came failure to do what was promised, snubbing someone and gossiping. Managers and colleagues are the

culprits in equal measure (making up 3 out of 10 cases), and the organization and students are also implicated (3 percent).

Of all the parts of the organization, the ESG got the worst press: 15 percent of its workers have run up against antisocial behaviour. That is more than the overall average by half as much again. Strikingly, at the ESG it is mainly management who indulge in antisocial behaviour: in two thirds of the cases the boss is identified as the culprit.

Equally striking is what is done about most of the cases of intimidation and antisocial behaviour. Only 12 percent of the cases are dealt with properly, in the opinion of the staff concerned; 27 percent of the cases are not dealt with to their satisfaction. The rest have either not been reported or are still pending.

It is also not known what was done about four out of ten of the cases reported in the monitor. Less

than half the victims of antisocial behaviour have confidence that their complaint will be dealt with appropriately.

GOOD ATMOSPHERE

Apart from incidental cases of antisocial behaviour, we are positive about each other, on the whole. Our colleagues are collaborative (according to 90 percent of us), the atmosphere in the department is good (say 85 percent) and we work well together within our own units (75 percent). Collaboration with other parts of Wageningen UR has increased considerably, too.

By contrast, our views of the executive board are extremely critical. Only a quarter of us think the board knows what is going on in the organization. Two years ago, this figure was one third. Less than half of us have confidence in the way the board steers the organization. **© RK**

STUDENT HOUSING CRISIS LOOMS

- **New rent regulations disastrous for Idealis.**
- **‘Wageningen disproportionately hard-hit.’**



If the Dutch cabinet agreement goes ahead as planned, it will mean the end of student housing as we know it in the Netherlands. So says Jan Harkema of Idealis in response to the agreement, which includes the already notorious property tax rule linking the rental of a house to its tax valuation. This will cause the rents for student housing to plummet to such a degree that student housing providers will go under, according to student housing branch organization Kences. The organization also warned that this rule will put paid to plans for building new student accommodation. This prediction seems to be coming true already: Duwo, the biggest student housing provider in the big cities in the west of the country, has already suspended building plans.

Wageningen student housing provider Idealis will also lose ‘millions’ in income through this change to the law, says Harkema. He emphasizes that property in Wageningen has a lower market value than comparable buildings in the big cities. ‘For this reason, Idealis will be disproportionately hard-hit.’ One solution could be to exempt student housing from the new ruling. The lobby for this is already in full wing, Harkema confirms. **© RG**



Marjolein Helder’s ambition is to provide the world with green energy. After her PhD ceremony last Friday, she presented a fun gadget developed by her company, Plant-e. A globe that is turned by energy generated by a living plant. Helder spent four years researching ways of generating energy from living plants, and of upscaling the process for large-scale applications. Her gadget has now attracted the attention of the BBC, CNN and Reuters. The Plant-e Planet will be on sale from 1 December at plant-e.com. **© NM**, photo Helder Media Productions

'MONEY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEGREE CHOICE'

- **Open day for Bachelor's degree even more popular than last year.**
- **Key question: how much does it cost?**

Parents are becoming increasingly involved in their children's choice of degree. That is clear from the large number of mums and dads attending the open day on 17 November (which incidentally attrac-

ted a record number of visitors). Last year already saw a noticeable increase in the number of parents accompanying their offspring to the open day, says marketing officer Hermien Miltenburg, and that trend has continued this year.

The second trend is that parents are now particularly interested in the financial implications of a degree. 'That was quite different a few years back,' says Miltenburg. 'Then it was mostly about supervision and how you could get a

room. Now parents are really worried about the increasing costs of a degree. They want their son or daughter to be happy but they also want to be sure they will be able to recoup the money spent on the degree by getting a good job.'

Miltenburg says that because of the increasing involvement of parents, Wageningen - 'more than other universities' - is mainly targeting parents in the information it provides. 'I give information about degree studies to 3000 parents eve-

ry year. Our own analyses show that about 250 in every 1000 students first considered Wageningen on the advice of their parents. That means parents are a more important factor than websites, deans and presentations in secondary schools.'

Miltenburg is not worried about the number of applicants for Bachelor's degrees given the attendance figures for the open day. 'We are expecting another increase.' **Ⓡ LvdN**

in brief

>> AFTER ALL

Debate on Intensive Agriculture

It has been postponed a couple of times but it seems it is going ahead now after all: the debate on intensive agriculture between students and (amongst others) Aalt Dijkhuizen. In September, Aalt Dijkhuizen argued in *Trouw* newspaper for an intensification of agriculture. This provoked protest: scientists responded in the national press and students demonstrated in the Forum. This debate came out of all that. It will also address the role of the university in the public debate. On Tuesday 11 December 17.00-19.00 in the Forum, with rector Martin Kropff and professors Edith Lammerts van Bueren and Lijbert Brussaard. **Ⓡ ED**

>> MARIANNE THIEME

'Conflict of interests'

There still seems to be a conflict of interests at Wageningen University, animal rights party leader Marianne Thieme claimed in a parliamentary debate about the government agreement. In her view



the university should not therefore come under the ministry of Economic Affairs, but under the ministry of Education, like other universities. Prime Minister Mark Rutte dismissed her suggestion out of hand, however: in his view there is no question of a conflict of interests. He pointed to the valuable direct link between science and practice in the agricultural sector. **Ⓡ ED**

>> LOAN SYSTEM

Scrapping of basis grant postponed

It will be at least seven months before it is clear how the cabinet is going to go about scrapping the basic grant and limiting the supplementary grant. This was revealed in minister Jet Bussemaker's answers to questions in parliament. The cabinet will only table proposed legal changes in the lower house of parliament 'in the second half of 2013', although the new system is supposed to go into effect from September 2014.

If the lower house votes in favour, the question is whether the proposal for a loans system will be put to the upper house. The cabinet does not have a majority in the senate and most members of the opposition are against. There is a fair chance, then, that the introduction of the loans system will be delayed. See also page 12: ex-students on their student debts. **Ⓡ HOP**



SCHAMINÉE <<

Wild animals crossing

It can be hard to explain to people overseas that the Netherlands has an animal rights party with two seats in parliament - especially when I make clear that the concerns of its members go beyond banning hunting and fishing. Nature development is another tricky subject, where I have to resort to words like 'new nature'. In many cases, we are really talking about nature restoration, I add, and this is a concept people are more familiar with. It gets really difficult when I explain that we spend tens of millions in the Netherlands on building viaducts - ecoducts - so that our animals can cross the motorway in safety. Isn't that an awful lot of money, people often ask. But I can explain it. At least, I used to be able to. Now it turns out that not all animals are allowed to cross. Closed circuit cameras at Hulshorst make sure that no more than 10 red deer get to cross the A28. The 11th one faces a firing squad. Wild boar are not welcome everywhere either; nor is there an amnesty for mouflons. Outside the Hoge Veluwe National Park they are categorized as exotics, to be kept at bay. You are better off if you are a slowworm, fox or badger - they have right of way everywhere.

For a moment I thought this was just one big joke, or a motion by the far-right PVV. But no, this is a serious debate. I was inevitably reminded of George Orwell's classic 1945 novel *Animal Farm*: All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others. **Ⓡ Joop Schaminée**

RESEARCH IN CONGO ON BACK BURNER

- Security situation hampers development research.
- 'Important to continue research.'

Now that the town of Goma has been taken by the rebel group M23, the war in the eastern Congo has flared up again. This has consequences for Wageningen research in the region. Professor Thea Hilhorst of Disaster Studies made a brief visit to Bukavu, 100 kilometres south of Goma, last week. She noticed that the army and police there were quite nervous. There was also more than usual criminal activity, such as attacks on a petrol station and a bank. 'People felt less safe.' One day after she left the Congo all foreigners were evacuated from Bukavu.

Hilhorst has seven PhD students in the Congo, five of them Congolese. They are doing research on everyday life for people in conflict areas, and the impact of attempts by aid organizations to improve life for them. In recent months, a survey of families in three Congolese villages already had to be restricted because the situation in two of the three villages



M23 rebel in Goma last week. The rebels were aiming for Bukavu, where Thea Hilhorst was holding a workshop.

was too unsafe. M23 was not the only reason for that. According to Hilhorst, there are several roaming rebel groups in action, which can cause the security situation to change suddenly, as she knows from experience. The sudden rise of the M23 group illustrates the instability of the region. 'In April it was just a small group of a couple

of hundred men, and now they are marching into Goma.'

The conflicts have a direct impact on the progress of the Wageningen research. 'Work safety is the first priority,' says Hilhorst. 'We will go back to the Congo once it is safe for aid organizations. Meanwhile we are managing to carry on with our research through Skype

and emails.' Hilhorst feels it is important to continue doing development research, even in times of conflict. 'Farmers are often more bothered by plant diseases than by rebels. You must go on developing a conflict region, otherwise things just go downhill there.' **AS**

MILLIONS FOR QUEST FOR NEW BACTERIA

- ERC advanced grant for microbiologist Fons Stams

Professor of Microbial Physiology Fons Stams received an ERC Advanced Grant worth 2.5 million euros last week. He spoke to us on Skype from his current location in Braga, Portugal, where he is visiting scientist at Minho University.

You have received one of the biggest science grants going. How does that feel?

'I feel honoured, naturally. And it is a recognition of my vision regarding the need to breed and document new micro-organisms. This has been given less importance in recent years because you can also study bacteria through their DNA.'

So you will be using the money to track down bacteria?

'Exactly. More than 95 percent of naturally occurring micro-organisms have never been isolated. So a lot can be achieved there, because you often find bacteria with characteristics that have never been

documented before. In DNA research many of those characteristics remain undetectable.'

And can this also lead to useful applications?

'Certainly. There is enormous potential for bio- and environmental technology in bacteria. For converting organic waste into useful products, for example. But the main drive for me as a scientist is curiosity to discover what unknown anaerobic bacteria do.'

Does this grant make it easier to go

on being curious?

'Yes, a large sum like this reduces the necessity of doing continuous acquisition to get new projects. The ERC grant creates space in that sense. It will enable me to spend more time in the lab, culturing new anaerobic bacteria myself, and on supervising my colleagues' research. It is a nice prospect to have the chance to pass on my fascination with and knowledge about anaerobic microbiology to you researchers.' **RR**

'NO RISKS TAKEN WITH DERIVATIVES'

- Wageningen rapped over the knuckles because of its financial dealings.
- Low interest rates mean virtual losses.

In a report published in the wake of the Vestia scandal, the education inspectorate concludes that Wageningen is not complying fully with the rules in its use of derivatives. Derivatives are used as a way of insuring against interest rate movements by agreeing a fixed rate with another party. Higher education institutions are allowed to use derivatives only if they are linked to a loan. Otherwise 'you are essentially speculating in interest-rate movements', says the education inspectorate in its report.

Wageningen is one of the three universities that do not entirely sa-

tisfy that condition. The university has derivatives (interest-rate swaps) for 17 million euros but the associated loan is only 15 million euros. In a comment by Simon Vink, the spokesman for the executive board, he confirms that there is indeed no corresponding loan for 'a small portion' of the derivatives. Vink: 'That was a small margin that seemed necessary at the time for the financial planning. It is less than one per cent of the balance-sheet total. Wageningen UR has been very careful about how it uses this instrument and no irresponsible or large risks have been taken.'

CONSEQUENCES

Vink does not want to reveal any of the details as the university is 'cautious about releasing financial information'. In addition to Wageningen, VU University Amsterdam



and Leiden also have a so-called 'open position'. Pieter Omtzigt, the financial specialist for the CDA (Christian Democrats), said on *ScienceGuide* that he felt their financial policies should have consequences: 'What implications with this have for VU, Leiden and Wageningen? You just can't do what they did.'

The inspectorate's report also mentions 'virtual losses' for nearly all the higher education instituti-

ons as a result of their derivative positions. However, the minister is not too worried about that. The reason is that interest rates are unusually low whereas derivatives are used as insurance against high rates. This will not lead to unplanned expenditure as long as the universities 'hold on' to the end of the loan term. The additional losses for the universities are the price they have to pay for more predictable interest charges. **RR**

'GENOMES ARE BECOMING RUN-OF-THE-MILL'

Which media were interested?

'I was on the RTL news on TV and on 'This is the day' on Radio 1 and a science programme on Radio 5. There was also a lot of interest from the specialist journals and regional newspapers but not much from the national papers, strangely.'

Do you know why?

'The science editor at *De Volkskrant* newspaper told me publishing genomes has become run-of-the-mill now that so many are known. But with hindsight he was a little sorry that he hadn't done anything with the news.'

What was the main thing you were able to highlight?

'Most of the journalists were interested primarily in the pig as a model animal for research into human diseases. That is what matters to people.'

I did point out that pigs are an expensive model compared with rats and mice and that we only use them for certain diseases, because I don't want to raise any false expectations. But it is true, though, that we can target our research much more effectively now we have mapped the genome.' **AS**

Who? Martien Groenen, professor holding a personal chair in Animal Breeding & Genetics
What? Explained to the media in detail what we have in common with pigs
Why? Groenen was one of the authors of the article in *Nature* about the pig genome



QUOTE

'I was in Turkey last week and I can tell you: they haven't heard of Harvard there, but they have heard of the University of Wageningen.'

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte during a parliamentary debate about the cabinet agreement (14 November).

KITO Geld Belangrijk Bij keuze studie



Money important factor in degree choice / TAKE TO A LIFE OF CRIME / 'You can demand a tidy ransom for a minister of Education!'

MUSCLES BENEFIT FROM EXTRA PROTEIN

- Extra protein helps build muscles.
- All age groups benefit.

If you eat extra protein as well as training, your muscles will develop faster, a large meta-analysis has shown. This insight should lead to more effective training programmes, especially for the elderly. The joint Wageningen-Maastricht team based their conclusion on a combination and fresh analysis of all the existing data. They published an article in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* at the beginning of November.

It has long been suspected that additional protein is a helpful complement to training, but the many small-scale studies on the subject have never managed to es-

tablish a hard correlation. Putting all the small studies together shows that all the test subjects benefit, whether young or old, fit or unfit. Each group ends up being able to lift more kilos on the fitness apparatus, and having developed greater muscle mass. On average they were given about 50 grams of extra protein per day.

SARCOPENIA

A striking fact is that the participants already ate more than enough protein. They got an average of 1.2 grams of protein per kilo bodyweight per day – well over the recommended level of 0.8 grams. The current norms are enough to maintain health, explains Lisette de Groot, associate professor of Human Nutrition. 'But they might be on the low side for muscle development.' That is why in practice



The elderly benefit from additional protein for muscle development.

sportspeople, especially those in sports demanding strength, eat more protein than the recommended norm.

De Groot herself does not particularly focus on sport, but is looking for solutions to sarcopenia, or the loss of muscular strength and mass due to aging. This weakens elderly people, making them more vulnerable to fractures. PhD student Michael Tieland recently carried out an experiment that showed that a combination of training

and extra protein consumption was more effective than training alone. The current study confirms these findings. This kind of meta-analysis examines all the relevant articles on a particular topic to reach an overall assessment. Researchers Naomi Cermak and Peter Res looked at 3112 experiments, of which 22 turned out to be relevant. These monitored test subjects who trained twice a week for at least six weeks in a row. **RR**

DOUGLAS FIRS THAT CAN COPE WITH DROUGHT

- Not all Douglas firs are good at dealing with climate change.
- Graduation project is awarded thesis prize.

David Douglas brought the fir that was to be named after him from North America to Europe nearly two centuries ago - in 1826 to be exact. It was a hit. Douglas firs account for six per cent of the total area of woodland in the Netherlands. Pascal Sauren, who has just received his degree in Forest and Nature Management, looked at which Douglas firs can cope best with climate change. In other words, which trees will be least affected by more frequent periods of drought, continuing to grow well and produce high-quality timber.

DRENTHÉ

Sauren did his research in Drenthé. In the woods near Schoonoord there is an experimental plot con-



A Douglas fir's origin tells you how it will withstand different climates.

sisting of Douglas firs planted in 1971, from various states along the west coast of America. Sauren studied firs from 18 different places of origin. He measured their growth and looked for relationships with the weather and the cli-

mate. According to Sauren, the Douglas firs generally behave the same here as in North America. 'The trees from the north grow fastest. Those from the southern and central areas grow a bit less quickly but are better able to cope with

drought.' The latter effect is clear from how the trees responded to the extremely dry summer of 2003. 'The trees that grow fastest are hit harder and take longer to recover.'

WINNERS

That gives a couple of clear winners according to Sauren's scale: Douglas firs from Shelton (Washington) and Vernonia (Oregon). But he says that does not mean we should now replace all our Douglas firs immediately. 'The droughts forecast for the Netherlands are not so bad that the firs would not be able to survive. But it may be different in other parts of Europe. Also, you don't know what the forestry managers want: high levels of timber production, or woods that can cope with climate change.' Sauren's study won the Toekomstboom 2012 thesis prize, awarded by the Toekomstboom foundation and the Dutch and Flemish forestry associations KNBV and BOS+. He received 750 euros and a trophy. **RR**

RESEARCH INTO PIG GENOME OFFERS WEALTH OF INFORMATION

- *Nature* to be followed by dozens of other scientific articles.
- Comparison of pig genes reveals process of domestication.

How has the pig genome changed through the centuries as a result of domestication and selection? That was the key question for Martien Groenen when deciphering the pig genome, the results of which were published in *Nature* in mid-November. This is why the international Swine Genome Sequencing Consortium, in which he plays a leading role, has not only mapped the basic pig genome but has also analysed dozens of genomes for wild boar and domesticated pigs.

As a result, the researchers now have a mass of genetic data on pigs. The most striking findings will shortly be clarified in a series of around 20 scientific papers.

For example, the consortium discovered that pigs have more receptors for smelling chemical compounds than humans and other farm animals. That is only to be expected, says Groenen, because wild pigs root around for their food in the ground and they need their sense of smell to do that. On the other hand, pigs have fewer genes than humans for determining food's taste. Groenen thinks this would have been an

advantage in the domestication of pigs because over the centuries these omnivores have usually been fed with what has been discarded by humans.

PIGS BECAME LONGER

Working with Swedish and Danish researchers, Groenen found that one difference between wild boar and pigs as farm animals is that the body length of pigs is longer than that of their undomesticated forebears. The comparison of the genomes of wild boar and farm pigs showed that the process of domestication involved the selection of pigs with one or two more vertebrae. Groenen worked this out by comparing 50 pig genomes, each with 21,640 genes and 2.8 billion base pairs.

The idea is that this genetic data will also provide practical information for pig breeding in the years to come. The focus will be on complex characteristics that are controlled by a network of genes. For instance, Groenen hopes to find the genes that strengthen a pig's immune system, protecting it from harmful viruses, in the search for robust breeds of pig that need less medication. Furthermore, the breeding company TOPIGS is already looking for the genes that cause boar taint in an effort to ensure the quality of meat from uncastrated boars. **AS**



FOTO: MARTIN GROENEN

Gene study shows that domesticated pigs have longer bodies than wild boar.

VISION <<

'Concentrate agricultural nature conservation'

Since 1960 the Netherlands has seen three-quarters of the breeding population of its farmland birds disappear. The skylark population has shrunk by no less than 96 percent, reveals the recently published *State of the Birds in the Netherlands 2012 (Vogelbalans 2012)*. The figures come as no surprise to Professor of Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Frank Berendse.

'Ten years ago I reported on the deterioration of our farmlands. Skylark numbers had already fallen by 85 percent. This deterioration has continued at a rapid rate. I am struck by the fact that the number of lapwings is falling rapidly too. Until now, this was one of the species that was managing to maintain a fairly stable population.'

Intensive farming is the culprit. So doesn't agricultural nature conservation help?

'No. Agricultural nature conservation is far from able to compensate for the effects of intensive farming. We demonstrated that incontrovertibly, and published our findings, years ago. In itself, mowing later in the year, the main element of agricultural nature conservation, is a good thing because it reduces the number of chick deaths. But we now know this is absolutely inadequate. That surviving chick will need to get enough food. And that means varied, sparse vegetation is needed. But mowing heavily fertilized, drained plots of land later produces dense, dark-green overgrowth. This is impenetrable for chicks. Meadow birds benefit from a high groundwater level and scant use of fertilizer. These are precisely the things that agricultural nature conservation typically does not address.'

Is there nothing we can do?

'On the contrary. We have to invest the money earmarked for agricultural nature conservation chiefly in large areas that offer a strong chance of success, preferably areas adjoining existing reserves for meadow or farmland birds. Areas where results can be achieved, where the groundwater level can be raised, where much less fertilizer is used and no herbicides and pesticides. This will give the birds a boost. I'm a member of the Nature and Landscape committee of the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure. Soon we will be advising the cabinet about the new nature policy. Our advice will certainly include this issue.' **RK**

PROPOSITION

'Human beings that become aware of the power of thoughts to modify the biology of their body will reduce visits to a physician considerably'

María Daniela Chavez, who received her PhD on 26 November in Wageningen

PRICING THE PRICELESS

• **How much is a coral reef worth? You can look it up in Dolf de Groot's new database for ecosystem services.**

Ecosystems do useful things for human beings. They provide food, for example, or oxygen, possibly in combination with the delightful experience of a country walk. All these different functions come under the category of ecosystem services. And all of them have a value. An international team led by Dolf de Groot (Environmental Systems Analysis) put them into a clear database which expresses the value of the services in hard currency. Coral reef, the natural world's most valuable 'asset' comes out at 352,915 dollars per hectare, says De Groot. That is 123 times the value of an area of grassland – the least valuable type of land – of the same size. But whatever you do, don't call the database (see www.es-partnership.org) a catalogue. The word price tag doesn't go down very well either.

What is wrong with a price tag on ecosystem services?

'Words such as "price tag" and "costs" suggest that the item in question is replaceable. But what we are talking about here is something else entirely: determining the value of nature from a conservation point of view. We try precisely to prevent nature from disappearing and being sold out. The ESVD is a database and not a catalogue. The aim is to be able to weigh things up more effectively in decision-making processes. We ascribe values to nature-based services which are not normally given any value at all. The objective is to make their value explicit.'

How do you calculate the value of a coral reef?

'The underlying question is: how do you make the importance



In dollar terms, coral reefs are the most valuable natural asset in the world.

of a coral reef to society explicit? The economic value is part of that, alongside the ecological value and the socio-cultural value – the emotional and moral meaning people attribute to nature. The problem is that only a quarter of the economic value of ecosystem services is expressed in monetary terms; the market price or the trading value of food and wood, for example. For the rest – such things as water or air purification – there is no immediate price tag. So you have to look at shadow prices: exchange value, for instance, or the losses you avoid thanks to ecosystem services. The database is the result of a meta-analysis of 320 publications on these sorts of pricing methods.'

Cultural services such as 'a spiritual experience' and 'inspiration' are rarely made explicit. The same goes for emotional value. Why is that?

'Expressing cultural services in money terms meets with a lot of resistance. And it is difficult to express that in money terms. Perhaps you shouldn't aim at that.

What is a tree worth if it happens to be a sacred tree? Or a tree you look out on from your house? In principle, nature is priceless, and critics often use that as an argument against putting a value on ecosystem services. I agree with that, basically. But not many people make sound choices based on that ethical argument. The concept of ecosystem services makes the services nature provides explicit. The awareness-raising argument is very important.'

Fifteen years ago you published an article in Nature about the monetary value of ecosystem services, which was much cited (more than 5500 times!) Coral reefs were not as valuable then. How come?

'Coral reefs have become scarcer. Their recreational value has gone up. In the calculations done then, eight ecosystem services were included; this time there were twelve. There is also much more awareness about ecosystem services nowadays. I am just working on an article in which we compare that study with the

current one. I'll give away one figure to Resource. At that time, the total value of all ecosystems was 47 quintillion (one billion billion), converted into today's prices. Our calculations show that their value is now 150 quintillion. Three times as much.'

Where do all these calculations get you?

'The ultimate goal is a sustainable world. We shall only achieve that if we are honest about the real costs of the loss of nature. We are moving slowly in the right direction. Nature that is lost to construction activities has to be compensated for nowadays. Carbon storage is something people looked askance at 20 years ago. Now we have programmes such as REDD, in which these kinds of calculation play an important role. These days every supermarket has a considerable range of organic and fair trade products. Awareness of the value of ecosystem services is starting to take root. But unfortunately it is going very slowly.' **Roelof Kleis**

>> RESOURCE.WUR.NL

So much ground has been covered by discussions in recent weeks: **costly student homes** and criminalizing **illegal immigrants**. Feelings ran high on the subject of **ritual slaughter**. Why not join the discussion and compete for a couple more weeks for the **Golden Troll** for the best respondent?

Got something to say too? Email your views to resource@wur.nl

Comments

Nice story, thank you! You don't really need a reason to bring a cake. Just say you wanted to bring the next...

Hello Abraham Wang, my name is Mark van Passel from Systems and Synthetic Biology, and you can contact me for more...

This seems like a bit of a detour.

1. The plastic made from the...

DISCUSSED WITHOUT ANAESTHETIC

Bert Lambooi spent 30 years studying the options for animal-friendly slaughter. In complete anonymity. This past year, thanks to his research on ritual slaughter, he landed at the epicentre of a public debate and was banned from saying anything. In the last issue of *Resource* he spoke out.

As expected, the interview prompted strong reactions – emotional as well as substantive. ‘How much stress is caused by the transport to a slaughterhouse and waiting there?’ wonders **Wim Schoonhoven**. ‘I am and remain violently opposed to anaesthetized ritual slaughter,’ says **Jan Tazelaar**, ‘but Schoonhoven certainly has a point if he is keen for the transport to the slaughterhouse to be taken into consideration.’ The main source of **JH**’s anger is the way Lambooi has been treated: ‘Just because a bunch of religious fanatics are quick to take offence, anyone wishing to say something they don’t want to hear has to be gagged.’ This unleashes a torrent of strong reactions larded with CAPITAL LETTERS. The view of many respondents is that it is simply *never* permissible to kill animals. Case closed. Ah well, we are pleased that everyone managed to remain polite despite their emotions. Although we would recommend that one or two get some aftercare. From a Dutch language teacher, that is.

SHOULD ILLEGAL RESIDENCY BE CRIMINALIZED?

Should being in the Netherlands without a residence permit be made a criminal offence? The answer is right there in the word ‘illegal’, argued Jillis in the last Resource. Marlies’s main objection is that it is counterproductive.

Tim agrees with Marlies. He thinks the stranglehold of bureaucracy often pushes illegal immigrants into a hopeless situation. ‘What’s more, I wonder whether criminalizing illegal residence actually works as a deter-

rent. Most refugees have left everything behind. So a refugee is not coming here for the fun of it, but first and foremost to survive.’ **JH** does not agree: ‘Many refugees in the Netherlands are economic refugees.’ For the most part, **FL** takes **JH**’s side again. Many economic refugees come to the West. But there’s no need to be so difficult about it. The Netherlands should allow in whoever is needed in the job market. In **FL**’s opinion, the criminal nature of illegal residence is ‘a fallacy put about by government to mask its own failings. Just don’t give refugees who have exhausted all the legal channels the opportunity to flee into the illegal circuit!’

LOW RENT NOT IDEAL(IS)

Alarm among student accommodation providers. The cabinet wants to link rents to the value of houses. Possible outcome: plummeting rents and a gigantic hole in Idealis’s budget, the hardest hit association.

The respondents don’t seem to have much sympathy for Idealis. ‘I’ve been wondering for a while now why student rooms are relatively so much more expensive than other rental properties in the social sector,’ says **Jeroen**, getting the ball rolling. ‘It is good that these rents have to come down now.’ **JH** wonders whether the measure really hits Idealis so very hard. And how can the university stay so calm when it owns so many rooms itself?

JH is sceptical about Idealis’s money problems. He has seen just a little too much money squandered on ‘unnecessary projects’. Furthermore, **JH** is amazed that accommodation providers plan to lobby. If it is all as urgent as they say, why not start legal proceedings right away? Meanwhile, **BLP student** already has dollar signs in his eyes: ‘I wonder what the new rent will be where I live at Binnenveld, the container complex. I can’t imagine it has a very high market value.’



ILLUSTRATIE: ESTHER BROUWER

colophon

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Address

Akkermaalsbos 12, 6708 WB Wageningen (Actio, Building 116, bode 31). POBox 409, 6700 AK Wageningen. Secretariat: Thea Kuijpers, resource@wur.nl. T 0317 484020 Website: resource.wur.nl. ISSN 1389-7756

Editorial staff

- Gaby van Caulil (editor-in-chief) gaby.vancaulil@wur.nl, T 0317 482997
- Rob Goossens (editor) rob.goossens@wur.nl, T 0317 485320
- Roelof Kleis (ecology, social sciences, economy), roelof.kleis@wur.nl, T 0317 481723
- Nicolette Meerstadt (web editor) nicolette.meerstadt@wur.nl, 0317 488190
- Linda van der Nat (students, education, VHL), linda.vandernat@wur.nl, 0317 481725
- Rob Ramaker (nutrition, fisheries), rob.ramaker@wur.nl, T 0317 481709
- Albert Sikkema (plant sciences, animal sciences, organization) albert.sikkema@wur.nl, T 0317 481724

Layout

- Hans Weggen, hans.weggen@wur.nl, T 0317 485272; basic design of magazine: Nies & Partners bno Nijmegen

Freelance journalists

Alexandra Branderhorst, Jeroen Bok, Stijn van Gils, Simone Herrewijn, ir. Yvonne de Hilster, Emma Holmes, Vita Hommersen, Milou van der Horst, Sander de Kraker, Karin de Mik, ir. Rik Nijland, Suzanne Overbeek, Pan Deli, ir. Astrid Smit, ir. Joris Tielens, Hoger Onderwijs Persbureau

Translators

Clare McGregor, Keen-Mun Poon, Clare Wilkinson, Susie Day

Photography

Guy Ackermans, Manon Bruininga, Bart de Gouw, Sjoerd Sijsma, Emma Teuling, Hoge Noorden

Illustrations

Esther Brouwer, Miesjel van Gerwen, Guido de Groot, Yvonne Kroese, Henk van Ruitenbeek

Editorial board

ir. Martijn de Groot (voorzitter); ir. Ad Bot, ir. Marianne Heselmans, ir. Marco Hoffman, dr. ir. Patrick Jansen, Suzanne Jansze. redactieraad.resource@wur.nl

Advertising

External: Bureau van Vliet, T 023-5714745, m.dewit@bureauvanvliet.com
Internal (reduced rate): Hans Weggen, T 0317-485272, hans.weggen@wur.nl

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Student debts



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

'I get unemployment benefit of 800 euros a month, and 180 euros of that goes to DUO.'

Irene Verbeek

Degree: Forest and Nature Management, 2001-2007

Extracurricular activities: WSKOV committee

Work: Unemployed

Debt: €34,000

Repayments: Currently €180 per month

I had really bad luck during my degree: Pfeiffer's disease, RSI and two concussions. That led to me getting behind and left me with three times as much debt as I would have had otherwise. My student debt does feel like a big burden and I want to get rid of it as soon as possible. Everything left over goes on paying it off. I've repaid nearly

10,000 euros since 2009. It was going really well at about 300 euros a month, but it's less now.

I had difficulty finding a job at first with my degree. I was able to join Mars working in the lab. Not really my thing but I was pleased with the work. Then I found a really nice job in my discipline but they didn't renew my contract because of the cutbacks. Both my employer and I thought it was a pity, but there you go - that's the crisis for you.

In January I had a baby girl and I've been stuck at home since my maternity leave. It's annoying but at least I'm not the only one. Any job vacancy gets hundreds of responses so it's difficult to find something. I get unemployment benefit of 800 euros a month, and 180 euros of that goes on repayments. I would be allowed to pay less if I told DUO (the Education Executive Agency) about the drop in income but I haven't done that on purpose because I want to pay it off while I still can. I'm not married so my boyfriend and I have separate

incomes. He's now on invalidity benefit so that's another thing we have to cope with. Otherwise I'd have to make repayments on the basis of our joint income.

There are definitely things I don't do because of my debt. We'd like to emigrate to a different country that's less crowded but you need a financial buffer to do that. I've also considered starting my own business but I don't dare because of my debt. I'd really like a guaranteed income. I'm less likely to take a big step as long as I've got that debt. It all sounds pretty dramatic but I've got a good life. I'm delighted with our daughter, for instance. And we plan to get married next year.'

Is running up a student debt such a bad thing? The abolition of the basic grant means future students will have debts about twice as high (at 30,000 euros) as those of current students. With interest charges as well. Politicians sugar-coat it by calling it a ‘social loan system’ because the monthly repayments are based on your income and there is the possibility of cancellation after 20 years, but it is still a lot of money. Is student debt really as easy to bear as they claim? Four Wageningen alumni give their personal account of dealing with student debt in practice.

text: Nicolette Meerstadt

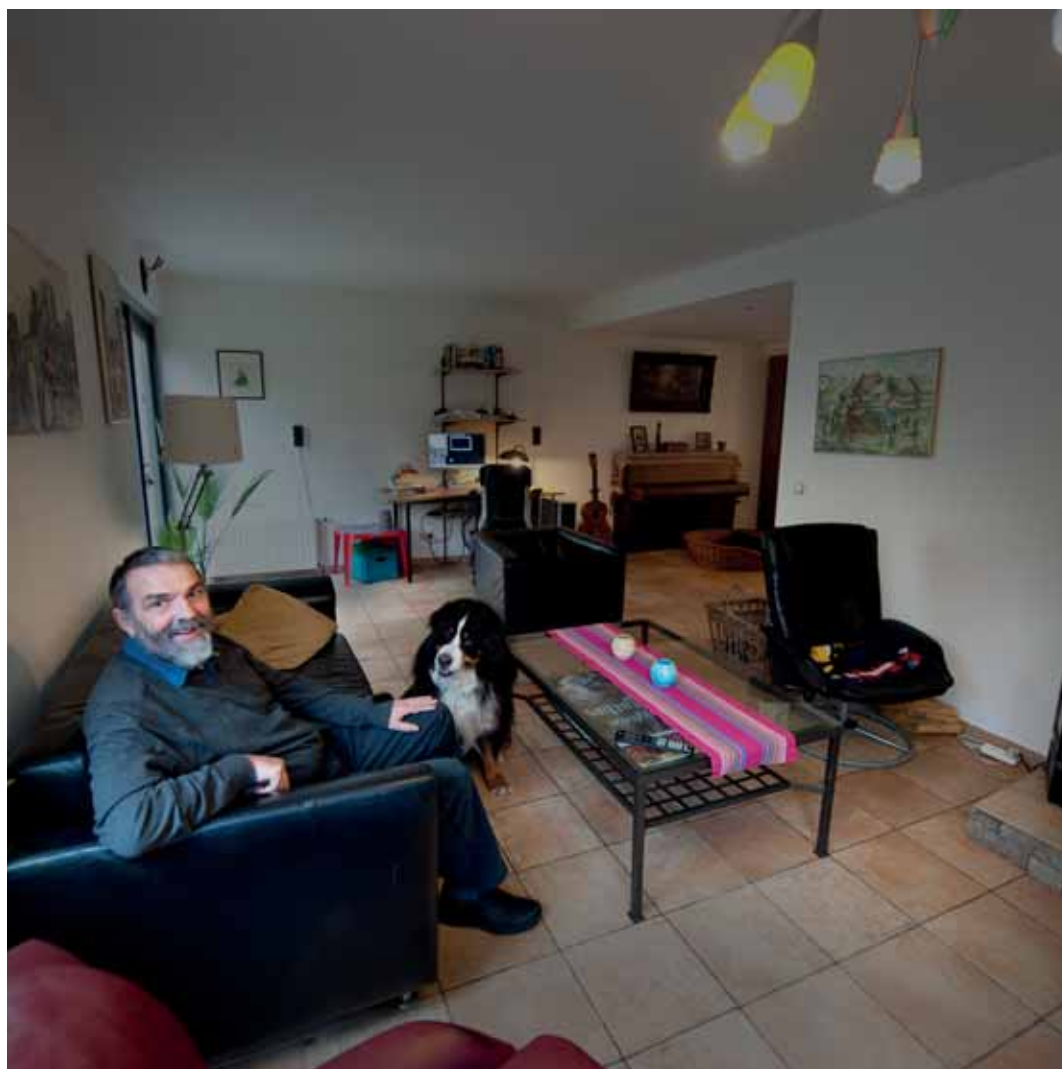


PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

‘I have four children so you always need money but I can’t recall ever having to do without something.’

ples didn’t have that problem. As a result I had a big loan but I never found that a problem. I got the money and I enjoyed the benefits. You can’t then complain about having to make repayments.

In 1981 I got my first job, which took us abroad. When we came back from Jordan in 1985, the Netherlands was in a deep crisis with unemployment at more than 10 per cent. There was nothing at all for biologists. In the end I retrained in IT and went to work for Wageningen UR.

The repayments were not a problem. I didn’t have to pay anything off in the first few years. After that they did a means test and the repayment amount was based on that. The monthly repayments became proportionately smaller

once I started to earn more. I have four children so you always need money but I can’t recall ever having to do without something.

The big difference with today’s students is that I didn’t have to pay interest. That makes a huge difference because now interest starts to accumulate from day one so you have to pay back a lot more. I made my final repayment in June 2000. I had to look that up because I couldn’t remember the occasion. No, I didn’t celebrate.’

Wim van Wissen

Degree: Biology. BSc at VU University Amsterdam and MSc at Wageningen, 1975-1980

Work: Human Resources, Wageningen UR

Debt: 45,000 guilders/20,400 euros

Repayments: 350 guilders/158 euros per month

I married early and my wife was working then, which meant I got a smaller grant and had to take out a loan. I thought it was quite unfair because unmarried cou-

Student debts

Janmar Katoele

Degree: Livestock Farming, 1998-2005

Extracurricular activities: Livestock Farming study association committee, KSV debating society, De Bongerd committees

Work: Own company, advising on grants

Debt: €15,000

Repayments: €100 per month

I'm pleased I did all my extracurricular activities as they are a real plus point. A law student from Groningen is just one among many, but Wageningen students are unique because they can choose so many individual courses. So your degree is important and on top of that I had my committee work. That really helped me stand out from the crowd when I was applying for jobs. I'm pleased I put time into that, which means the loan is more than worth it

I have been making repayments since January 2008,

about 100 euros a month. And if I can't keep that up, I can put the loan on hold for a couple of years. I don't notice it because it's done by a standing order. Well, this interview has reminded me about it...

It hasn't had any direct effect on the decisions I have taken in my life. I did review my finances when I started up my own business. I noticed then that I had learned how to manage my finances properly even during my degree. I always made sure I could still buy a beer in the pub on the 19th of the month.

The alternative to a student debt is not to go to university at all. And where do you end up then? I think a degree is still the better option. It's one of the most valuable investments you can make. The government still makes a major contribution to your university education. It's better to take out a loan for your degree than for a car. I wouldn't mind even if my debt was twice as high.

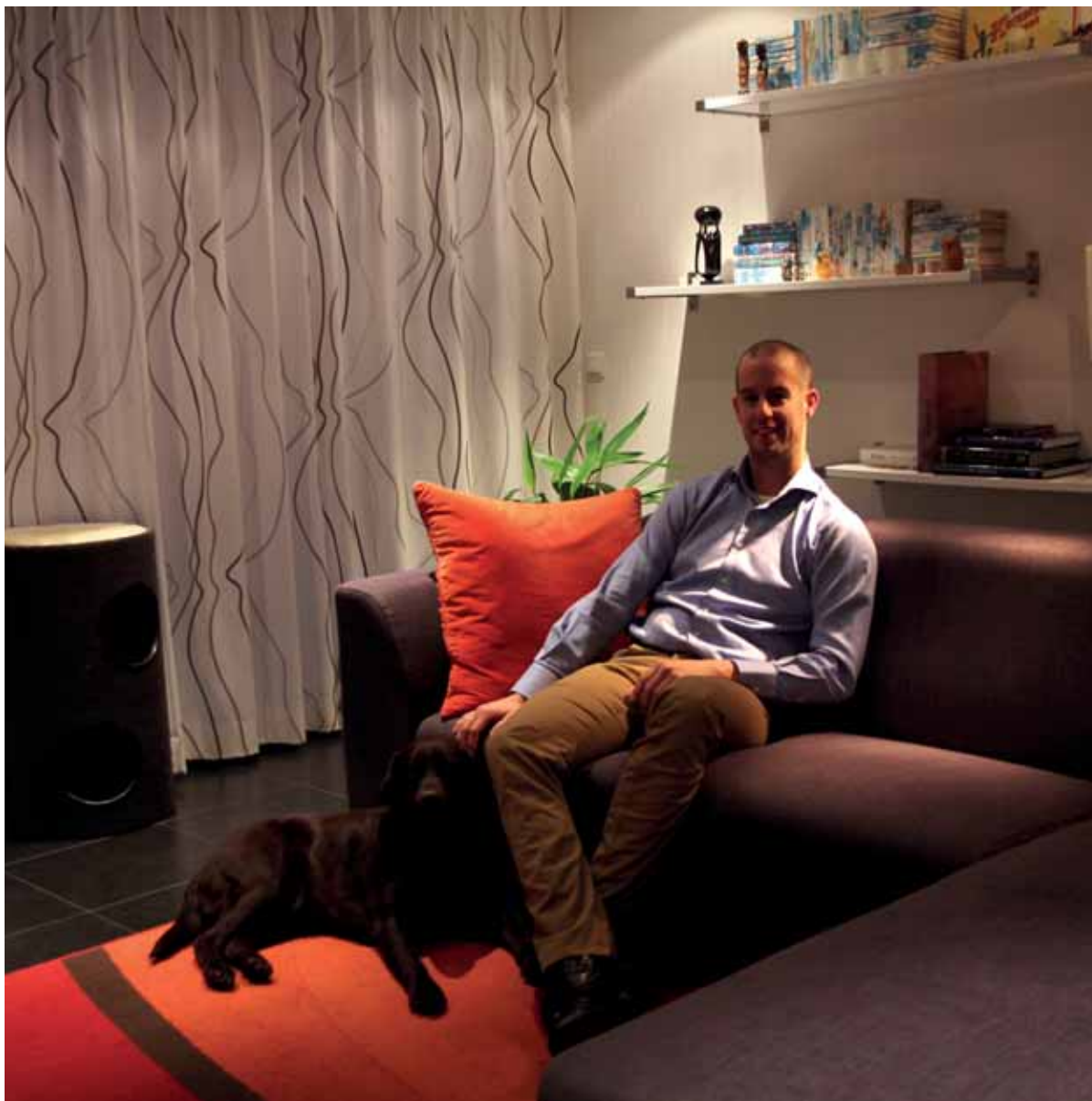


PHOTO: JOSELIEN EIJKELENBOOM

'You should be pleased you are allowed and able to go to university. It's an investment that will be well worth it in the future.'



PHOTO: MICHEL MEES

'I'm kicking myself for not spending every Saturday behind the bar in a pub to get some extra cash during my degree.'

Janne Mulders

Degree: BSc in Organic Agriculture, MSc in Applied Communication Science, 2002-2010

Extracurricular activities: Stel study association committee, prospective student days, degree thesis committee

Work: Sector association for dietary supplements

Debt: 'I'd rather not say'

Repayments: €300 per month

I share a quaint fisherman's cottage in Scheveningen with my boyfriend. We're renting through the private sector so it's not cheap. We went to a property fair yesterday because we'd like to get on the property ladder but that's just not possible. He has a debt as well, less than mine, but they give that a lot of weight in mortgage calculations. They assume monthly repayments of 1.5 per cent of your debt when determining your mortgage. Which is unfair but those are the rules at the moment.

My overheads have shot up since I started working. My parents used to pay my health insurance when I was at university; now I pay that myself. I still have a car but I'll probably have to get rid of it. I get a public transport pass from my employer. I haven't become any better off since I got my degree. I have just as much to spend every month.

In my previous job I earned 500 euros a month more; the drop in salary took a bit of getting used to. But I'm not really worried - I reckon Wageningen students always land on their feet. I do see the debt as a burden but it's not unbearable.

I'm kicking myself for not spending every Saturday behind the bar in a pub to get some extra cash during my degree. I always treated the weekend as a proper weekend, time to relax. But when I look back now I wonder why I needed relax! The whole week was really one long weekend. That's the thing with loans; it's so easy to borrow money but the consequences are not so nice. If you have a part-time job at university, you appreciate the value of money more. Then you automatically live more frugally.

I did spend a long time in higher education. It took me a while to learn how to study. I started in vocational secondary education, went to an applied sciences university and ended up at Wageningen University. To begin with, I got a lot of poor marks and I was always getting behind. I only gradually got up steam. But I'm not complaining. I had a great time. I wouldn't have wanted to miss my stay in Italy, where I did an internship at the gastronomic university. And all that networking and committee work has been very useful and valuable for my current job.' **Ⓜ**

Wallflowers





The occupants of some student houses have let their imaginations run riot on their walls. Whether a wall painting serves as the backdrop for a house party, represents longing for your home country or portrays your degree subject, it always gives your student house something special and unique. 'Every time I walk through the door I think: I did that.'

text: Jeroen Bok / **photos:** Guy Ackermans

'A QUESTION OF COLOURING IN' T-Rex meets captain Kirk - Nick

'It is a tradition in our student house - a former croquette factory - to organize a big party once a year. We have 32 occupants, which makes us the biggest student house in Wageningen - so plenty of room for a party. Each year, we redecorate two of the kitchens in our house to fit in with the party's theme. That is always a really nice part of the event for us, firstly because we get a lot of fun doing the painting but also because it adds something to the evening. And then you still have an entire year in which to enjoy it.

We start by thinking up a theme. That's the key because you can't paint without a theme. You also need to keep in mind that we have two kitchens to decorate. So you can do something with contrasting images, or alternatively matching images.

This year, after a lengthy selection process, the chosen theme was "If only I had a time machine". We depicted the past in one kitchen with paintings of dinosaurs, cavemen and a Dutch East Indies Company ship. You leave that picture of bygone days in one kitchen and walk straight into the future in the next kitchen: a futuristic city with the Starship Enterprise from Star Trek on the wall. We also took the music styles into account: the DJ in the kitchen of the past will play older records and mainstream modern music while the DJ in the kitchen of the future will mainly play house and dubstep.

We used a video projector to create the wall paintings. That was a real help. You project the images onto the wall, pencil them in, retrace the lines with a felt tip and then it's basically a question of colouring in. Useful for someone like me who can't just paint a mammoth or whatever from scratch.

This year is particularly special as we are being sponsored - by Flügel. We sent Flügel an e-mail and they called me back the very next day. Two reps came along in posh black cars, dressed in suits. We are getting forty crates of Flügel bottles and a variety of gadgets from them for the party. No, you won't find Flügel in the wall paintings: we like to keep art and commerce strictly separate.



‘A MONTH SURROUNDED BY PAINTING EQUIPMENT’

Willemstad – Chandni

‘We had an old wall painting of Disney figures but we had got bored with that. Last summer we had a long debate about what we should have on the wall. In the end my housemate came up with the idea of painting the multi-coloured wooden houses around Willemstad harbour. Of course I thought that was a great plan given that I actually come from Curaçao.

That’s how my big painting project started. I got going with the Olympic Games on the TV in the background. My housemate gave me support by bringing me occasional cups of tea. I found a picture on the Internet and sketched that on the wall - just freehand. I didn’t get all the lines properly straight, so I downloaded a special spirit-level app for that. My housemates did have to put up with a lot:

we spent at least a month surrounded by brushes, paint tins and plastic sheeting.

I am proud of it, really proud. Every time I walk through the door I think: I did that. I also took a photo of it and showed it to my family back home - my dad, mum and kid brother. It took my mum several days to realize that the painting was on a wall, not on canvas.

I have to admit that the colours are not entirely correct. I never thought it would be so difficult to mix purple. I assumed it would just be a question of adding red to blue, but that gives you a kind of aubergine colour. Whatever, a wall like that gives you a real tropical feeling. We have now made a house agreement that one day we are all going to visit Curaçao.’




‘YOU HAVE TO GET IT RIGHT’

Biologically correct - Erik-Jan

‘There are five people in our house and they are all biologists. That’s quite unusual but there is a reason for this. This used to be the office of SFO, the Idealis tenants association. When they moved out they looked for five students to be the new occupants of the premises, and they ended up with our group.’

All the walls were white when we moved in. That gave real potential for turning them into something unique to us. I was the one who began on the wall in the living room. My housemates decided that I should paint a fuchsia-pink tree. I started with green grass and blue skies. Then I added the tree with pink flowers. I used a bird guide to add various birds to the painting, bit by bit: a tawny owl, a nuthatch, a great tit, a buzzard, swifts, a swallow, a stork.

If you look carefully, you can see a bittern among the reeds.

I used the flora guide for the plants. I checked that to see which species would be found in combination. That might be a bit nerdy but you have to get it right in a house full of biologists. I ended up with marsh plants: reed mace, reed, marsh marigold, yellow flag, snake’s head, and great bindweed. The only thing that isn’t biologically correct is the tree. Even if it did exist, it would be an exotic import.’ 

First catch your hare

There are ten hares on Schiermonnikoog island off the north coast of the Netherlands with a transmitter around their necks. Not for fun but for the good of science. The animals are part of a study by VHL teacher and PhD student Martijn Weterings. Not one to 'seek a hare in a hen's nest', he knew where to look...

text: Roelof Kleis / **photos:** Marcel van Kammen

The Dutch language is full of expressions and proverbs referring to hares. So my fellow editors had a wordplay ball with when I announced I was going after hares on Schiermonnikoog. Turns out the English language is not short of hare idioms either. The story of a far from hare-brained PhD research project with a peppering of English sayings.

FIRST CATCH YOUR HARE

'First catch your hare': thought to have been the first line in an old recipe for hare stew; used to mean 'first things first', often if someone is planning ahead without having taken the first step.

The hares of the Netherlands are not thriving. In fact, their numbers are shrinking steadily. The question is why. 'We think their decline has something to do with the landscape,' explains co-promoter Sip van Wieren (Resource Ecology). 'Intensive agriculture has changed the landscape a lot, making it more large-scale and uniform. It is also much more homogeneous in terms of the food supply it offers. We think that hares in these homogeneous areas fall prey to predators more easily. They have to run longer and faster to get to safety. And running takes a lot of energy, which is to the detriment of reproduction. This

reduces the sense of safety, leading to stress. Stress burns up energy and affects immunity. Chronic stress can end up being fatal to the hare.'

'Predators have an impact on how hares move around in a landscape,' adds Weterings. 'Hares move around differently in a homogeneous landscape than in a heterogeneous one. They can't just dive into a corner to hide. My guess is that predation has a bigger negative impact in a homogeneous landscape. Perhaps they even start avoiding open areas because of the presence of predators. In my research I want to identify the mechanisms underlying the decline of the hare.' Weterings is doing that by literally first catching his hares. And fitting them out with transmitters.

HARING AROUND

'To hare off/ away/ around': to rush off, speed away.

Armed with nets, an army of fifteen volunteers (mainly Wildlife Management students from VHL Leeuwarden) set off in pursuit of the hares of Schiermonnikoog. They cornered them between poles 13 and 14, where they advanced in formation and chased them into nets. Every time a hare went haring into the net there was a piercing cry like that of a very angry baby. 'I had never heard them scream like that,' says Van Wieren. 'You don't normally

Fifteen volunteers advance in formation to catch their hares (left). Attaching a transmitter is quite a job at first (centre). Ten hares fitted with transmitters are free again for a while on Schiermonnikoog (right).



get to hear that. But they are scared and stressed. Angry too, maybe.' The hares do not give up easily. Tying on the transmitter is quite a job. Two people have to hold the animal down while Weterings attaches the transmitter. In deep concentration. It is a new experience for him too. To make sure it is all done properly he has brought hare expert Marco Zaccaroni in from Italy. After two days of haring around Schiermonnikoog, 14 hares have been caught and 10 of them now sport a transmitter. Weterings is very happy with the score.

WITH THE HARE OR THE HOUNDS?

'To run with the hare and with the hounds' is to try to keep on good terms with both sides in a conflict.


Also in the field on the island is Rob Steenmans, who keeps an eye on animal welfare in animals used in Wageningen University experiments and advises the Animal Experiments Committee (DEC). He is critical of what he sees. 'When this test was registered there was talk of minimal distress but in the ethical monitoring done by the DEC there was a suspicion that the distress could be a bit more than that. I am here to get a clear impression of the level of distress. I might also be able to make some suggestions for fine-tuning the experiment.' After one day of catching hares he has already changed his view on the study. 'I now gauge the distress to be moderate or even higher than that. After capture, the hares are kept in a crate for a couple of hours and only after they have all been caught are the collars put on them. The hares have a big stress reaction to this. What is more, they are rounded up by a dog on a long lead to simulate a predator.' Steenmans is clearly on the hare's side. But another issue comes up at the end of the process. Co-promoter Van Wieren is in favour of shooting the hares at the end of the experiment

to retrieve all the expensive transmitters ('1500 euros apiece'). Because it won't be easy to catch all the hares again. That much is clear after this weekend. Perhaps you can't run with the hare and with the researchers.

LET THE HARE SIT

'Let the hare sit': a traditional idiom meaning 'have patience', 'wait and see'.

To find out how hares react to predators you need to have a predator to hand. In Weterings' experiment, that is Diva, a Labrador. In the next month, Weterings will walk through the area with Diva on a lead for a couple of hours every day for 12 days. There will then be five days' break, followed by another spate of walks. 'You are scaring them stiff, really,' says Van Wierien. And the transmitters (equipped with a GPS and speedometer) record exactly how the hares react to this treatment. Weterings can then read the data on a special receiver. This works as long as you are at less than 400 metres distance from the hare. 'An incredible luxury,' says Van Wieren. 'You used to have to stand at 25 metres' distance. And of course you can never get that close to a hare.'

This part of Schiermonnikoog is a practically perfect research area, explains Weterings. 'Hardly anyone comes here and apart from a few birds of prey there are virtually no natural enemies.' In this area, Weterings compares the behavior of hares on a (homogeneous) mudflat to that of others in a (heterogeneous) dune area. At a future stage of this study, hares will be monitored in a similar way on the mainland, where there are predators such as foxes and polecats. Weterings: 'That way I can compare areas with and without true predators.' But he will have to let the hare sit a while because that stage is still far off. 



‘WE SPLIT UP DURING THE ENGAGEMENT’

Now that the administrative split is definite, nothing can stop the divorce of Wageningen UR from Van Hall Larenstein. Services are being hived off and the university of applied sciences may be moving out of the Forum. It is clear what VHL thinks about the split. But how do Wageningen University’s ‘people’ feel about the divorce? What will they miss?

text: Albert Sikkema and Linda van der Nat / **illustration:** iStock

Edwin Kelhout



Head of Publicity and Recruitment

‘There has been pragmatic collaboration between the student recruitment departments of the academic and applied sciences universities. There were concrete plans to merge the departments to give one helpdesk for prospective students, for instance, but that merger won’t go through now. I personally don’t feel a big sense of loss. The applied sciences university has its own recruitment activities and we have different target groups. What I will miss is swapping our experiences of open days, campaigns and the benefits of Facebook, and sharing networks when recruiting internationally. But apparently the identities of Wageningen University and VHL are incompatible. **It doesn’t feel like a divorce - more as if we split up during the engagement.**’

Iris de Winter



Master’s student in Biology

‘I’m a degree choice coach for the Biology Master’s, so prospective students who have a question about the Master’s, career prospects or student life can contact me. **In the four years I’ve been a degree coach, I’ve only had one e-mail from a student who wanted to transfer from VHL to do the Biology Master’s.** I think this is because of the year-long linkage programme they would have to take. So I don’t expect the divorce between Wageningen University and VHL to have many consequences for me.’

Theo Lexmond



Environment and Climate programme director

‘After the decision was taken to hive off VHL, I read a response from the HAS Den Bosch applied sciences university in Resource: “This will mean an end to VHL’s preferential treatment”. But I never gave them that; I treated all applied university students the same. No special transfer options, such as a shorter Master’s programme, were introduced for VHL students for the environmental degrees. **Perhaps the applied sciences university had been counting on preferential treatment and maybe not getting it was one reason for leaving.** We did discuss options for collaboration between the academic and applied sciences universities in the field of teaching, but nothing much was implemented. So I don’t expect the split to have any consequences for teaching.’

Rene Kwakkel



Animal Sciences programme director

‘Within Animal Sciences we made agreements with the Larenstein part of VHL and we will maintain that after the split. So we will continue to refer students to the applied sciences university and to take students transferring from there. Nothing will change in that regard. It’s a shame, though, that we won’t be operating as a joint unit when recruiting students internationally. We hadn’t got that far in practice but that was the plan. I do



think it's important for VHL to stay on or close to the campus. We collaborate far more with VHL Wageningen than with VHL Leeuwarden and that is partly to do with the distance. Take Wageningen University's information day on 17 November; you are much more likely to refer them to an applied university Bachelor's in Wageningen.'

Elyn den Hollander



Master's student in Food Technology and AID committee member last year

'I know most VHL people in Wageningen think the decision to split up is a real shame but **I don't think there was a really close partnership as far as the students are concerned.** As a student myself I'm not really bothered by it. I know a few VHL students who did their minor at WU, but that's about it. My impression is that most VHL students are not as interested in Wageningen as the academic university students are. You see that at the AID too. For years, only a small pro-

portion of the mentors, crew and committee members have come from Van Hall Larenstein. That's hardly surprising in my view as they spend much more time on internships and so are less directly involved with Wageningen.'

portion of the mentors, crew and committee members have come from Van Hall Larenstein. That's hardly surprising in my view as they spend much more time on internships and so are less directly involved with Wageningen.'

Ronald Esman



WUR shop employee

'I don't know much about it, but it will be bad news for us commercially if VHL moves out of the Forum. Both Wageningen University students and VHL students buy their study materials, such as books and course readers, from us. We get hundreds of them here on the first Monday of every term. Also, a lot of students buy the Wageningen University sweatshirt. That includes VHL students. I think that will change once they are completely separate. **The VHL students won't be buying Wageningen University sweatshirts any more.**'

SOCIAL NETWORK WAGENINGEN

Student life would grind to a halt without Facebook. Whether you want to recruit members, make appointments or announce activities, a Facebook group is the best way to maintain your community. How is Wageningen presenting itself? Take a look at our editor's choice of much-visited or simply fun Facebook groups.

text: Suzanne Overbeek

WAGENINGEN STUDENT PLAZA (> 3,740 MEMBERS)



Books, squash rackets, kitchen cabinets, train tickets, chairs, a PC screen: nothing is too whacky to be put up for sale on Wageningen Student Plaza. Sometimes the price is fixed, but often it is open to negotiation. Any haggling takes place either on the group page itself or between the buyer and seller in private.

WAGENINGEN ROOM SUBRENT (> 1,143 MEMBERS)



At a university where so many students do an internship (often lengthy & far away), and so many students are looking for a room, a Facebook page for subtenants is bound to be a roaring success. The group's traffic confirms this: there are many postings by students seeking a room or offering one. It may not be well organized, but it does have a charming cosmopolitan vibe.

EXPLORING WAGENINGEN AND SURROUNDINGS (> 323 MEMB.)



This Facebook group was set up by born and bred Wageningen Lennart Verhoeven, who shows (mainly international) students around. In recent months they have been to the Hoge Veluwe National Park, watched Sinterklaas arrive in Wageningen and seen parachutists landing on a nearby heath as part of the commemoration of the battle of Arnhem. The response is enthusiastic: 'Dutch colleagues usually only mention activities like these after they have happened.'

WAGENINGEN UITGAANS PROMOTIE (NIGHTLIFE PUBLICITY) (> 1,859 MEMBERS)



An exhaustive list of parties in Wageningen, posted by clubs, cafés and the page moderators. Anything which remotely resembles a party makes the list: lustrum parties, open parties, gigs by bands, the list goes on and on and that, as it happens, is the weakness of this page. It lacks a handy overview. Finding a party for tonight is going to mean a lot of scrolling.



FOOD ADDICTS (> 172 MEMBERS)



In this group, Wageningen students post recipes and a photograph of the end result. And now and then a potluck dinner is held. Wageningen-related food news is also reported, such as how to sell your own sustainable food through Cormet or that Eveline Cooks got a mention in the local paper.

IXESN WAGENINGEN (> 1,289 MEMBERS)



A Facebook group packed with events run by IxESN Wageningen. These tend to be typically Dutch activities or trips to Dutch or Belgian cities. Occasionally, group members ask whether anyone wants a lift to another European country. Besides Erasmus and international students, Dutch students are also welcome.

WAGENINGEN VERMISTE JASSEN COMMOTIE (LOST COATS COMMOTION) (> 353 MEMBERS)



'You know what it's like... it's the end of an open party and you stumble up to the coat rack only to find that some drunken idiot or other has taken your coat. It's a pain in the neck.' With this sombre introduction, the brand new wvjc has managed to draw more than 350 members within a week. It is much needed, it seems, now that Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie has placed a spam ban on lost coat messages.

MAGIC CLUB WAGENINGEN (> 24 MEMBERS)



Nostalgia. Despite the torrent of digital games, a small community of fantasy enthusiasts can still be found in Wageningen, people who would rather play the game Magic with a deck of cards. They use their Facebook group only to swap cards, make game dates and recruit new players. They play together (in person) on Monday evenings in the Forum. Oh, those halcyon days of yore!

New: Social Media Team Wageningen

‘THERE’S LESS OF A BARRIER’

There is a good chance you have seen them wandering around the Forum or at the Sports Night or a student party. They are the Publicity department’s latest weapon: six tweeting and facebooking students armed with iPads, who form Spread the WURd.

Thomas, Maaïke, Sigrid, Sherdina, Sara and Iris formed Wageningen UR’s Social Media Team at the beginning of October. Their task is to show people trying to decide which degree to go for, and where, how cool Wageningen is for an active student. They go to parties, sports events and open days, ‘share’ nice plans for a night out and post their experiences on Facebook. They respond to high school students’ tweets on Twitter and answer their questions.

Biology student Sherdina Romney: ‘We may not have the night life you get in Amsterdam or Utrecht, but Wageningen has some unique things to offer, such as Room Service. We want to show that.’ Sigrid, student of Soil, Water



The social media team spreads the WURd: Thomas, Sherdina, Sara, Iris, Maaïke and Sigrid.

and Atmosphere: ‘Someone from Publicity can tell people that, but it is a whole lot more credible if it comes from students themselves.’

TARGET REACHED

And the students are doing well: in the space of one month the number of ‘likes’ on Wageningen University’s Facebook page has gone up from 7000 to 9800. Thomas, student of Landscape Architecture: ‘Our target was set at 10,000 likes

by the end of the calendar year, our trial period. That went so easily we have moved the target. We get to continue till the end of the academic year now anyway.’

It is not too difficult to do. Communications student Maaïke went to the annual Palm beer pub crawl and posted brief messages and photos on the university’s Facebook page, tagging her housemates. ‘Then their friends see it and you attract them to the Face-

book page.’ Sherdina: ‘It boils down to spending eight hours a week Facebooking, brainstorming, and going to parties and meetings which we would often go to anyway. The nice thing is that you become an even more active student yourself.’

The group has lots of plans for the rest of the year. Sherdina: ‘All sorts of things are possible, as long as they are relevant to high school students and people choosing a university.’ Ideally, the students would like to see the Social Media Team being given a permanent place in the university’s publicity formula. Master’s student Iris, who keeps the Twitter account up to date together with Sara: ‘High School students find it easier to ask us questions. There is less of a barrier when you are talking to a student. A dialogue often develops, and you think along with them. That is nice for someone trying to choose what and where to study. It really makes them feel that they are being listened to.’ **LvdN**

PHOTO: EMMA TELLING

Experimental and educational garden on campus

An ‘edible’ garden can serve as a place of education and experimental plot for students. And that will be what happens to the space between the Forum, Atlas and Orion if some students get their way. Their initiative seems to be popular.

There are plenty of examples in other countries. The initiators Blair van Pelt and Jeroen Postma are particularly impressed by a project in Massachusetts, in which grass verges made way for ecological gardens and landscaping. They felt this ought to be possible in Wageningen as well.

The two Master’s students christened their project Eat Me, an acronym from ‘edible academic garden and environmental education’ in Dutch. They say that the campus is an ideal location for studying different food systems and showing how ecological designs develop in practice.

The project has already generated quite some enthusiasm. Two information evenings attracted more than a hundred interested people. That led to the creation of four working groups who are looking at different aspects of the garden project. There is also interest from



University of Massachusetts edible garden.

scientists. Farming Systems Ecology professor Pablo Tittone has said that his chair is prepared to adopt the project. Two interns from that science group are now

working on the Eat Me project. Blair van Pelt and Jeroen Postma have set up a Facebook group to keep people informed about their project. **ED**

SCANDALOUS

A fraternity from Leiden student society Quintus has been suspended and fined by the society's board. Why? As part of the hazing ritual for new members, four of them had to run down a Leiden shopping street in nothing more than shoes and the fraternity tie. But the punishment has prompted more commotion than the streaking itself. Incredible that the board is upset by such a prank, says one ex-board member. 'It is not the fraternity that sullies the society's and the university's reputation, but you yourselves, with your narrow-mindedness.'



FULL MOON

The idea that psychological problems occur more when there is a full moon is a myth. Canadian researchers found no link between the phase of the moon and appeals for psychological help at the A&E departments of Montreal hospitals. We still don't know whether we have to watch out for werewolves though.

NOSEY

Another myth: if you really want to know someone, look them in the eyes. In practice, we don't do that at all, shows research at the university of Santa Barbara. To get the measure of someone, we look between and just below the eyes. The eyes as mirror of the soul? It's the nose, stupid.

WIKIW

With Wageningen's 750th anniversary approaches in 2013, it's a good moment to delve into history. But in an up-to-the-minute fashion, with WikiWageningen (wikiwageningen750.nl). Everyone can chip in with their stories about the city and its inhabitants. In Dutch only, unfortunately. With illustrations in the inimitable house style of Henk van Ruitenbeek. Typical Wageningen.

Two-year Social Science MSc to stay for now

Wageningen UR will continue to offer a two-year Social Science Master's programme for the foreseeable future. The possible introduction of a social loan system for students will not change this, says Tiny van Boekel, head of the Education Institute.

If the current basic grant is replaced by a social loan system, the Social Science MSc at Wageningen will be a good deal more expensive than the one-year programme offered at other Dutch universities.

There is a chance that students may decide against the Wageningen programme for financial reasons.


But Van Boekel is confident that the number of lost enrolments will not be that large. 'The Economics

The future of the two-year Social Science Master's at the Leuvenborch looks bright for now.



PHOTO: JOHN WILTINK

Master's programme in Wageningen is quite different to the ones in Rotterdam or Utrecht. The programme is multidisciplinary and is related to a particular field of studies. Students for whom that has added value will be prepared to commit themselves to a two-year programme.'

Van Boekel emphasizes that it is all speculation at present. 'The social loan system is still just a vague idea at the moment. Everything depends on the conditions under which it will be introduced. The only thing that is clear right now is that students will have to borrow more money.'  LvdN

Marlies Bos (the left-wing fluffy type) and Jillis Herweijer (the right-wing Hooray Henry type) rarely see eye to eye on matters of politics, the environment or student life.

AGAINST

Proposition: Shops should always be open on Sundays



PHOTOS: BART DE GOUW

MARLIES: I feel having one day when almost everyone has the day off is a very good thing. Mainly because I think it is good for everyone to have one day without any obligations, when they have time for friends and family. Society is already hassled and stressed enough. The environment also benefits from one less day when all the shops are heated. And then the 'freedom' which is always cited as an argument for getting rid of Sunday closing is not real freedom, in my view. At least not for everyone, by any means. Not for small businesses, which hardly have the staff to open seven days a week. And not for employees (or potential employees) who may well be pressurized to work on Sundays. In short, a bad idea to open shops on Sundays as well just because 'it is possible so we should allow it.'

JILLIS RESPONDS: Nice that you want a day off on Sunday but please don't decide for other people whether they can open their shops. You don't need to bring the environment into it, since you can always close on another day of the week. And I am very surprised that you think it's up you to decide when society is 'stressed enough'.

JILLIS: It is time we called a halt to the way all sorts of believers appropriate the right to decide how other people think. In a time of economic crisis, a government should do everything it can to enable citizens to earn money and pay tax. Unfortunately, there is resistance to that in the Netherlands from a narrow-minded Christian tradition. Sometimes on the 'honest' basis of mediaeval ideas about Sunday being a day of rest, and sometimes based on hypocritical arguments about protecting small shopkeepers and employees. All nonsense. A shopkeeper can choose whether to open on Sunday and close on Monday – when high streets are dead still anyway. And employees can always say that they are only prepared to work on certain days of the week – there will always be 10 others ready to take their place and earn extra for working on a Sunday. Besides: you don't have to open on Sunday; you are *allowed* to!

MARLIES RESPONDS: Consumers can only spend their money once, so the amount of extra income will be disappointing. And why do you feel the need to display your distaste for the 'narrow-minded Christian tradition'? Let's stick to substantial arguments. Maybe not all the ideas of 'all sorts of believers' are so crazy.



CHARMING Don't be a drag, be a queen! That was the motto at SHOUT'S GayForOneDay party on Thursday 15 November. 'We wanted to show that it can be fun to get out of your own 'box' for a day and step into someone else's shoes,' says SHOUT board member Jouke Dykstra.

The gentlemen shown here were two of the 100 or so heteros, gays, lesbians and bisexuals who seized the opportunity to let their hair down wearing a dress and plastered in make-up. Shave your armpits next time though! 📷 LvdN, photo Emma Teuling



'A ONE-OFF LIVING ROOM CONCERT IS A DAMP SQUIB'

Why a living room tour?

'During the Popronde we played in Den Bosch. Afterwards someone in the audience came up to us and said, I want to organize a living room concert with you. We thought: nice idea, we'll do it. But a one-off living room concert is a bit of a damp squib so we wanted to make a tour of it. We got the rest of the living rooms through an announcement on our Facebook page. Over the coming week we'll be playing in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Almere and Den Bosch.'

A new kind of cross-fertilization between social media and pop music?

'Could be. Facebook goes very well with living room concerts: everyone can organize one for themselves.

For one of the concerts we approached an organization that sets up living room concerts, and we set up the rest through Facebook. We thought it would really be much nicer to ask our friends and fans ourselves. Fans can promote a concert much better than a PR bureau, too.'

Will you make anything on it?

'We hope at least to break even. Beyond that we'll have to see. We can't expect to make serious money. But that is not the aim. Apart from Wageningen they are almost all towns we have never been to before. We are just hoping to reach some new people. If we have 50 likes on Facebook at the end of the tour, that will count as profit too.' 📷 JB

Who? Guy Corneille
What? Singer in the Utrecht band La Corneille
Why? The band started its living room concert tour in Wageningen

>> CULT

Wat? *Eet mij: De psychologie van eten* (Eat me: The psychology of eating)
Who? Asha ten Broeke and Ronald Veldhuizen
Where? Quality (online) bookstores
Costs? 18 euros for the paperback



Just one more...

Overweight seems a deceptively simple problem. All we have to do is consume no more calories than we need, and problem solved. Easy, isn't it? In *Eet Mij*, Veldhuizen and Ten Broeke wipe the floor with such illusions in 250 pages of snappy writing. They concentrate on the – neglected – influence of our environment on our eating behaviour.

Following in the footsteps of Wageningen lecturer Reint-Jan Renes, they show how our self-control bites the dust in supermarkets where we are bombarded with temptations. They also show that our bodies are not reliable calorie detectors. How much we eat is in fact determined by environmental factors such as plate and portion size. So you should read *Eet Mij* primarily for these revelations about the 'obesogenic' environment. Those interested in the biological side of hunger will find less in it to their taste, although the book does explain very clearly why dieting is counterproductive and how genes play a big role in our weight. On one point, the book may leave the reader a little confused. Veldhuizen and ten Broeke suggest in passing that the idea that there is an obesity epidemic is partly based on exaggerated statistics and a shifting of the BMI borderlines. But before they have provided strong support for this view, they head off in another direction. For the rest, *Eet Mij* is a very interesting book about the psychological side of weight and overweight. And reading it is just like having a tub of Pringles: after every chapter you think, just *one* more. Really. **RR**

>> THE WORKS

QUAKING IN NEW ZEALAND

Who? Dick van den Hoogen, fifth year MSc student of Biotechnology
What? Internship at Plant & Food Research, a research institute for agricultural crops.
Where? Christchurch, Nieuw-Zeeland

I wanted to go abroad – preferably as far away as possible. You can't get much further away than New Zealand and I was keen to go there. I ended up in Christchurch, where there was a severe earthquake at the beginning of 2011. I hadn't thought about that when I went, but my housemate showed me the damage when she picked me up. The centre was closed because many of the buildings are on the point of collapse. During my stay I experienced some severe earthquakes myself. The first time it happened I didn't know what was going on – it was a quake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale. I was alone at home at the time, vacuuming. Luckily I was staying in a wooden house that doesn't collapse easily. The stone chimney had already been destroyed by a previous earthquake. I was still feeling shocked afterwards, so I went for a cycle ride. But there were still several aftershocks to come. The asphalt shook beneath my wheels, car alarms went off, street lamps were swaying to and fro, and in the end I just looked for a safe place on the verge. On the other hand, New Zealand is incredibly beautiful. After my intern-

ship I travelled around the North Island by car. I preferred going to remote, deserted areas that the Lonely Planet guidebook had little to say about. I found the area full of volcanos and geothermal phenomena particularly impressive. In any case, I did a lot of outdoor activities, such as hiking and cycling. That was great, especially after an internship full of lab work. For my project I worked on the development of a new transformation method for potatoes. Only I didn't see a single potato because I spent most of the time in the lab. I was left to my own devices, but there were lots of people I could consult if I had questions. Anyway, people there are much more relaxed, helpful and friendly. **Milou van der Horst**





EMMA <<

The Birth of a Hurricane

When I thought I had finally seen everything here in Wageningen, well, the surprises just kept on coming.

A year into my Dutch adventure, I wasn't really thinking about the fact I had successfully completed my first year of study by obtaining all my credits. Apparently though, this is a big deal. I was invited, to attend the 'graduation' ceremony. I hadn't realised quite how important this certificate was. It would allow me to change university or study program, if I so desired. I never miss a celebration, at least.

When the day came, I was quite intrigued to see how the ceremony would unfold. From my class, four of us had acquired this certificate. We all sat, squashed like sardines in a tin, on the sofas wedged into the back of the room. It was comfortable, but challenging when called forward and we all tried to launch simultaneously. Elegance was absent. We clawed at each other and wrestled with total strangers until, somehow, we were all standing in front of our career counsellor, Joyce, with grins on our faces.

As she showed the crowd of people a word map she and fellow colleagues had made of us, Joyce cleared her throat: 'So, try and guess, who is the polite one? The sociable one? The hurricane? Any ideas yet?' I elbowed my classmate and sniggered, 'Well, I'm the polite one, who on earth is the Hurricane? Weirdo!'

Each slide contained an old picture of each student and some describing words about our personalities. Eventually, mine appeared. 'Emma is definitely our hurricane, one minute she is there, the next she is gone and has left a trail of destruction behind her', Joyce laughed.

My class burst out laughing, in agreement, and thus, Hurricane Holmes was born. 📍 Emma Holmes

www.sciencecafewageningen.nl

Science Cafe Wageningen

Social Media: Democracy 2.0 ?

Prof. Jan van Dijk & Prof. Claes de Vreese
 Thursday the 29th of November, 20:00, Café Loburg
 Live Music by Groovebario
 Free Entrance

Respond?

Interested in other people's views on the news?
 Want to comment yourself? At resource.wur.nl/en
 we carry on providing news and engaging in debate.



announcements

Announcements for and by students and staff. Send no more than 75 words to resource@wur.nl, with 'Announcement' as subject, on the Thursday before publication.

Debate on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production and Food Production

Recently, Aalt Dijkhuizen made some remarkable statements about the intensification of agriculture as the only viable option to feed the growing world population in the future. Following this, a group of WUR students organized a student demonstration in Forum. As a follow-up, a debate will be organized to inform students and the public about the pluriformity of the approaches to agricultural development that Wageningen UR embraces. Experts from all five domains of Wageningen UR are invited to participate. The debate aims to further the academic discussion about the future directions in agricultural development and food production and to discuss the role of Wageningen UR in public debates. With participation by Martin Kropff, Aalt Dijkhuizen, Edith Lammermans van Bueren, Lijbert Brussaard and others. Organized by Independent Critical Students Group Wageningen and Wageningen UR, facilitated by Schuttelaar & Partners. Date: 11 December, 17.00 - 19.00 Venue: C222 Forum.

INFO: WWW.BOERENGROEP.NL

Louis Raemaekers exhibition

De Casteelse Poort museum has an exhibition until the end of March on the life and work of Louis Raemaekers, entitled 'A world-famous cartoonist'. Raemaekers taught drawing at the then royal agricultural college for 16 years. Much of the exhibition consists of his works from that period, including humorous prints of Wageningen professors. The exhibition also offers a selection of original and digital images from his entire oeuvre, covering his work for Dutch and foreign newspapers and his activities as an illustrator, designer and painter.

INFO: WWW.CASTEELSEPOORT.NL

Young KLV Time Management course

So much to do, so little time... this short yet highly effective time management workshop, 4 December 19.00-21.00 in Impulse (campus), is intended for everyone who finally wants to get around to doing what really needs to be done. The workshop will be in English. The trainer for that evening is Janou Hemsing, owner of the company Puur Communiceren.

WWW.KLV.NL

Voluntary work in the countryside

Combine voluntary work in the countryside with workshops about sustainability or nature, plus lots of fun. All activities organized by Woesteland, the IVN youth group, are low budget and in the heart of the countryside. There is a special winter week for young people aged from 16 to 30. It takes place from 27 December 2012 to 1 January 2013 on Schiermonnikoog island, where we will see the New Year in with a bang. You are welcome to come along at a time and date that suits you as everyone is free to come and go whenever they want. In February you can join us in Ruurlo for the Wonderful Willow Weekend. You will spend 8 to 10 February discovering the wonders of willow and pollarding.

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION VIA: WWW.WOESTELAND.NL, INFO@WOESTELAND.NL.

agenda

Thursday 29 November, 19.00

FOLK CORN WILL BE PLAYING FOLK MUSIC

Concert in Impulse (on campus) with historical Dutch folk music. The repertoire will be taken from collections of songs such as the sixteenth century Antwerp Song Book and 'Geuzen' Song Book. Folkcorn uses both modern acoustic instruments (guitar, accordion, recorder) and typical traditional instruments such as the fiddle, chalumeau, dulcimer and bagpipe.

INFO: [HTTP://WWW.SONANTE.NL](http://WWW.SONANTE.NL)

Thursday 29 November, 21.00

MUSICAL TRIO IN WAGENINGEN

Popcultuur Wageningen is pleased to present On Eva and Christopher Green in the bblthk under the slo-

gan 'Quiet is the New Loud!' On Eva consists of three Wageningen women who compose light, accessible songs in Dutch with unusual lyrics. Christopher Green is a singer-songwriter from Venlo who performs warm, relaxing numbers. Afterwards, APRIL will be on stage in Café De Overkant from 23.00 onwards. This duo from Kanaleneiland, a district in Utrecht, plays indie/post rock music.

WWW.POPCULTUUR-WAGENINGEN.NL

Friday, 30 November, 17.30 CELEBRATORY OPENING OF 'KLANKRIJK'

Klankrijk, the musical heart of Wageningen UR in the Building Behind the Aula, Generaal Foulkesweg 1, has been refurbished and now houses the Van Uven foundation music library. The WSKOV, Van Uven foundation and De Ontzetting committees are holding an opening event with drinks, speeches by Martin Kropff, among others, and music by WSKOV and De Ontzetting.

Friday, 30 November, 20.00

SALON WITH MARTEN SCHEFFER

In connection with the Point of No Return exhibition by the Platform of Professional Artists of Wageningen, Marten Scheffer, aquatic ecologist at Wageningen UR and Spinoza award winner, will be giving a talk on tipping points in ecosystems. Scheffer is not just a scientist, he is also an artist and musician. He likes to free his mind and that has resulted in significant insights about the resilience of systems. Free admission. Location: Building Behind the Vase, Binnenhaven 7, Wageningen.

WWW.BEROEPSKUNSTENAARS.NL, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EXPOSITIEPOINTOFNORETURN

Saturday, 1 December, 22.00

BAD SANTA PARTY @ SHOUT

Have you been a good boy or girl this year? Will Santa Claus be kind to you? Or was there a little devil on your shoulder this year? Come to SHOUT at the Wilde Wereld. Santa Claus will have time for every angel/devil. Take a cold beer, have a seat on his lap and wait for the verdict...

WWW.SHOUTWAGENINGEN.NL

7 and 8 December

CHRISTMAS CURIOS MARKET

The Wageningen Rotary Club has chosen De Wijde Wereld as its social cause for this club year. That is why there will be a Christmas Curios Market from 11 o'clock on Friday and Saturday in the old post office, Plantsoen, Wageningen. If you've items to contribute, you can call 06-53534948 up to 1 December.

WWW.UITINWAGENINGEN.NL

Saturday, 8 December, 20.00

RELEASE THE DRAGON CONCERT

Student Orchestra 'De Ontzetting' will give their biannual concert in Junushoff theatre in Wageningen. The evening will be in the character of the upcoming tour to China. Taking 'Release the dragon' as its theme, the orchestra will deliver a spectacular evening. The pieces we will play will include the following: Praise Jerusalem, Lux Aurumque, and Windows of the World. We would like to kindly invite you to our concert.

RESERVATIONS: ONTZETTING@WUR.NL

INFO: WWW.ONTZETTING.WUR.NL

Monday 10 December

SPORTS CAFE

This year, Wageningen's annual Sports Café will be held on Monday 10 December in the university sports centre De Bongerd. The event is being organized by the Wageningen Sponsoring and Fundraising Foundation (SFW) and the Wageningen Sports Council. The sportswoman, sportsman and sports team of 2012 will be announced at the sports café.

WWW.SPORTVERKIEZINGWAGENINGEN.NL

14 and 15 December, 20.00

WSKOV WINTER CONCERTS

The choir will be performing on Friday in the Aula and Saturday in the big church on the market square, singing a cappella works and compositions based on the poem 'Vom Himmel Hoch'. The orchestra will be playing Mendelssohn's fourth symphony, Dvorak's Romance and Pablo de Sarasate's Gypsy Airs. They will be combining to perform three works.

WWW.WSKOV.WUR.NL/JOOMLA FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVING TICKETS.

Subscription?

Would you like to continue reading Resource after graduating, retiring or leaving your job at Wageningen UR? For 58 euros you can have 22 issues per year delivered to your door. See resource.wur.nl/en/page/colophon.



Working on the quality of life

Wageningen UR zoekt:

Coordinator Humaan Onderzoek

AFSG Humane Voeding, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-HNE-0033

Communicatiemedewerker

AFSG Communicatie, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: AFSG-M&C-0002

PhD position in Evolutionary Biomechanics

ASG, Experimental Zoology group, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: ASG-DW-EZO0001

Studieadviseur (0,7 fte)

BC Onderwijsinstituut, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: BC-0004-1

Beleidsmedewerker Internationaal

BC Corporate Education & Research, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: BC-0014

2 Medewerkers practicumondersteuning

FB Education Facilities, Wageningen
Vacaturenummer: FB-0003-7



www.werkenbij.wur.nl

Forum Irregular Opening Hours during Christmas Holidays 2012

	2012	Building	Library	Student Desk	WURshop	Restaurant	Grand Café	Language Services
Saturday	22 December	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	23 December	10 am - 5 pm	10 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday	24 December	8 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Tuesday Christmas	25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wednesday Christmas	26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday	27 December	8 am - 8 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Friday	28 December	8 am - 8 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Saturday	29 December	10 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sunday	30 December	10 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday	31 December	8 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
Tuesday New Years day	1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

During working hours, the building is open to the public. After working hours, entrance is only possible with a WUR card.

>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Dutch Sinterklaas: carrots but no sticks

Last week I went to the city centre to see the Sinterklaas procession. I was surprised to see many kids run up to Zwarte Piet, calling his name and asking for kruidnoten. The children even bring bags with them to collect the sweets.

What makes me laugh is the Dutch explanation that Zwarte Piet is black because he goes down the chimney to bring gifts for the kids. In the night of 5 December, Dutch families will gather and bring presents for each other. But these are not straightforward presents, but 'surprises' with which to tease or play practical tricks on each other.

I have known Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet since I was a kid, but I always thought that Sinterklaas and Santa Claus were the same. In Indonesia Zwarte Piet is described as a black person who comes armed with a stick to hit naughty children and a sack to carry them off in. My parents told me that Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet come on Christmas Eve. If we put shoes and some grass for the saint's horse outside our house, Sinterklaas would come and leave Christmas gifts for good kids, while Zwarte Piet would punish the naughty kids. Kids in Indonesia are usually afraid of Zwarte Piet. Since Zwarte Piet is nice to kids here, I wonder what Dutch parents say to their children to get them to behave themselves.  Liga Wiratama from Indonesia, MSc Urban Environmental Management

Since Zwarte Piet is nice to kids here, I wonder how Dutch parents get their kids to behave themselves

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn fifty euro and Dutch candy.