

Age distribution of those who had suggestions of one kind or another:

20 - 40	40 - 60	60+	
2	12	15	(total 29)

Age distribution of the 17 who stated to be "more or less" satisfied:

20 - 40	40 - 60	60+	
1	8	10	(total 19)

These figures seem to suggest that changes in our programme are in some form or another supported across the age groups. Trying out a new activity is very unlikely to meet with block resistance from a particular age group.

6. Which cultural aspects should Erasmus cover and

7. Which specific topics would you like to see included ?

Both questions are discussed together because many respondents treated them as one issue.

Many suggestions for "culturalising" our programme and for specific topics were made and these are listed for further reference in an Appendix. (Appendix B).

In summary they can be grouped as follows:

- There is a general demand for more information on cultural aspects of life and in particular on Dutch history, the arts, its technical feats and sociological developments to be given in talks as well as documentaries (18 requests).
- Several members asked for talks in which current developments in Holland are compared with those in the same sphere in Australia (5 requests).
- European developments have also become a subject of interest (5 requests).
- Several requests (9) ask specifically that the arts get more exposure in our programme.
- Music and the Mozart Year (4 requests).
- Films (2 requests). In the next section, however, it will be seen that films and documentaries on Dutch affairs are by far the most popular items listed as possible other activities in our programme.

These requests clearly indicate a wide ranging interest in Dutch affairs (the arts, culture, history, recent developments) also in relation to Australia. Members are apparently looking across our shores and ask "What is happening in Holland and Europe and how does this relate to Australia".

As I interpret this trend, a topic such as "The Very Fast Train Project" would gain in interest rating if it also discussed the European approach and progress to bridge the insular look.

The difficulty for the Committee will be to attract expert and competent speakers who will be able to illuminate the Dutch and European aspects.

B. Other possible activities.

Ten possibilities were listed in the questionnaire.

The number of times members indicated they would participate in an activity and the extrapolated participation for the whole membership are listed in the table below. A star system rates popularity:

10-20	positive responses	*
20-30	" "	**
more than 30	" "	***

Activity	Score	Estimated Participation	Rating
Wine tasting	22	30 - 40	**
Chamber music	24	30 - 45	**
Car rally	9	Ca 15	
Guided tour National Gallery	34	45 - 65	***
Commercial Gallery visit	24	30 - 45	**
Factory visit	16	20 - 25	*
Block booking ballet etc.	28	35 - 50	**
Videos on Dutch affairs	38	50 - 70	***
Dutch films	41	50 - 70	***
Dutch literature library	19	25 - 35	*

Analysis

Most interest is shown in Dutch cultural affairs in documentaries (videos), Dutch Films and guided tours through the National Gallery of Victoria. Then follow: Chamber music concerts, block bookings for a ballet, play etc. and a visit to a commercial gallery and wine tasting.

Next are: factory visit and the Dutch library.

The car rally attracted least interest though it should be noted that probably some 15 cars would turn up if we were to organise such an event.

It should also be borne in mind that participation figures would be higher if the current steady rise in membership continues for some time.

For activities where proper screening facilities are required (Dutch films and documentaries) we need to use a venue with suitable equipment. We can't have another "The Assault" debacle (Mulish evening).

Members who offered assistance with these activities are listed in Appendix C.

1. Length of membership

There were 44 responses, divided as follows:

Years	number	%
0 - 5	22	50
5 - 10	10	22.7
10 - 15	3	6.8
15 - 20	4	9.0
20 - 25	5	11.4

One respondent declared to have been a member for 35 years! This was entered in the 20 - 25 year group.

Analysis

Over the last few years Erasmus is evidently in a period of significant growth; half of the members are less than 5 year members. About 70% of members have under 10 years membership; nearly 30% are more than 10 year members. The table shows that the new members are mostly from the "younger" category:

	20 - 40	40 - 60	60+
0 - 5	2	13	7
5 - 10	-	3	7
10 - 15	-	1	2
15 - 20	-	-	4
20 - 25	-	1	4

Still, a noticeable number of seniors are also joining Erasmus.

2. Age distribution

A total of 48 answers was received:

	number	%
Less than 20 years	0	0
20 - 40	2	4
40 - 60	20	42
60 plus	26	54

Analysis

96% of our members are over 40 years of age and 54% are 60+. At this stage Erasmus is clearly a Society which appeals to the middle aged and seniors. They seem to gravitate to Erasmus judging by our recent growth in membership.

Analysis

Erasmus is not popular among our offspring and the reasons are given by respondents. It would seem though that a broadening of the programme as discussed in previous sections and a greater concentration on cultural affairs might well induce some in the 20 - 40 years group to join. It would introduce a pleasant and fresh approach to our thinking.

E. Summary

The survey has thrown much needed light on Erasmus. The significant results which can be concluded from this survey seem to me to be:

- To many members the "combination package" of the Danish Club functions is not the major drawcard which it is generally perceived to be. The more discerning rate social contact and lecture more important than venue and dinner.
- We should have more than 6 functions per year. 8 seems to be an acceptable average vote.
- There is a significant number of members which feel (and they express it nicely and they are often quite complementary!) that we should do more and could do some things better.
- On subjects to be included in our talks, cultural matters especially relating to Holland and Europe, rate highly. The range of topics suggested is large and interesting.
- There is broad support for other activities. We would not see everybody turn up at these functions as people become more selective in what appeals to them, but, if well organised, many functions would be well attended as Erasmus has a faithful following and has great social attraction.
- Our subscription rate can be raised without demurrant.
- Some cheaper functions would be appreciated by a not insignificant segment of our membership. We should try to accommodate.

Jan Stracke
10/5/91.

SHORT SUMMARY OF RESULTS

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124 questionnaires were sent out. 46 responses were received, which is 40%

1.- Functions at the Danish Club:

48 % (mostly older members) liked the combination of venue, dinner, social contact and lecture

52 % named their preferred aspects in this order; lecture, social contact, dinner, venue

2.- respondents desiring more and no more lectures were equally divided

3.- If more meetings were organised 54 % said they would attend; others would tend to be more selective

4.- Average number of meetings suggested: 8

5.- 60 % are quite satisfied with the present format; 40 % reasonably satisfied. None dissatisfied

6.- & 7.- Specific topics and improvements suggested:

- Dutch affairs; arts, culture, history, recent developments (sociological, technical). Comparisons and relations with Australia and Europa
- select skilled speakers
- improve audio equipment
- Mozart music in this Mozart year
- minor mentions: No smoking. Vary venue. Vary menu. Longer talks. Shorter talks. Longer question time. Shorter question time.

8.- Possible other activities suggested:

Dutch Videos and films
Guided tours National Gallery
Chamber music
Ballet block bookings
Factory visits

9.- Annual subscription fee: (at present \$ 20.- per family, \$.15 single)

7 % say keep at \$ 20 per family
38 % suggested \$ 25 - " - acceptable
52 % suggested \$ 30 - " - acceptable

10.-Function cost: 70 % consider present cost reasonable

30 % prefer a lower figure

11.-Membership:

- length: 0/5 years 50%, 5/10 yrs 23%, 10/20 yrs 16%. 20/25 12%
- age of members: 20/40 yrs 4%, 40/60% 42%, 60+ 54%
- origin/language: Dutch 65%, other 35%
- attendance to functions: all 22%. 4 to 5 50%. 2 to 3 28%
- members' children attending: sometime 16%. Never 84%

The above is a very concise summary. The full, professional analysis, consisting of 14 pages contains very interesting material and a variety of members' comments and observations.

The complete analysis is obtainable at the cost of \$.5.- from H. Korsten, 21 Glen Drive, Eaglemont, 3084. Please sent cheque with application.