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# RESOURCE [EN]

For students and employees of Wageningen UR

no 21 – 30 June 2016 Volume



**INTERNATIONAL EDITION**

# Rio here we come!

p.12

# >> WIES + SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

Wies Vullings, senior researcher on spatial knowledge systems at Alterra



## 'Always been crazy about swimming'

Her daughters Keira (8) and Sophie (10) are crazy about it. And when a trainer was needed, it wasn't a difficult decision for Wies Vullings. 'Then I'll start training.' So now she stands at the edge of the swimming pool in Veenendaal for about four hours a week, studies the compulsory formations and watches DVDs with training material. And it's not just for the kids either. 'Synchronized swimming is a great sport. If I had known about it when I was young, I'd have taken it up myself.'

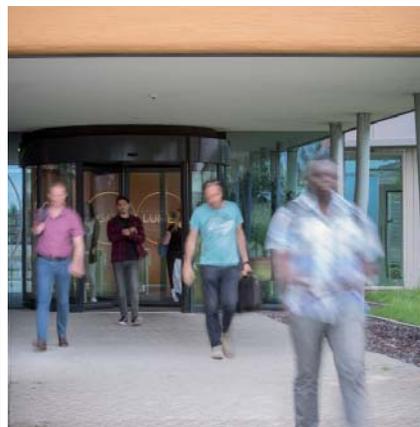
**RK / Photo: Guy Ackermans**

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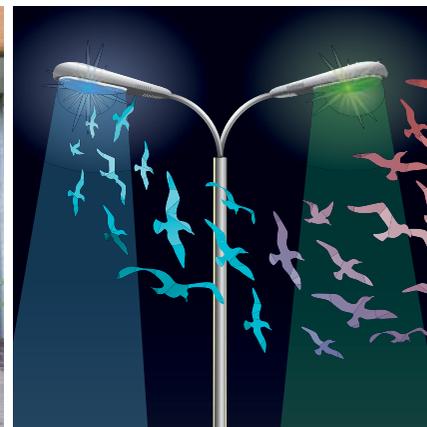
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## MARTIAN RADISHES

‘Take a look at the lawman. Beating up the wrong guy. Oh man! Wonder if he’ll ever know. He’s in the bestselling show. Is there life on Mars?’ It is Saturday night. I’m surfing on the web and listening to David Bowie on Spotify. A coincidence? This weekend I’ve been bombarded with news about Mars. As a journalist you have your newsfeed on all the time, even at weekends. The search word combination of Wageningen and Mars gets lots of hits. Because Wieger Wamelink’s Martian veggies have turned out to be edible. A year ago he got into the news with his intention to grow them, and now they are edible. Radishes, carrots and rocket are hot news on the web. Days after the weekend I hear at work that some people are baffled that Wieger is once again in the news. ‘It’s not such a big deal.’ Yet more evidence that we don’t always realize how extraordinary the world outside Wageningen and outside Europe thinks our research is. Who knew that cutting off and tasting a simple leaf of rocket could be major news?

*Edwin van Laar*

*Read also the mini-interview on p.7 and watch the video on [resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)*



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# 2000 STUDENTS TO GET EVENING LECTURES

- **Maximum of one evening lecture per student up to January**
- **Most courses will end at 20.00, a few at 20.45**

The plan for the pilot with evening lectures is ready. About 2000 students will get lectures, PC practical courses or group work after 18.00 between September and January. An external agency will evaluate students' and teaching staff opinions.

The trial with evening lectures will take place in the first two terms of the coming academic year. In the first term, seven lecture courses, four PC practicals and two courses with group work will be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Most courses will end at 20.00, but one or two will continue

until 20.45. First-years will not have any evening lectures in the first term.

The courses have been selected in such a way that virtually no one will have two evening courses during the pilot, says Gerlinde van Vilsteren of Corporate Education, Research & Innovation, who set up the trial. 'And there won't be any lab work in the evening.'

The evening lectures have deliberately not been scheduled for Friday evening, says Van Vilsteren. There won't be any lectures on the Thursday evenings either in the first term; that happened to work out best for practical reasons.

Students, teachers, study associations and student societies will be able to give their opinion about the evening lectures in a survey after the trial ends. The societies can



PHOTO: KOEN WILMINK

In May students protested against Wageningen University's plans for evening classes.

for example say whether the evening teaching affected their activities.

The university wants to learn from the pilot, says Van Vilsteren. 'On the one hand, evening lectures increase flexibility and give people more choice. Students can combine optional courses more easily if they are in the evening. It's also

easier to get guest lecturers for evening slots.' On the other hand, many students are critical of the evening lectures as this might put pressure on their sporting activities and involvement in societies. 'The aim of the pilot is to get experience that the Executive Board can then take into account in its decision making.' **RS AS**

## TEACHING IN PRISON

- **Lecturer works on Bard Prisoner Initiative**
- **Prisoners take course on citizen science**

Kevin Matson will be giving up much of his summer vacation this year in order to teach prisoners in a New York jail. 'These are Bard students, but they are just on a different campus, in a different area.'

Matson is an assistant professor in the Resource Ecology group. The classes he will be giving are part of Bard University's Bard Prison Initiative, in which prisoners can earn a degree while they are in prison. Matson has taught 'regular' students at Bard before. He taught students on a course on Citizen science what science is, and how they can think critically about science in the news, for example. When he was teaching on this course in New York he heard that teachers were needed to teach the same course in the prison. 'As soon as I heard of it I thought: this is super

cool, something I'd like to be involved with.'

The idea behind the Bard Prison Initiative is to offer prisoners an education so that they'll have better job prospects when they come out and less risk of going back to a life of crime. The prisoners are treated in the same way as other students, says Matson. The theme of the course he will be teaching is: How can we reduce the global burden of infectious disease? The theme is used to teach the prisoners how to think scientifically. Matson explains that the project has a Wageningen tinge to it too. First of all, one of Wageningen University's priorities is to involve the public in science and to have an impact on groups outside the university. Secondly, a publication by Wageningen entomologists will be used for exercises, and lastly, Matson will tell the students about his own animal ecology research.

For Matson this is charity work. 'I am basically using a large chunk of my summer holiday to do this.' He leaves in August for three weeks in New York, where he will set foot in jail for the first time. **IK**



## RESEARCH FUNDING MAY BE ALLOCATED DIFFERENTLY

- State secretary Dekker adopts motion
- Marten Scheffer's SOFA model among the options

Professor of Aquatic Ecology Marten Scheffer is pleased about State Secretary Dekker's resolve to find new approaches to the allocation of research funding. Scheffer's SOFA system is being considered as a model.

Last week Dekker adopted a motion tabled by Christian

Union MP Eppo Bruins. According to Bruins, scientists devote too much time to scraping their funding together. He would like to experiment with other approaches and points to the Self-Organizing Fund Allocation (SOFA), a system proposed by Scheffer over a year ago. The idea is that scientists allocate funding among themselves. The system was thought up by the Belgian Johan Bollen at Indiana University. Bollen works part-time for Scheffer's chair group too.

The idea is based on the 'wisdom of the crowd' and does away with complicated, time-consuming evaluation process by specially appointed committees.

Scheffer and Bollen are currently working on further development of the idea. At its heart is the algorithm that Google works with. 'Google has a smart algorithm which puts the most relevant sites at the top of its search results. We have something like that in mind for identifying the most relevant research.' **Ⓜ RK**

## © COLUMN | STIJN

### Hora est

Nerve-wracked, I follow PhD candidate Lysanne. I take a deep breath. The registrar taps the ground with her stick. What do I have to do now? I look at the other paronymph and copy her. Finally

we are allowed to sit down. I breathe in and out. Soon it will all be over and this agony will end. Here I am, sitting in a penguin suit with a bow tie, with everyone looking at us. 'Keep calm, Stijn,' I say to myself. Everything went well just now so if I have to read out a proposition, that should go OK too. As long as it's not proposition number seven, which contains a word I can't pronounce. But what is the chance of them choosing precisely that proposition? The first opponent starts his interrogation. No propositions, luckily. Opponent number two starts. 'Could you ask your paronymph to read out...' I start to feel giddy. He really did say it, proposition seven. I clear my throat and start reading. Relieved, I take a breath. It didn't sound too bad, I reckon.

But wait a minute, the audience are murmuring. Lysanne looks surprised too. She grins and whispers: 'Um, I think it was proposition five.' In a kind of reflex, I quickly recite what I can remember of proposition five. Pretty much all the words are different (I hear later) but the meaning is roughly the same and the debate kicks off.

While I try and avoid eye contact with the room, what has happened gradually dawns on me. These penguin suits are quite hot actually. The registrar enters. 'Hora est,' she says. I know. Everyone heard my mistake. I breathe in and out. Soon it will all be over. Then the agony will really begin. **Ⓜ**



### in brief

#### >> WEPAL AND QUASIMEME

##### Anniversaries for quality controllers

Wepal and Quasimeme, two Wageningen UR organizations for quality control of laboratories, celebrate anniversaries on Thursday 30 June. Wepal has existed for 60 years, Quasimeme for 25 years. Both organizations conduct 'ring tests', sending samples around for the 800 participating laboratories in the world to analyse. Wepal does this for soil, crop, fertilizer and biomass samples, Quasimeme for samples of ocean water, shellfish, fish and sediments. The organizations, housed at Nergena on the Bornsesteeg in Wageningen, have been collaborating intensively for five years. During their anniversary celebrations today a stained glass window will be unveiled, with a new logo illustrating their collaboration. **Ⓜ RK**

#### >> PROVISIONAL REGISTRATIONS

##### Still going up

There are about 13 percent more preliminary registrations for Wageningen Bachelor's programmes compared with the same time last year, show the latest figures from Studielink, the website which processes all registrations. Nutrition and Health currently has 140 registrations. The programme has a limit of 150 students, which will go up to 160 from the academic year 2017-2018. From that year two more BSc programmes will have a limit too: Biotechnology and Mo-

lecular Life Sciences say they can cope with no more than 120 and 11 students respectively. At the moment Biotechnology has over 150 registrations and Molecular Life Sciences 99. **Ⓜ LvdN**

#### >> CAMPUS PLAZA

##### Crèche later

It does not look likely that childcare provision will be in place in Campus Plaza from 1 September. So says Jos van Schriek, the project developer for the new complex. The talks with 'a well-known national player' are still in full swing. Students have recently moved into accommodation in the new building on the Wageningen UR campus. Shops will be moving in from July. The only famous name so far is the sandwich bar Subway. Schriek reports that three or four local businesses will open a branch in the building too. **Ⓜ VK**

Watch the video  
on resource-online.nl.



Stijn van Gils (29) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.



## POSSIBLE OVERSIGHTS IN PHD ELECTIONS

- More than half of PhD candidates excluded from voting
- 'That goes against earlier agreements'

The elections for the representation of PhD candidates in the WUR council may not have conformed to the rules, says Jeroen Candel, ex-chair of the Wageningen PhD Council. The exclusion of a large group of PhD candidates is out of line with agreements made earlier with the executive board, he says.

Candel, currently assistant professor in the Public Administration and Policy group, was chair of the Wageningen PhD Council two years ago. Together with the WUR Council, the PhD Council drew up a plan to enable doctoral researchers to be represented on the Council. 'We foresaw the possible problems with the elections back then, which is why we discussed the rules for the PhD elections at length. It was agreed with the WUR Council that all PhD candidates who are registered in the Wageningen graduate schools have both active and passive voting rights, so that includes those without contracts.'

So Candel was amazed when the election committee recently decided that the elections had conformed to the rules, even though only 990 of the nearly 1900 PhD candidates had received voting papers. 'In all the communication with the executive board, it says that all PhD candidates get to vote. And the WUR Council's proposal on this was ratified by the board. So in my view, the exclusion of external PhD candidates from the elections is out of line with what was decided two years ago.'

According to Candel, everyone in the WUR Council agreed at the time that PhD researchers working on their research in Wageningen should have a say in decisions affecting all PhD researchers, such as staffing policy and work stations. 'For this it shouldn't make any difference what kind of contract or post you have.'

Candel wonders whether the current WUR Council is aware of the agreements. 'As far as I know this was agreed with the executive board. So I am curious what the election committee will do. If it turns out that the executive board's decision on the participation of PhD candidates in the WUR Council was not correctly implemented, then I think the PhD candidates who didn't get to vote now should still get a chance to do so. That is the most correct way of doing it.'

The WUR Council is currently taking a good look at what happened, says Linda Veldhuizen. She is doing a PhD in Animal production systems and is closely involved in the PhD elections. 'We will be coming back to this shortly, because it is important to us to finish this properly.' **LvdN**

## 'FLEX ACT' INCREASES INSECURITY

- Intended permanent contract often never comes
- Alternatives are resignation or payrolling

The revamped Work and Security Act (WWZ), known as the flex act, was intended to enable employees to move on to permanent posts more quickly. In practice however, the new law is only increasing insecurity, a survey within Wageningen UR suggests.

According to the WWZ, employees should be offered a permanent post after three temporary contracts or two years (four for academic staff). But employers don't always want or feel able to offer that. They may be unsure of their future funding, or they consider the period worked too short to be able to evaluate the expertise an employee has developed properly. So people end up losing their jobs, or only able to continue in them through 'pay-

rolling' – an internal agency system.

In the opinion feature IMO on page 22, assistant professor Peter Tamas describes the situation as a kind of 'ideological exploitation'. 'Ambitious people are easy to exploit.' Professor Hans Zuillhof is unhappy about the situation too, in his position as employer. He thinks the maximum period for which he is allowed to offer people temporary contracts is too short.

During the survey *Resource* spoke to various employees who are in the last stages of their temporary contracts and feeling very insecure. An energy-sapping position to be in, they tell us. However, not one of them wanted to write about it in *Resource* for fear of spoiling their own chances. They included men and women, staff of the university and affiliated institutes, Dutch and foreign workers. **YdH**

Read too the opinion feature IMO on p.22. Lees ook de opinierubriek MI op p.22. Including a response from director of Human resources Ingrid Lammerse.



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

## NUTTY IDEAS

Nuts and peanuts. There was no avoiding them last Monday in the canteen in Orion on campus. Dozens of students of Food quality and design presented their variations on a theme of nuts to manufacturer Duyvis. Nuts with an extra-crunchy coating, nuts masquerading as chocolate sprinkles and nuts in the form of balls with a soft centre. The point was to present this healthy food in the most newfangled way possible, both physically and digitally. **EvL**

# WAGENINGEN UR IS CLIMATE-NEUTRAL

- CO<sub>2</sub> footprint compensated for now
- Mainly thanks to the yield from wind turbines

Wageningen UR can describe itself as a climate-neutral organization for the first time. This means that its entire CO<sub>2</sub> footprint is compensated for, largely thanks to the high yields from the WUR wind turbines in Lelystad last year.

The organization's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint was calculated for the first time in 2010. At that time, the footprint amounted to 73 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub>, 26 kilotons of which were compensated for. Last year the footprint was 43 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> and for the first time it was more than compensated for, mainly by the wind turbines which produced nearly 25 percent more electricity



last year (a total of 77.5 million kWh). Wageningen UR's footprint

also benefitted from a chance in the national indicators used to cal-

culate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. 'On balance that works out to our advantage,' says energy coordinator Michiel Van der Wal.

But the organization's operations have been made more sustainable in recent years too. There was a great leap forward five years ago with the switch to exclusively green electricity. Before that electricity consumption by the buildings accounted for 70 percent of the footprint. The move to the energy-efficient new buildings on campus also contributed a lot to reducing the footprint. In the most recent footprint, buildings account for only one third of the emissions. A striking feature of the footprint in kerosene consumption. The air miles run up on WUR business account for a full quarter of the footprint. That is almost twice as much as the footprint for daily commuting. **Ⓜ RK**

## EDIBLE MARS VEGETABLES ARE 'HOT'

**You made the papers all over the world but there was hardly anything in the Dutch media. How is that possible?**

'Mars One were responsible for the publicity but that went a bit wrong. So the Dutch press release was only sent on Monday.'

**Has the Dutch press got tired of the Mars story?**

'I don't think so. I was on a children's news programme on Saturday. They phoned me in the morning while I was in the supermarket doing the shopping. Fortunately I have access to the greenhouse in the weekend as well. They came and filmed in the afternoon. The presenter Tania Sour tried the rocket. That was a first. ZAPP is due to come on Wednesday (yesterday, ed.) to try the first radishes. BNN called at 5.30 Saturday morning, getting me out of bed. Although they *had* agreed that with me; I'd just forgotten.'

**Does all that attention help?**

'Definitely. The donations on the crowdfunding site come flooding in immediately afterwards. A lot of people just give 10 euros, but that's fine. That means there's broad support for the project. The money really does come from all over the world. I'm already unable to keep up with my Facebook and Twitter messages.' **Ⓜ RK**

**Who?** Wieger Wamelink  
**What?** Drew international attention with his trials growing crops in Martian and lunar soil  
**Why?** Tests show that his vegetables are safe to eat



# AID 2016

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## BAIT TO PREVENT SWIMMER'S ITCH

- **Water boards want solution to this nuisance**
- **Alterra researcher wants to trap larvae**

In one of Alterra's climate rooms are six trays with pond snails that were still living in a lake in Emmeloord until a few days ago. Some of these snails are carrying *Trichobilharzia*, a parasite that causes swimmer's itch. Ecologist Marieke de Lange will be figuring out what makes us humans so attractive for the larvae (cercariae) of this parasite, which uses the snail as a host.

In the spring, once the water is warm enough, the cercariae swarm off en masse in search of water fowls. When the cercariae mature into flatworms, they lay eggs in the birds. These eggs end up in the water via the birds' excrement, develop into tiny larvae (miracidia) and look for snails to be their host again. The cercariae also see humans as a host, but

this is a mistake because they are not able to get into our bloodstream. But they do leave us with nasty bumps and itches.

According to De Lange, we may be attracting cercariae because we excrete linoleic acid. 'That at any rate is the case for the tropical variant of bilharzia.' She will be testing whether that also applies to the Dutch cercariae. She will also be testing cholesterol and ceramide as bait.

If one of these baits works, this will point to a way of trapping the larvae. 'The idea is to drench ropes in linoleic acid and attach them to buoys around the swimming area,' explains De Lange. She wants to cleanse the water with a kind of curtain of ropes.

De Lange's research was commissioned by six water boards and two recreational businesses. Water boards regularly get complaints about swimmer's itch. De Lange: 'They feel that the complaints have been increasing over the past five to ten years.' **© RK**

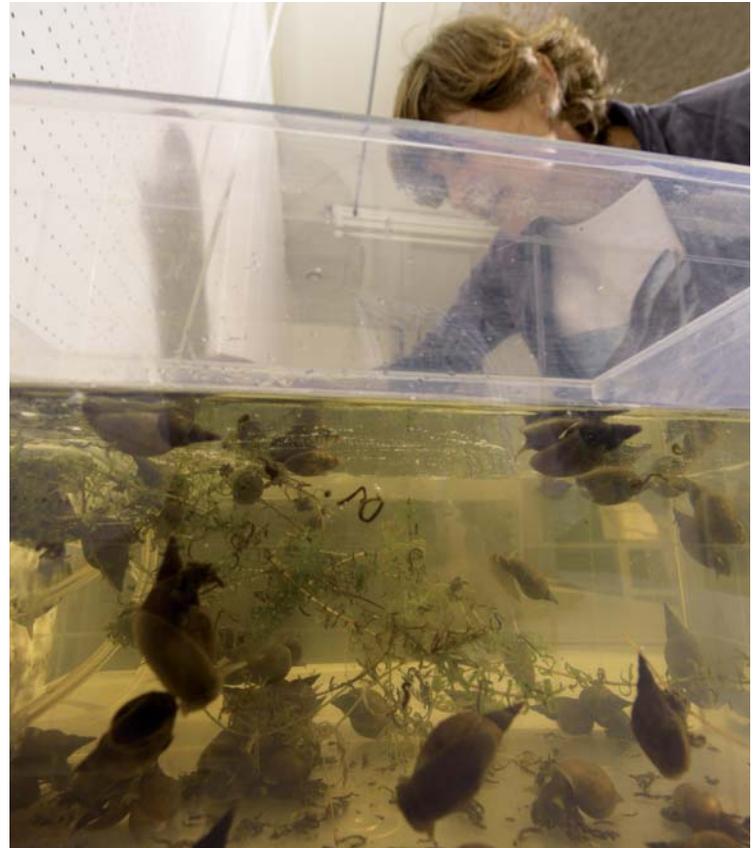


PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Some of the hundreds of pond snails that ecologist Marieke de Lange has captured are carrying the parasite *Trichobilharzia*.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD EXERCISE PROGRAMMES REACH LESS EDUCATED

- **Many participants of non-Dutch origin**
- **Continuous programme works best**

Neighbourhood-based exercise programme reach the social vulnerable groups for whom they are intended. And continuous programmes work better than short ones. These conclusions are drawn by Marion Herens in her PhD thesis. Herens received her PhD on 23 June from Maria Koelen, professor of Health and Society.

'Two thirds are of non-Dutch origin – from 29 different countries of origin –, half have only been to primary school and a little less than half have low incomes,' is Herens' summary of the profile of the participants in the exercise

programmes she studied. In total she followed 270 people in 19 exercise groups in Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Tilburg, Helmond, Hengelo and Enschede, over a period of one and a half years.

One of the aims of neighbourhood exercise programmes is to reduce the health discrepancies between people from higher and lower socio-economic classes. The assumption is that people from low socio-economic classes get less exercise than the average Dutch citizen. 'But I haven't been able to find any evidence for that,' says Herens.

Another striking finding was that the participants do not start getting more exercise when they take part in a programme. Herens did find that the people who got more exercise in their free time –

such as in the exercise classes – felt healthier and enjoyed exercise more than those who had dropped out of the exercise programme. The dropouts also turned out to have more health problems and a higher BMI one year later than those who continued.

The people who took part in a short programme of 10 to 12

weeks also scored lower than those who took part in continuous programmes, notes Herens. 'The assumption is often that once they start exercising they'll carry on exercising. But that's not how it works for this group. These people do not go on to join in the regular sports activities in the neighbourhood.' **© Anj**



PHOTO: CLAUDIA KAMERGORSKI

## EEL FISHING BAN IS JUSTIFIED

- People who eat wild eel ingest a lot of poison
- Study shows high levels of PCB and dioxin

People who eat a lot of eel from our polluted rivers have high levels of dioxin- and PCB-like substances in their systems. This finding comes from a study by PhD researcher Myrthe van den Dungen.

Since 2011 there has been ban on fishing for eel in most Dutch inland waters. The sediment in the watershed of the Maas and the Rhine in particular is too polluted with dioxins and PCBs (polychlorobiphenyls). Eels from these waters exceed the levels considered safe by a big margin.

Van den Dungen's research among 80 regular eel eaters – most of them fishers or traders – shows that the fishing ban is more than justified. These men eat at least 150 grams of eel per month and some of them had eaten eel from the polluted areas.

Those who had eaten 'polluted eel' turned out to have 2.5 times more dioxin-like substances in their bodies than those who had eaten 'clean eel'. Levels of PCBs and hormone-disrupting PCB me-

tabolites were up to 10 times higher. Both levels were far higher than the levels assumed to be safe. 'I was particularly shocked by the PCB levels,' says Van den Dungen. She also studied effects on the DNA of the eel eaters. One of these is methylation, a phenomenon that has been linked with various diseases. She found methylation in various genes that were implicated in cancer and the functioning of the immune system. According to Van den Dungen, this suggests that the pollution may have an effect on health.

There is no cause for alarm, however, according to the toxicologist. These diseases were brought to light by basic health tests. 'The safe levels are geared to protecting the most vulnerable people: mothers and their unborn babies.' That does not mean, however, that there is no effect on health. 'More subtle negative health effects cannot be ruled out, on the basis of our results, and on the basis of the literature one might even expect them.'

Van den Dungen's advice is clear, then: do not eat eel from the regions where the fishing ban is in force. Of all the eel sold in the Netherlands, 95 percent comes from fish farms. It is not known how much eel caught by amateur fishers is eaten. **R RK**



## VISION <<

### Energy solutions from water problems



**Farming organizations are sounding the alarm because of the extreme rain and are calling for measures to tackle the water damage. Those measures were taken long ago, says Alterra researcher Cees Kwakernaak. We now need to come up with smart combinations, for example of water storage and energy generation.**

#### *What measures have already been taken?*

'Fifteen years ago, the 21st Century Water Management programme was established to deal with the expected impact of climate change. That includes the effect of damage from water. That programme has been ongoing for some years now. Water storage areas have been constructed for the temporary storage of excess water, and municipalities have disconnected the conduits taking rainwater into the sewer system to prevent it becoming overburdened during downpours.'

#### *Is it not possible to take more measures?*

'If you want to absorb the most extreme rainfall, that would cost a fortune. We have chosen not to do that. One aspect of the current policy is awareness: people need to understand that they will occasionally suffer from extreme rainfall and from drought. We are however looking at what else you can do with a water storage area that holds water for two to five days a year. For example, we are currently experimenting with water storage as an energy buffer. When electricity is cheap, you pump your water from the river into the water storage facility. When energy prices rise, you release the water so that it flows via the turbine and you get your energy back. Of course the water storage facility must not already be full when heavy rainfall is due, but you can anticipate that.'

#### *What should be done now about Limburg?*

'In Limburg, many small streams run into the River Maas. Water problems can arise at those points, which are often built-up areas. You can prevent that by holding water back upstream and having a storage area downstream. Incidentally, climate change means that we can also have long periods of drought and that can be even more of a problem. Then you should consider using the water storage areas as sources of supply during dry periods.'

**R AS**



## DEODORANT REPELS MALARIA MOSQUITO

- Mosquito only likes natural armpit
- Anti-mosquito soap

Malarial mosquitoes don't like deodorant, discovered entomologist Niels Verhulst. If our sweat carried deodorant with a particular chemical compound, we are less attractive to the insects.

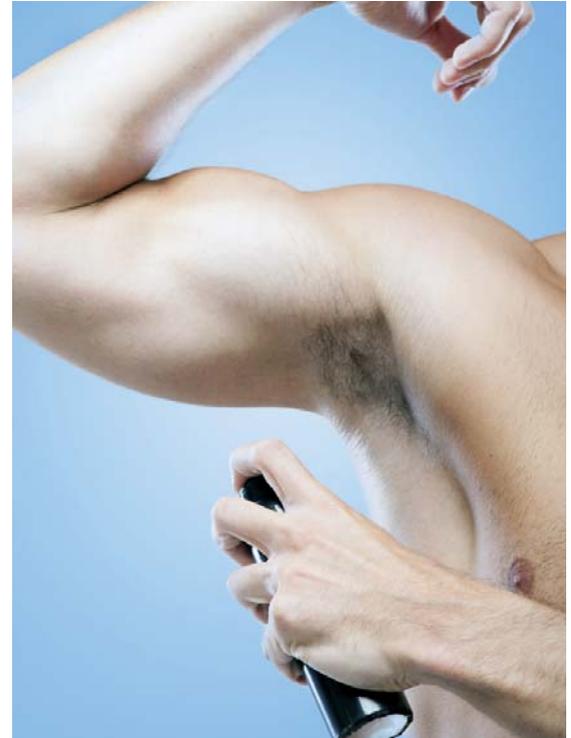
For years now, Verhulst has been doing research on odours that attract malaria mosquitoes and for a long time he thought the insects had a preference for smelly feet. New research findings have changed that picture, however. In this study, test subjects had cotton wool pads placed on their feet, hands and armpits to collect odours. In a wind tunnel Verhulst then tested which odours the mosquitoes were most attracted to. He also identified the composition of the odours. 'The aroma composition of our armpits is completely different to that of our feet. We saw that

the mosquitoes found the armpit odours less attractive than the foot ones.'

It then transpired from the odour analysis that there were traces of deodorant in the odour combinations from the armpits. 'We had asked to participants not to use deodorant for 24 hours before the experiment but apparently that wasn't long enough. When we repeated the experiment with the condition that the test subjects wouldn't use deodorant and perfumed products for five days beforehand, the armpit odours were just as attractive as the foot odours.'

Conclusion: deodorant makes us less attractive to malaria mosquitoes. It is primarily the compound isopropyl-tetradecanoate that lies behind this effect, reports Verhulst in the journal *Scientific Reports* this month. Verhulst argues for follow-up research so that in the long term manufacturers could develop 'mosquito-repellent soap for the African market, for instance.

AS



## FULL FEELING ON NEARLY EMPTY STOMACH

- 'Thick' feel in the mouth is satiating
- Effect on overeating not clear

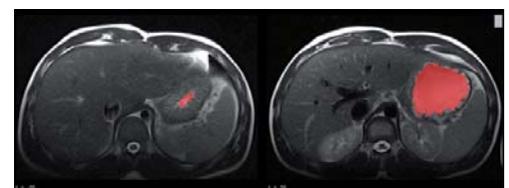
It is not the fullness of the stomach that is decisive for how satiating food is. A 'thickish', viscous texture in the mouth makes us feel full too. This conclusion was drawn by PhD researcher Guido Camps and colleagues from the Sensory Science and Eating Behaviour chair group in an article in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

In the study conducted by Camps and co, 15 healthy young men drank half-litre milkshakes on an empty stomach. The calorific value and thickness of the shakes varied. With the drinks in their stomachs they had to lie still for one and a half hours in the MRI scanner that belongs to Wageningen UR and the Gelderse Vallei hospital. The process of the emptying of the stomach was monitored on the scans. At the same time the test subjects were asked periodically how full they felt and how hungry or thirsty.

'When they'd had two shakes the results were as expected,' says Camps. 'The thick 500 calorie shake caused a long-lasting feeling of fullness, whereas the thin 100 calorie shake only stayed in the stomach for a short time and was only briefly satiating.' But the other results were more surprising. 'When they'd had the thin 500 calorie shake people didn't feel full, whereas their stomachs did stay full for a

long time. And the thick 100 calorie shake went through the stomach quickly, but the men felt full for longer and were less hungry. In other words: it seems as though the fatty texture of the shake in your mouth has more effect on satiety than what is actually in your stomach.'

The question is whether this effect is big enough to ensure that people cut down on the amount they eat. In the study, the men were allowed to eat as many ham-and-cheese sandwiches as they liked after the test. Which shake they had had did not make a significant difference to how much they ate. 'You could explain that negatively,' says Camps, 'but you could also explain it positively, because the test subjects do not start compensating for the calories they have missed.' Anj



An empty stomach before drinking the shake (left) and a full one afterwards.

An appeal by *Resource* brought in some creative solutions to the cutlery problem. Even if the odd reader dismissed it as a rubbish subject. Have your say on resource-online.nl or email resource@wur.nl.

REACTIONS ON...



# RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL

## DEPOSIT MONEY ON YOUR SPOON

Cutlery disappears into thin air at the catering outlets on Wageningen campus. Forks and spoons in particular get appropriated – deliberately or not – in large quantities. In the magazine and a video on the website, *Resource* appealed to readers for a solution.

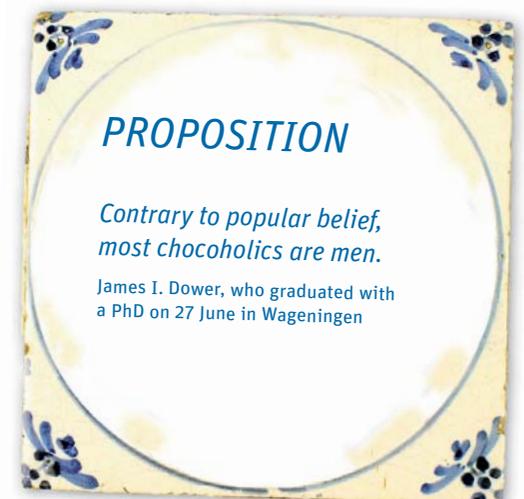
'What a rubbish subject,' says **Hans**. 'These kinds of things go on everywhere, they are quite normal and not worth mentioning.' **Henk** goes further. 'This is a retrograde step for a university magazine. So much focus on the caterer's cutlery. *Resource* makes itself a laughing stock.' 'So theft is a rubbish subject?' retorts **Kazan**. 'Learn to behave yourself then!'

Happily, some solutions were offered as well. **Man man man**: 'Deposit money on the cutlery. Available (with logo) at a charge from the till. As you leave, money back in the form of a voucher to use next time you eat here.' 'Microchips? GPS? Bring your own? The possibilities are endless. Students could use something, apart from criticism,' responds **Criticaster**. **Vasiliki Akridopoulou** proposes a deposit, left at the till if students want cutlery. 'But this option needs working out in detail.' **Michelle Wong** proposes a small additional charge if you want to use cutlery. You could get it back when you return the cutlery. **Henk Parmentier** advises not providing cutlery at all anymore. 'After all, the university doesn't hand out stationery either?' 'Provide a fancy Spork,' suggests **Oberon Berlage**. This is a fork and spoon rolled into one. 'A small investment that pays off if you get discount all year on meals you need cutlery for.' **Zoete Lieve Gerritje** has the last word: 'The problem is much too small in business-economics terms to make such a big issue of it. If you look at the amount of stolen cutlery, a solution would have to cost less than 10 euros per day that the canteen is open – less the 20 minutes extra work per day.' **Ⓜ RK**

**Kuch** bets that the dissatisfaction is partly related to cultural differences. 'A lot of international students expect a doctor always to prescribe medicine, whereas doctors in the Netherlands usually assume you'll get better without it.' **Promovenda** comments that the same problem affects PhD researchers. 'Foreign colleagues have no idea that there's such a thing as a GP's surgery or a GP clinic at the hospital.' She thinks they should also be told that there are GPs who usually do nothing. 'They could at least look at you or examine you before they dismiss your symptoms as a fuss about nothing from behind their desks.' She is also very irritated by the fact that the university sells foreign PhD students 'a cheap student insurance that is not appropriate to the target group,' which means that important things like postnatal care are not covered. **Ⓜ LdK**

## CARES ABOUT HEALTHCARE

Wageningen students cannot always find their way around the local healthcare services and sometimes feel the doctor doesn't take them seriously. This came out of a survey by the student council party S&I (see also p. 27).



# All out for the Olympics

Wageningen will be represented at the Olympic Games this summer. Nadine Visser, student of Health and Society will certainly be there, and her fellow student Eva Hovenkamp may join her. For the next month their lives will revolve around training. And card games.

*text Linda van der Nat photos Guy Ackermans*

**E**verything at Papendal sports centre in the woods near Arnhem smacks of the Olympic Games. A large signboard at the entrance displays a countdown to the opening ceremony on 5 August and at the entrance to the athletics hall there is a board showing all the top Dutch sportspeople who already have their tickets in the bag.

The sports complex is currently a second home for Wageningen students Nadine Visser and Eva Hovenkamp. They train here nearly every day to get into top form for the Olympic Games. All-rounder athlete Nadine Visser has already won a place on the Dutch team, while sprinter Eva Hovenkamp is still in suspense. If she and the relay team do well in the 4x400 metres in the European championships at the beginning of July in Amsterdam, a ticket to Rio comes in reach for her too.

## VOLATILE

On rainy days like today the athletics team trains indoors. On the first floor of the Arnhem Hall is a 130 metre-long indoor track where the athletes can practise their starts, tempos and 100 metres. It is quiet here today. Normally it's a full house, says Hovenkamp but today it's just her, Visser and her training mate, world champion Dafne Schippers, as well as a few male athletes and a group of wheelchair athletes. All quietly training away. It is pleasantly cool in the hall but the cardigans and shirts are soon stripped off, revealing bodies on which not a gram of fat is to be seen.

Visser is going to run again today for the first time in a while. The 21-year-old all-rounder has been troubled by injuries recently. First she had the start of a stress fracture in her shin, now she has a strained hamstring. 'One

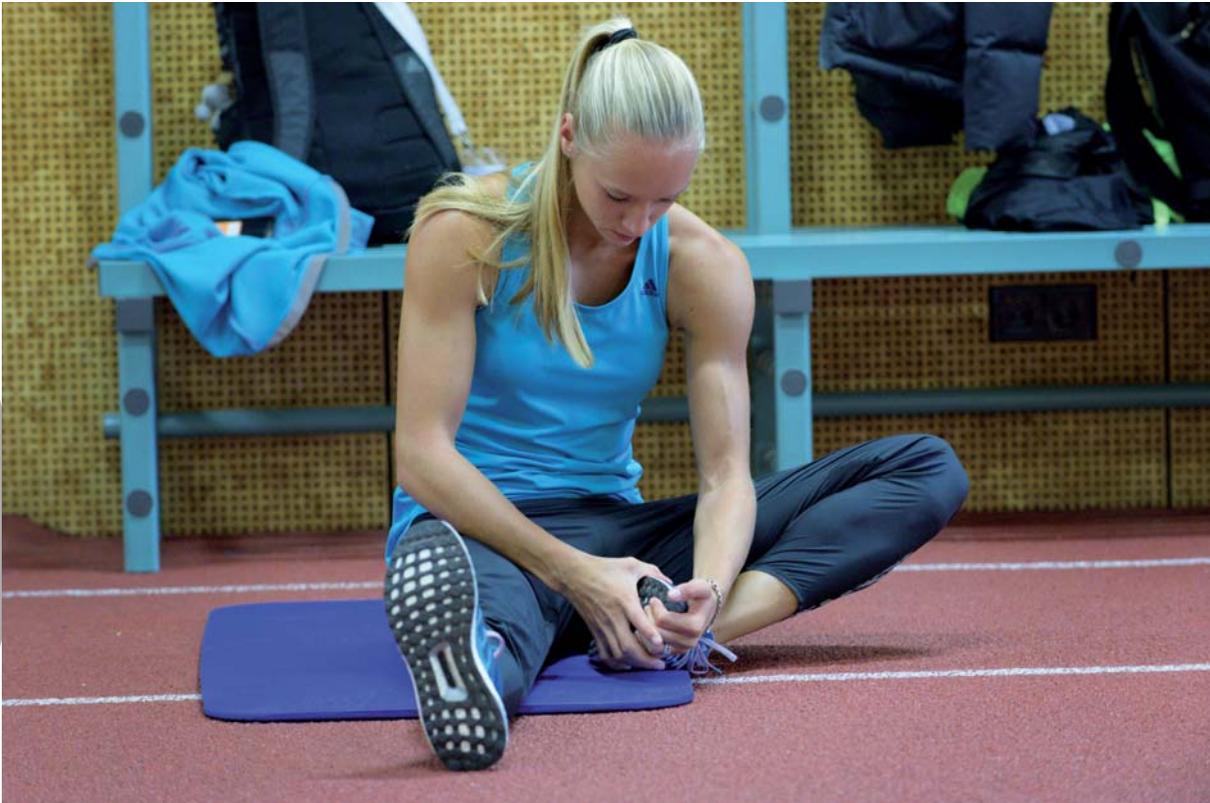
injury leads to another,' she says as she takes off her tracksuit trousers. 'It all heals fairly quickly but something else always starts up. I am very volatile and it seems there is always a lot of tension in my muscles. That is my strength, but also perhaps my weakness.'

Visser is not allowed to sprint and jump hard at the moment but she is still optimistic about her recovery. 'I know that once I'm fit again, I can be on top form again in time.'

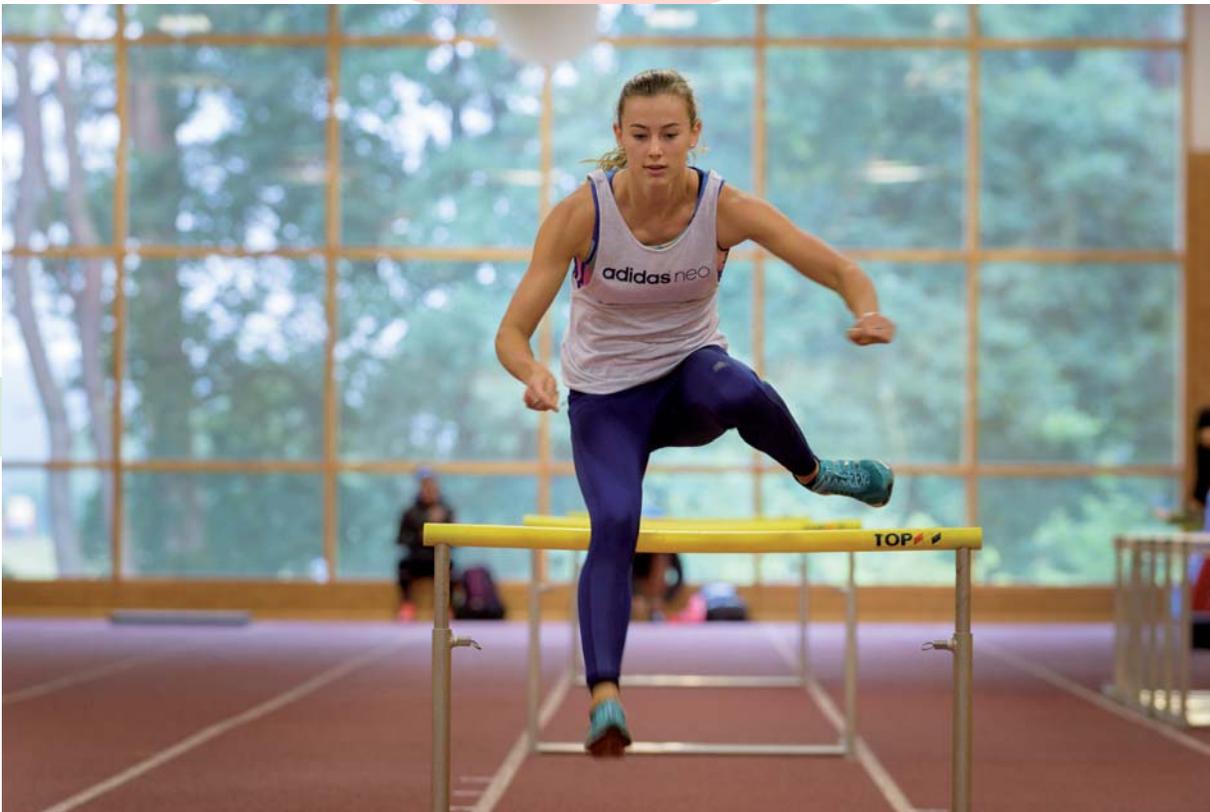
## WARMING UP

Hovenkamp is taking it easy today too. She's just taken part in the Dutch championships and has no training commitments. A bit of stretching, a bit of warming up, a stint on the hometrainer and a consultation with the physio, and that's it for today. In the next few days she's got to up her game: usually mainly a 100 and 200 metres runner, Hovenkamp is now training for the 400 metres. It would be quite a coup for the 19-year-old to succeed in going to Rio in the end, because last year she was still in the juniors. 'I am now a first-year senior, so I was aiming for the European Championships under 23s for 2017. I thought it was too soon for me to make it to the European championships and the Olympic Games. If you had asked me four or five months ago whether I had a chance of going to Rio I would have said 'certainly not'.

Both Visser and Hovenkamp are students of Health and Society in Wageningen, though they are not often to be found on campus these days. Hovenkamp, a first-year, attends a lecture and a seminar twice a week. Visser, in the third year, took a break from her studies in February. 'I wanted to focus entirely on sport. I'll start up again in September.' Hovenkamp likes having something else in



Eva Hovenkamp: 'Five months ago I didn't think I stood a chance of going to Rio.'



Nadine Visser: 'I love the feeling of taking a hurdle fast.'

her life apart from sport. 'If the running isn't going so well for a while, I can focus on something else. Luckily Health and society is not a terribly taxing degree course; if I read the book and write a summary of my lecture notes I can pass the exam.'

#### NICE STUDY ADVISOR

Wageningen is a good university for top sporters, say the girls. 'I don't have to get a certain number of study points and I am allowed to take longer to get my degree,' says Visser. 'And I've got a very nice study advisor, with whom I



#### Nadine Visser

**'At a tournament you see absolutely all the athletes playing cards'**

make a plan every year as to which courses I will take.' Hovenkamp too is using her plan now to combine her studies with her sport. 'I have a lot of email contact with my teachers too,' adds Hovenkamp. 'Most of them are flexible. They don't mind what you do as long as you hand things in on time.'

The tight training schedule leaves the athletes little time for a social life. They don't drink, they don't see their coursemates outside lectures, and they skip the parties and activities. Most of their friends are here at Papendal. Nadine: 'We have the same training schedule so we

often eat together in the evening, go to the cinema or play games. I am a real games fanatic, which you get a lot of in athletics. All athletics like games. At tournaments you see absolutely everyone playing cards.' Hovenkamp: 'The other athletes have become a second family; you see each other more often than your own parents. You can't keep anything a secret here, either. In no time everyone knew there was a nice boy living in my house.'

Because even though her parents live near Wageningen, Hovenkamp chose to move out. 'I have a room in a student house in Renkum. So in the basement lives a boy who's been my boyfriend for a few months now.'

#### STARTING BLOCK

Hovenkamp and Visser have both been athletes since childhood. It soon became clear they had talent and they took part in national and international youth competitions. Now Visser competes with the best athletes in the world. She likes hurdle races best. Even now she is injured she can fly over the hurdles effortlessly. 'I just enjoy it the most and, sure, that's probably mainly because I'm good at it. That often automatically makes something more enjoyable. I love feeling the way I get over a hurdle and pick up speed in a race.' Yet she is not thinking of specializing at the moment. 'I love the diversity of the pentathlon. And I can still improve so much on the throwing events and the high jump that it would be a pity to specialize. It's nice to see the progress I make each year.'

The two athletes each have their own way of dealing with the stresses of competitions and major tournaments. 'In the call room you have to wait for between 15 and 30 minutes until you can go to the starting blocks,' explains Hovenkamp. 'Then I go to the loo one more



Nadine Visser is troubled by a strained hamstring.



time, tie another double knot in my shoelaces and drink a bit more.' Visser likes to do something nice in the call room. 'Some people go into a world of their own, but I like to have people around me. Anything to avoid feeling that tension. I can get pretty nervous before an important competition and then I like to relax a bit beforehand. Only when I get out onto the track do I focus.'

Hovenkamp is 'pretty sociable' too. 'My trainer told me I could do with getting a bit more nervous before the start. I just stand there smiling and looking around me. Some athletes shut themselves off completely, but I don't know whether that's the approach for me. I quite like to have a chat as a way of relaxing. Only when I'm in the starting block do I switch gears. Then I try to get angry so that my first step after the starting shot will be a furious one. That brief, hard contact with the track gives you a lot of energy from the track. Usually you know straightaway whether you got off to a good start and you feel whether you are well-positioned in the race.'

#### ZERO EXPECTATIONS

Hovenkamp tries not to think during the race. 'You don't have any time to think about your technique or the length of your stride. I find that difficult because during the training you learn so many things you want to apply in the race. But you just have to be first over the line, no matter how, because you're not going to get a second chance.'

Visser: 'In general athletes often say that in a race that doesn't go so well all sorts of thoughts go through your mind and in a good race they don't. When I have to go into the blocks I don't think about anything except "react to the starting shot". In a technical event that is less so. Especially in a throwing event, I can think of some aspect of technique I need to pay attention to just before throwing.'

Although it is difficult to go into a major tournament such as the Olympic Games without expectations, both athletes try to tone down their dreams. Hovenkamp: 'If I get to go to the Olympics I won't be there to shine like Dafne Schippers. I am simply not as fast as her. If you know you are the green one among all the stars, you are a lot more relaxed. Actually I should go there with zero expectations. If I put myself in the underdog position I can only do better than expected.'

**Eva Hovenkamp**  
**'Once I'm in the starting block I switch gears'**



Visser: 'I don't like saying I want to get into the top so many. They are exhausting days: you start early in the morning and go on until late in the evening. Just like most other athletes, I tend to set high standards for myself, but in the circus of the Olympics I don't want to focus too much on my personal record. The pentathlon starts with the hurdle race and since that is my best event, that's where I have to prove myself. So it would be great if I can do well in that. Then once the high jump – my toughest event in training – is over, I can relax and get on with the rest.' 

Watch the video on  
[resource-online.nl](http://resource-online.nl)

# MSc REGULAR PROGRAM AID 2016



## WELCOME TO WAGENINGEN

It is common knowledge in Wageningen that the abbreviation AID stands for *Algemene Introductie Dagen* (General Introduction Days). The whole town and of course the campus provide the backdrop for the welcome extended to all new students. For six days, MSc students from all the corners of the globe are shown around the city of Wageningen, the university and their degree programme by two experienced students. Needless to say, they also plunge into Wageningen student life. New friendships, a lot of fun and not much sleep.

## SUNDAY

### Religious morning

**The Spot (9:30-11:30)**

The religious morning is an optional part in the AID for students who want to participate. A service will be held in The Spot, organized by religious student associations. Afterwards there will be a short fair in which the associations present themselves.

### Annual aerial picture!

**Sports Centre de Bongerd (13:00-13:30)**

Every AID participant is on the annual aerial picture, so make sure you're there in time!

### Sportsday

**Sports Centre De Bongerd (13:30-17:00)**

During the sports day you will meet all the sports that Wageningen has to offer. You can follow several clinics and all student sports associations will be represented at the sports market. You can ask them all your questions and join an association already!

### Open Air Movie

**Torckpark (20:30-23:00)**

Sunday evening is an evening to relax. During the open air movie in the Torckpark, you have a moment to sit down, grab a snack and enjoy a movie for two hours. Bring your blankets and couches and chill out!

## FRIDAY

### Registration

**Forum (11:00-14:00)**

THIS IS IT! The first day of an amazing week! This is where you will meet your group and mentors and you will have a nice first lunch together.

### Campus Games

**Campus (12:00-16:00)**

Student organizations and associations will present themselves for the first time through all sorts of fun games. This is the perfect way to get to know your AID group and score the first points for the Ranking!

### Opening party

**Campus (20:00-00:00)**

This is the official, festive opening party of the AID 2016! With performances by several DJs and a spectacular opening show by the AID Board.

## SATURDAY

### Crazy88

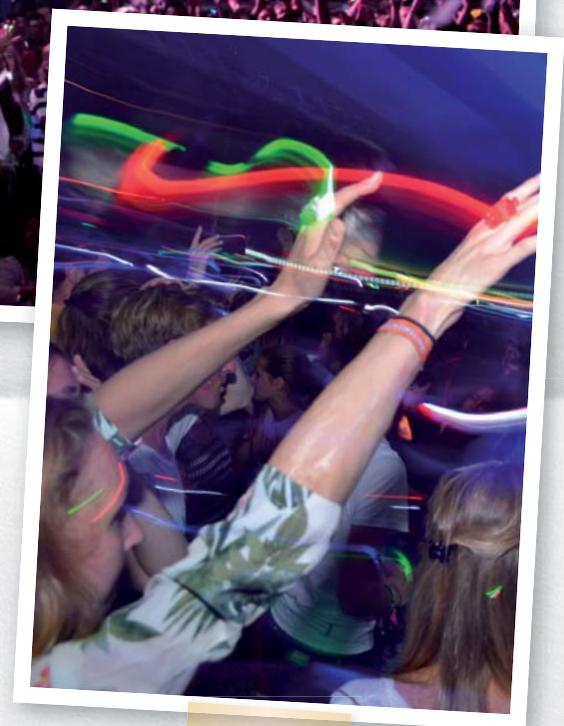
**City centre (12:30-15:30)**

Throughout Wageningen city centre your group will have to finish 88 assignments and score points for the Ranking again! Get to know the city and score all 88 points!

### Street theatre festival

**City centre (20:00-23:00)**

Wageningen city centre will be taken over by many street artists performing the whole evening! Walk around and visit the spectacular and sometimes mysterious performances throughout the city centre.



## MONDAY

### Wageningen Classroom

**Orion (12:30-17:00)**

During the Wageningen Classroom, you will solve some big problems. Use your knowledge to solve these international problems and experience what it's like to cooperate with international students!

### BBQ

**Campus (17:00-20:00)**

After the Wageningen Classroom, there will be a nice BBQ to recharge your batteries after the hard work you've done!

### Crossing Borders

**Campus (20:00-23:00)**

On Monday there is an international evening. The campus will be divided into several continents with workshops, food and performances from countries from all over the world. So cross your borders and discover the world!

## TUESDAY

### MSc Study Day

**Forum (11:00-16:00)**

The study day is devoted to your MSc programme. You will get some important last information about your programme and of course meet your fellow students!

### Beer Cantus

**Campus (16:00-18:00)**

The Beer cantus is a typical Dutch activity. Under the direction of the praesidium, you will sing some famous songs, played by a live band! But... if you do not know the lyrics, you and your AID group might get punished by the praesidium!

### Sustainability College

**Orion (16:00-18:00)**

What is sustainability? How can you be sustainable in daily life? These questions will be asked during the sustainability college. Three speakers will tell you about their vision on sustainability in daily life and how we can improve this. Don't hesitate and get the discussion going!

### Comedy Crawl

**City centre (20:30-23:00)**

Comedians will perform in the bars and pubs in the Wageningen city centre. Visit all pubs and have a laugh while you enjoy a drink in every bar!

## WEDNESDAY

### Information market

**Arboretum (12:00-17:00)**

During the information market, you can collect information from several associations and organizations in Wageningen. Discover the companies, ask them questions and even join if you like!

### AID Festival

**Campus (17:00-00:00)**

To end an amazing week in a spectacular way, on the last day a festival is organized. With several stages and a food corner, you can enjoy yourself the whole evening. With performances by Heavy-light and the Hottub Heroes, the evening will have a spectacular closing of the AID 2016!

# 'Target culture is damaging Alterra'

Research institute Alterra is in the red and is tackling this by scrapping 60 jobs and rejecting unprofitable projects. Logical and predictable measures. But they will only help if the culture changes, reckon employees. 'At the moment Alterra is 400 individual firms that have to meet their targets.'

*text* Albert Sikkema *photo* Sven Menschel

**A**lterra staff expected cuts. 'We have too few assignments, not enough work,' says Tia Hermans. 'Alterra is too big for the market,' believes Mirjam Hack. 'It has become harder to find projects,' claims Cees Kwakernaak. 'We're going to have to face the music,' says Marieke de Lange.

But they were surprised by the size of the shortfall last year: about four million euros. In the

preceding years too, alarm bells rang regularly, but then the deficit at the end of the year was often less dramatic than expected, perhaps because a lot of bills were submitted to clients just before Christmas. But in 2015 there was no such last-minute reprieve. For a long time no one had a proper overview of revenue and expenditure, because of the transition to a new financial system. Then it became clear that financial problems had been piling up over recent years.

This has now been clearly stated by Bram Vos, the new director of the Environmental Sciences group (ESG), of which Alterra is part. And the staff appreciate that. De Vos, generally known as Bram, has a lot of credit. Having earned his laurels as head of the Soil Centre, and become director of Alterra in August last year, he is seen as 'one of us'. Bram does not beat around the bush, he is open and honest, doesn't put on a show and asks what you think. He is also admired for starting his clean-up at the top. A few financial managers who had failed to foresee the huge shortfall have been suspended. A gesture with which Bram makes clear that the whole organization is responsible.

#### SIX RESEARCH THEMES

But this does not solve Alterra's problems because their causes are partly external. 'Agriculture and horticulture have a top sector at the ministry of Economic Affairs, and we don't,' says Tia Hermans. 'Spending on nature by Economic Affairs (EZ) has been halved in recent years, from 14 million euros in 2010 to 6 million in 2016. What is more, we more often involve partners in our research projects in order to deliver a good product to EZ. That acquisition and cooperation takes time, which costs money. And thirdly, for a lot of research grants you need co-funding. Then you have to contribute your own money, but we have hardly any scope for that anymore. Or you need to pool research budgets, but nowadays accountants often won't approve that. All in all, this means we don't have enough work.'

Alterra's new strategy is addressing this, says Marieke de Lange. 'It is good that the management is making decisions. We are now concentrating on six research themes, links to the national science agenda and other priorities in the outside world. We no longer do any project that comes our way, and only accept unprofitable projects if they are important for our own knowledge development and if they are compensated for with projects with a big enough margin. I think that's a good strategy. The only question is: how are we going to implement it?'

According to Hermans the problem is the lack of a convincing narrative 'for drawing attention to the urgency of our field.' 'The message that our food production is supported by biodiversity and ecology is not getting across strongly. I don't hear the executive board proclaiming that biodiversity and nature lie at the root of a resilient food production system. Professor Herbert puts a motto at the bottom of his emails: "No nature, no life." That's what we've got to get across, otherwise we'll be gone.'

#### NOT ENOUGH TEAMWORK

De Lange sees another internal problem. 'In order to implement the new strategy the culture at Alterra needs to change. Crucial to that culture

change are a better division of labour and more collaboration. At the moment, Alterra is too much like a collective of 400 freelancers under one roof. All the staff are assessed by the number of billable hours they work, not by their overall result. The thing is that Alterra's expertise and added value is all in the heads of the staff: you can't see it. That's got to change. We should know what our colleagues are doing, otherwise we can't set up anything together.'

Molecular ecologist Ivo Laros agrees that Alterra is '400 individual firms that have to meet their targets', and believes staff must work more as a team. That is a requirement for acquiring new projects, say other staff members too. The time has passed when Alterra ecologists were hired to take their binoculars and go out and inventory species. Freelancers from outside Alterra can do that too, and much more cheaply. Alterra's added value lies in larger multidisciplinary projects. And for those you need teams.

So part of the culture change that is needed is for the target culture to disappear. And that's no easy matter, because it is precisely when an organization is running at a loss that controllers focus on who is not working enough billable hours. Discussions with staff who don't acquire enough projects will be intensified. And that raises questions for Mirjam Hack. 'The management has not opted for a reorganization. The alternative is to manipulate people into leaving. That bothers me.' If you want staff to work together and more on a trust basis, you mustn't create the impression that they could be bullied into leaving, as has happened in the past. What you want is a transparent procedure such as the 'from job to job' trajectory agreed on in the latest labour agreement (CAO). That procedure is not being used at the moment, notes Hack. 'And that can lead to arbitrariness.'

#### VICTIMS

'People are worried, especially the staff with low productivity and people involved in a change process,' says Laros. Hermans: 'Everyone understands that something's got to happen, but that understanding disappears once you are affected personally. I try to avoid thinking about that, because I don't want to be paralysed.' Cees Kwakernaak is due to retire on 15 August. The recovery plan won't affect him personally but he does say: 'The temporary contracts are always the first victims. And that's a great pity because that's where the action is.'

Is there a future for Alterra? There are doubts about that, because the institute has actually been shrinking continuously for the last ten years. The research questions will still exist, think the staff, but the institute? In a slimmed-down form, says Hermans. De Lange: 'Only if the ecosystem gives Alterra enough positive feedback in the form of mutual interaction and trust.' 

#### Tia Hermans

researcher at Regional development and spatial use, and leader of the Nature and biodiversity domain.



#### Cees Kwakernaak

researcher at Climate change and adaptive land and water management.



#### Marieke de Lange

researcher at Animal Ecology and at Climate change and adaptive land and water management.



#### Mirjam Hack

senior researcher and project manager at Soil, water and land use.



#### Ivo Laros

senior assistant researcher at Animal Ecology.



**'More collaboration is crucial to the culture change'**

# Light

Birds need a good night's sleep just as we do. Excessive artificial light disturbs that rest. But how problematic is that? Not very, concludes Maaïke de Jong from her doctoral research. And green light is not better than white light

*tekst* Roelof Kleis *illustration* Geert-Jan Bruins

**B**oth humans and animals sleep better in the dark. But it is not easy for wild animals in the Netherlands to find deep darkness. By night, the Netherlands is one of the most lit-up countries in the world, as photos taken from space reveal. Biologists refer to this as light pollution and a lot of research has been done on its effects in recent years.

One good example is the Light on Nature project implemented by Wageningen UR and the NIOO KNAW. Since 2011 rows of lampposts have stood at locations in formerly dark nature areas around the country. The lamps shed white, red or green light. The effect of light and its colour on the nearby nature is monitored. Biologist Maaïke de Jong got her PhD on 24 June for a study of the effects of nocturnal light on birds.





## ‘There is no reason to believe that birds do better in green light’

again. ‘So a pattern can be seen: in a cold year artificial light brings forward the date of the first egg. But the data needs better analysis first. For these kinds of differences we need measurements over several years.’

Laying their eggs earlier does not seem to harm the animals, however. In biologists’ terms: the animal’s fitness remains unchanged. The number of young that leave the nest, their average weight and the number of brooding birds returning the next year is not changed by artificial light. Laying eggs five days earlier might not seem like a big deal either but De Jong says it can make a difference. ‘Great tits try to time their brood by the annual caterpillar peak, which lasts approximately ten days. So a change by a couple of days could be decisive.’

### LATER TO BED

The results of these kinds of field trials are often difficult to interpret because there is no control over the amount of artificial light the animals are subjected to. So De Jong also did extensive research on the behaviour of great tits and blue tits under controlled laboratory conditions. She looked at how the diurnal rhythm, or activity pattern, of tits responds to light of various colours and intensities. Activity was measured in this case by the number of times a bird makes contact with a perch in a cage. A tried and trusted method. The results are fascinating. The birds are up and about up to two hours earlier and go to bed at least half an hour later. The extent of the effect also correlates closely with the strength of the light. De Jong: ‘The effect is stronger in the morning than in the evening. I think they like to make use of the extra light so they can eat earlier in the morning.’ The earlier activity is in evidence with white, red and green light, although it is less with

green light. That could be an argument to use green light, which is used increasingly in places where managers want light but do not want to disturb nature. De Jong says cautiously: ‘At higher intensities the difference between green and white light disappears.’ In her view green light is no better and no worse than any other light. ‘There is no evidence at all in the terrestrial ecosystems I have studied. Sure, you can demonstrate effects of green light on the behaviour of birds. But there is no reason to believe birds here do better in green light.’

### DIMMABLE

In fact, De Jong’s research provides no basis for the claim that light pollution has a negative impact on the fitness of birds. ‘The effects do not seem so big. We know that many species can adapt very well to a new environment. On the other hand, it comes out clearly in my research that the less light there is, the less disturbance. So it might be better to use the money spent on green light on making lighting dimmable.’ But De Jong reserves judgement. ‘This is only three years of research. It might very well be the case that effects on the population or on individual animals only become visible in the long term. What is more, for other animal species such as nocturnal animals, insects or humans, negative effects of artificial light have been proven.’

### MORE INFIDELITY IN THE DARK

Great tits are known for their tendency to infidelity. A nest often contains young from different fathers. Artificial light has an influence on this, De Jong’s study shows. The further the nesting boxes were from the lampposts, the more fathers were represented in the nest. That is, in the presence of red and white light at least. It seems as though red and white light functions like a kind of traffic light: stop, no adultery here! De Jong guesses that female great tits are more faithful under lighter conditions because their mates can keep a better eye on them.

### FIRST EGG

Over two years De Jong studied the effects of artificial light on the brooding behaviour of great tits and pied flycatchers in nesting boxes near the lampposts. Light appeared to affect their brooding behaviour but the results are not clear-cut. White and green artificial light brought forward the date when the first egg was laid by five days. However, this effect was seen in the first year but not the next.

De Jong has an explanation for this. ‘The two triggers for brooding are daylight hours and temperature. In 2013, when we did observe an effect, the spring was cold. Normally birds brood a bit later then, while the days get longer. The additional white and green light may have caused the tits to start brooding earlier. The spring of 2014 was warm, so daylight hours had less influence and the light had no effect on the date of the first egg.’

The pied flycatchers were unaffected however. But De Jong has a plausible explanation for that as well. Pied flycatchers are migrating birds. They only arrive in the brooding area just beforehand, not long enough for the artificial light to have an impact.

Meanwhile there is data from more recent years too. In 2015 (a warm spring) there was no effect, this year (a cold spring) there is an effect

# IS THE FLEX ACT TOO RIGID?

According to the new Dutch ‘Work and Security Act’ (WWZ) – known as the Flex Act – employees must be offered a permanent contract after three temporary contracts or two years (four for academic staff). The aim of the act is to provide more security but it doesn’t always do that, reveals a survey among staff.

text Yvonne de Hilster illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek

## Kristina Raab



**Gender policy officer at corporate HR**

‘The intention behind the flex act is good: offering employees a permanent contract creates more stability. But it goes wrong when it’s implemented. **Because of the new rules I cannot have another temporary con-**

**tract after my current contract runs out.** Only it’s been decided not to give me a permanent post so I’ll have to leave, even though people are pleased with my performance.’

## Han Zuilhof



**Professor of Organic Chemistry**

‘**The flex act is a big nuisance for me. The main problem is the limited period for which you are allowed to employ people on a temporary basis.** It is too short for them to build up expertise, especially for teachers and lab assistants. Good teaching takes experience and a two-year contract is much too short to gain enough of that. But fluctuating student numbers make it hard to offer people a permanent contract. Whereas based on the number of High School students I can probably assume that I’ll have work for some of them until 2020. Giving teachers work in temporary bits and pieces through payrolling is too expensive for me and it’s insecure for them. For lab assistants, short contracts make no sense in most cases, because it takes time to build up expertise in using advanced tech-

niques. Anyway, people don’t always want a permanent contract themselves, but they would like a bit more security. So I can see a need on both the supply and the demand sides for contracts of five or six years, on all levels. That provides enough structure without you getting stuck with each other for ever.’

**Jeroen Vos**



**Water resources management chair group**

‘I am now on tenure track as assistant professor and I have a temporary contract. **The Work and Security Act prevents tenure track from working as intended.** Every three years you

are assessed by the Assessment Committee, according to ever stricter standards – it is up or out. After six years you are assessed by a Severe Assessment Committee, which has to decide whether your temporary appointment becomes a fixed one. If you continue on a fixed contract after three years, the “out” option disappears from subsequent evaluations. Then you should be offered another job but you are still on the books so the group cannot take on new people on tenure track. At the same time, three years is too short to assess whether an assistant professor has reached the required standard and is making sufficient progress in teaching, research, acquisition and teamwork. In short: tenure track and the flex act clash now. It’s time to adapt the tenure track regulations, which come from the US, to the Dutch labour law.’



## Esther Veen



**Rural Sociology chair group, officially seconded from PPO**

'I was affected by the flex act when I had finished a temporary contract at PPO and should have had a fixed contract, but they didn't want to offer me that at that point. **Because**

**they didn't want to lose me either, I got a 'payroll contract'.**

That felt like a rejection at the time. It also meant worse secondary contract conditions. But I still accepted it: if you say no, you're out of work. About a year later, they wanted to get rid of these systems and I got a permanent contract after all.'

## Peter Tamas



**Education and Competency Studies chair group**

**'I now have a fat dossier full of contracts because people here refuse to respect the spirit of the flex act.** This is due to a fear of the legal responsibilities arising from a permanent post.

After a postdoc and a temporary contract as a teacher, at some point I got a part-time teaching post for 0.4 fte because they were keen to keep me. But the number of hours in the contract was decided purely on the basis of costs and not the time required for the teaching involved. So in reality I now systematically work overtime. I was also encouraged to take part in the acquisition of research projects, but once

they were acquired I was refused the research contract I would need to implement them. Only after months of struggle did I get a small temporary appointment for that. I could go on. My job is great, and my students and immediate colleagues too. But the university seems to be allergic to commitment. In fact there is a kind of ideological exploitation going on: it's easy to exploit ambitious people.'

## Ingrid Lammerse



**Director Corporate human resources**

**'The new rules are a pain. They restrict our flexibility, and yet our organization depends heavily on external developments such as student numbers, project financing and the market.** To

handle this situation you want a combination of people on permanent contracts and a flexible layer of temporary contracts and perhaps freelancers. Those possibilities are restricted by the new rules which have reduced the maximum period for temporary contracts from three to two years. That means you have to make a definite decision about whether to go on with someone at an earlier stage. You can't always assess that properly yet, in terms of their personal qualities, market developments or funding. If it was easier to say goodbye to someone you would offer them a permanent post more easily. But I think you should have good reasons for not going on with someone.'

*Read too the report on p.6*

# Cycling adventure in the Congo

A student of Plant Sciences in Wageningen winning the Tour de Congo? It's possible, and Niels van der Pijl proved it this month. In spite of the bugs in the hotel beds, he wouldn't have missed it for the world. 'In all the villages people lined the route.'

*text Didi de Vries*

**N**iels van der Pijl's room looks like a cycle showroom. Several wheels and a set of shiny spokes hang on the wall. There are four racing bikes spread out across the floor. The Master's student of Plant Sciences cycles at a high level. He studies at Wageningen University under a top athlete scheme, and was selected sportsman of the year 2016 by Thymos.

Niels is an 'attacker'. 'I like to stay at the front of the peloton. Often there's no point because you'll be overtaken eventually. But it's nice when you do manage to stay there.' That happened on 8 June during the second lap of the Tour de la République Démocratique du Congo. He won the yellow jersey and did not lose it again in the four races after that.

#### **What are your memories of the Tour de Congo?**

'It was very badly organized. The first race was postponed because the present didn't turn up. Three laps were cancelled because there was no aeroplane to bring our bikes to the next starting point. After the first few days the director was suspended because in five days we still hadn't ridden once. He was even arrested, but that was just for show. He'll probably be in charge again next year.'

#### **Did you know what you were letting yourself in for?**

'I knew things wouldn't go to plan. I'd heard the stories about last year. Then cyclists waited all night for a hotel room. They finally got rooms at 6 o'clock in the morning, and they had to be ready to start at 9 o'clock. But I fell for all the organizers' nice promises and went anyway.'

#### **What were conditions like for the race?**

We only rode on asphalt main roads. We had to watch out for concrete humps in the road at the entrance to villages and there were ditches on the roadsides for rainwa-

ter. The Congo has a nine-month rainy season, but fortunately we had no rain while we were cycling. We slept in hotels. In one hotel there was no water so we couldn't shower or use the loo. And the bed was awful. It was full of insects, so I put a towel over it in the hope of waking up healthy. It's not nice but you have no option. There is only one hotel in that area.'

#### **What was the atmosphere like?**

'Fantastic. In all the villages people lined the route enthusiastically. They clapped for everyone, right down to the last cyclist to pass through. Unfortunately I didn't have much contact with the local people. They spoke three words of English and I speak three words of French, so after six words we dried up. There was a Congolese interpreter who spoke Dutch. That made it possible to communicate with the Congolese cyclists.'

#### **What's your nicest memory?**

The first criterium in Kisangani. It was a circuit of three kilometres that didn't count for your classification. The whole peloton rode through a crowd of people. It's a bit like the circuit around the church in the Netherlands, except that then there are only two rows of people at the end. In Kisangani it was full of people over three kilometres, and they were all yelling. If a Congolese went on the attack, the whole street exploded.'

**On the Facebook page *De Noordkapers*, you can follow Niels van de Pijl on his trip to the North Cape. If you are at the Dom in Utrecht with your bike on 2 July at 10 o'clock you can cycle along for the first lap.**



### ***Are there differences between the Dutch and the Congolese cyclists?***

'The Congolese don't train for the Tour because they can't afford a bike. When there's a local race they compete on an old bike. They are provided with a bike for the Tour but they have to hand it in afterwards. So they stand little chance of winning but I think they are still thrilled to get to take part. Sometimes during the prize-giving they came across the finishing line ten minutes later, cheering. And the crowd was still enthusiastic and proud of them.'

### ***Would you take part again?***

'I wouldn't have missed it but I have no wish to go back to the Congo. I would like to take part in the Tour de Burkina Faso, which is much better organized. But first I'd have to be picked by a Dutch teamleader.'

### ***What is your next cycling adventure?***

'I am going to cycle to the North Cape in Norway. We'll take a minibus for all the luggage and take it in turns to drive. We'll be camping along the route. We'll start in Utrecht and go 4300 kilometres in 35 days. With two rest days planned, that is 130 kilometres a day. You should be able to do that comfortably. The only thing that puts me off is the rain, but if the weather's really bad we can sleep in cabins along the way.' 🌐



Niels van der Pijl in yellow on the victory platform.



Among all the bikes and wheels in Niels's student room, three enormous Congolese cups now have pride of place.



The cyclists are ready for the first lap.

PHOTO: REES KOKS

PHOTO: DIDI DE VRIES

PHOTO: CYCLISME DE LA RD

**BITE COUNTER**

Test subjects eat less if they have a 'bite counter' around their wrists, shows a study at the Clemson University in the US. It makes a difference of 10 to 25 percent to the amount of food that gets put away, depending on the size of the plate. A bite counter can help prevent people from 'mindlessly going on eating', say the researchers.

**MORALS**

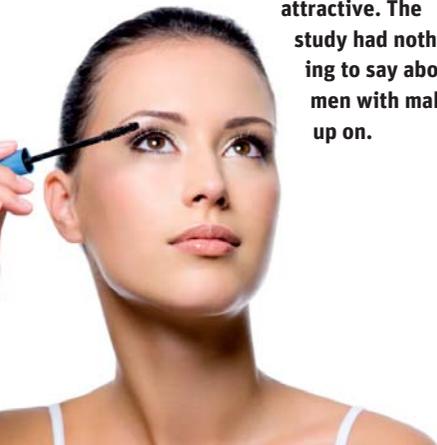
Driverless cars should be programmed so that in emergencies – i.e. accidents – they opt for the fewest casualties, even if that means sacrificing their own passengers, say French and American researchers. This highly moral vision has its disadvantages: not many people want to buy a car like that. In the end, blood is thicker than water. Do you share my curiosity as to how Wurbie, our own WEpod, is programmed?

**SMART**

The wisdom of the crown is the intellectual variant of 'many hands make light work'. Together we know more. But how big is the optimal 'crowd'? Not too big, suggests research by the Max Planck Institute. Certainly for qualitative issues – who will win the elections, which diagnosis fits these symptoms – 5 to 7 people score best. Many more brains than that just constitute pooled stupidity.

**MAKEUP**

Are women well-advised to wear makeup to a job interview or to avoid it? It depends who is on the interview panel, suggests a study by Stirling University in the UK. Men see women with makeup on as more 'prestigious'. Women see them as dominant and threatening. Both men and women find -up women with makeup on more attractive. The study had nothing to say about men with makeup on.

**'The campus reminds me of Aleppo'**

Smiling from ear to ear, Elie Jan Shamoun sits in Impulse, where he is attending a lecture on food taboos. Before the civil war broke out in Syria, he was studying in Aleppo. Now he lives in an asylum seekers' centre in Ede. 'I feel totally like a student again here! The atmosphere and the people on the campus remind me of Aleppo.'

Shamoun was invited to the lecture about food in different cultures. 'Here in the Netherlands for example they do not eat insects, but in Syria this is the same! Additionally, I wanted to see what student life in the Netherlands was like. This is also part of my integration. I just received my residence permit and I would like to study again.'

In Aleppo Shamoun studied Arabic literature. 'I would like to go to the University in Leiden to finish my studies there. Due to this visit on campus I feel motivated to do so. But before I can start this, I need to be allocated a place to live, and I need to learn the Dutch language.' **RvD**

**TRYOUT**

The idea of inviting asylum-seekers to academic lectures or meetings comes from the Radboud University in Nijmegen. Eva Romviel, Master's student of International Development, decided to try this out in Wageningen. The turnout at the first lecture in Impulse – two refugees – was disappointing, but she thought the concept was a success. 'We are going to see whether we can do this more regularly after the summer'.

**Graffiti protest**

A mystery person who is not keen on genetic modification spray-painted benches on the square in front of the Forum last week. The graffiti was discovered on Friday morning by a staff member, who immediately contacted a cleaning firm. First-year Biology student Minh Hoang

spotted the scrubbing of the green letters around noon and posted a photo on Facebook. 'Maybe you should stop vandalizing uni furniture', he wrote below it. 'I have nothing against anti-GM types,' he responds when asked, 'but I don't think this is the right approach.' **LvdN**



## Students complain about healthcare

Students are less than satisfied with the healthcare services in Wageningen. And many do not know who they can go to with their complaints about it. This came out of a survey of 122 students by student council party S&I (Sustainability & Internationalization).

The students' complaints are mainly about the feeling that they are not taken seriously by their GP. They also mention that the Gelderse Vallei sometimes incorrectly asks international students to pay large amounts in cash. Lastly, they say the Dutch-language websites of healthcare organizations create confusion.

Yufei Wang and Anne Walther, student council members for S&I, are not surprised by the results of their survey. They had already noticed that many students do not know how healthcare is organized here. 'Students are more expensive for GPs' practices because the constantly changing student population comes with higher administrative costs. That is why the university covers some of those costs for the practice of Doctors Van der Duin and Van Dinther, which concentrates on students and is situated on campus. This leaves some students with the impression that they have no choice about going to this practice. That is not the case.'

Wageningen University is taking the complaints to heart. The Student Service Centre will look into whether the information on the WUR website is sufficiently clear. And on Monday 27 June, Wang and Walther met with the practice of Van der Duin and Van Dinther. It was agreed that the GPs' practice would adapt the information on the website so that students can see where they can go with any complaints. **ICN**



## EPISODE 74 MORTIERSTRAAT 14B <<

The story so far: Bianca is off to Africa for a few months, just when romance blossoms between her and her housemate Filippo. Not easy, coming on top of the nervousness she already suffered from.

### Worryguts

Bianca was sitting bolt upright on the sofa, waiting till it was time to walk to the bus station. Beside her lay a large backpack and travel bag. Spread over the table were papers with background information about the project she was going to work for. Twenty minutes to go. She had been trying to read but she was too excited to concentrate. The house was quiet except for the tick of the kitchen clock. She felt her heart miss a beat - as it had done often over the past few days. Yesterday evening she had said goodbye to Vera and Derk. Then she'd been whatsapping for hours with Filippo, who was in Italy. This is it, girl, she thought. The minutes crawled by and even with this departure time she would get to the bus station far too early, therefore catching a train too early, therefore getting to Schiphol too early. Her parents were going to meet her there. She glanced around the living room once more - for the last time for a few months - and at the note Willem-Jan had put up: 'Housemates! I'm off and I'll soon be lying on the

beach in the South of France. Have fun with your exams and theses. Think of me when you're sweating it out in the library. I'll drink a cocktail to you. Bye darlings.'

He'll be back in a week, said a voice in her head. You are staying in Africa for months. She dismissed the thought. If it wasn't a bit nerve-wracking it wouldn't be as interesting, she thought. A mantra she kept repeating.

The clock ticked away in the background. She played with a cork with her foot. To calm her nerves, she unzipped her daypack and checked the crucial items. Papers, visa, money, international plug. Even though she had already checked for her passport three times, she panicked when she didn't see it straightaway. When it emerged from behind some papers she couldn't help laughing. The Adventures of a Worryguts.

Time to go. She hoisted her pack onto her back. Looked back one more time with her hand on the doorknob. Okay. Adventure, here I come.

Resource follows events at Mortierstraat 14B

**CineMec** Laan der Verenigde Naties 150  
www.cinemec.nl / 0900 - 321 0 321

<b>FILM</b>  From June 29 <b>Finding Dory</b> 2D/3D OV	<b>FILM</b>  From July 7 <b>The Legend of Tarzan</b> 3D	<b>ARTFILM</b>  From June 30 <b>Race   With Carice van Houten</b>
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**THURSDAY NIGHT €3 STUDENTDISCOUNT**

**COLORS WORLD FOOD**

**PHD party?**

All- inclusive lunch arrangement for € 11,00 per person (minimum 20 persons):

- Indian curry soup (v)
- Mexican quesadilla's (v)
- Various sandwiches
- Couscous salad with roasted vegetables and feta cheese (v)
- Coffee/tea/milk/juices

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T: 0317-417463  
E: info@colorsworldfood.nl  
W: www.colorsworldfood.nl

## &gt;&gt; PARTIES

The best parties according to Wageningen Uitgaans Promotie. Check [www.wageningenup.nl](http://www.wageningenup.nl) for all parties.

# WAGENINGEN UP

**WAGENINGEN, CONVENTPLEIN - BERGPOP**

**Saturday 2 July from 13.00 to 01.00**

The Bergpop Festival will be held for the tenth time this year. It's a great free festival with indie, funk, rock and world music. The weather forecast for Saturday 2 July is not wonderful but the cafes around the square will also be open so you can always shelter inside them if it starts to rain.

**WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - KSV FRANCISCUS: RELEASE FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 2 July from 14.00 to 23.30**

To celebrate the 105th anniversary of KSV Franciscus in style, the student society is organizing a festival on campus with a lot of dance. The early bird tickets are already sold out, so tickets are

now quite pricey at 20 euros. It is a pity that this festival clashes with Bergpop, given that Wageningen does not have that many festivals. The genres may be different but the festivals will still notice that the public will be split between the two locations.

**WAGENINGEN - AID 2016: THIS IS IT!**

**19 to 24 August**

There are not many parties in Wageningen during the summer, but to compensate the place will go wild in the week of 19 to 24 August with the general introduction days (AID) in the week of 19 to 24 August! There will be parties every day to welcome the new students. See [aidwageningen.nl](http://aidwageningen.nl) for the programme. **B**

## &gt;&gt; THE WORKS

## CHARGED BY A LONE BUFFALO

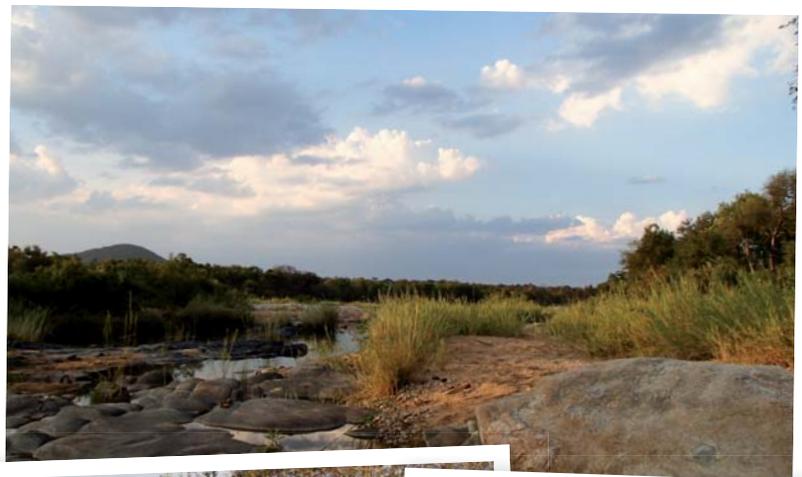
**Who?** Tim Leeuwis, MSc student of Biology

**What?** Thesis research on interactions on the savannah

**Where?** Nelspruit and game reserves around the Kruger Park in South Africa

'I stayed in South Africa for a total of four months. I spend three months on my research and one month travelling around with my girlfriend. Both the research and the travels afterwards were a very special experience. The only problem was that my visa expired after three months, so it was a bit hairy at times when we were travelling. Luckily I didn't get caught. But because I overstayed my visa I can't go back to South Africa for five years now. That's annoying, particularly when I was invited to a conference on ecology in the Kruger Park. It meant I couldn't go.

During my research I stayed in a kind of comfortable outhouse in my supervisor's garden in Nelspruit. I studied the interactions between grazers, trees and grass. I looked at elephants as well because they are an unusual species in terms of interactions. Elephants can have a big impact on trees. My research entailed modelling and inputting of data, as well as field work. During the field work we walked transects identifying the vegetation. We also looked at the game that was present at each place.



There were a few tense moments during the field work. One was when we were charged by a lone buffalo. We all shinned up a tree as fast as we could. I've never seen a 63-year-old man climb a tree so fast. Another time we skipped a transect because there was a lion sleeping under a tree that we had to tie a string to. Happily, the worst injuries we incurred were scratches from the bushes we had to walk through to plot the transects.' **B NJ**



PHOTO: NICK FOX/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

## MEANWHILE IN... <<

### Meanwhile in... Ethiopia

**In the news:** Ethiopia is suffering from the most extreme drought in thirty years. This is caused by El Niño, a recurrent phenomenon whereby normally cool seawater heats up, influencing the weather all over the world. Thousands of harvests have failed and millions of people are suffering from food and water shortages, according to the Red Cross.

*Comment by Betlehem Hailegiorgis 1st year MSc environmental sciences*

'The severe drought in Ethiopia is the direct effect of the weather phenomenon El Niño and its effects are disastrous. Most of our agriculture is rain-fed and depends on the rainy season. More than 85 percent of our population depends on agriculture. Fifteen million people are going short of food and water: the basic necessities for survival. I cannot imagine anything with a more severe impact than that. The government has food reserves but the severity of the drought is worse than expected.

My family is not directly affected by the drought. We are from the capital city, Addis Ababa. People in urban areas are less dependent on agriculture. But even in urban areas like Addis Ababa, the weather has changed dramatically. We do not really talk a lot about the drought and flooding. It is not the first time that this has happened to Ethiopia. And it is not the only thing that has happened; there have been incidents of flooding all over the country. Still, I continuously think about the affected people but I would not comment on students who throw away their food or something: everyone has their own way of life. I just wish the situation in my country was better. However, I try to do what I can by contributing to fundraisings for example. It might not be much but it is all I can do.' CN

### announcements

#### Respondents sought for survey on effects of abolishing basic grant

The basic grant for all new students was abolished in September 2015 and replaced with a student loan system. For my MSc thesis in the Economics of Consumers and Households I want to gain insight into the effects of the abolition of the basic grant. Help me by filling in the survey on [thesistools.com/web/?id=514399](http://thesistools.com/web/?id=514399).

#### Recreational volleyball competition seeks teams and players

A recreational volleyball competition has been held at the Olympia Hall in Wageningen every Monday evening since 1965. We play in mixed teams of men and women of all ages at four levels, and there's a chance to have a drink together afterwards. You can sign up individually or with a team (by 1 August). Info: Mies van Breeschoten (06-11060546) or [voorzitter@volleybalwageningen.nl](mailto:voorzitter@volleybalwageningen.nl).

[WWW.VOLLEYBALWAGENINGEN.NL](http://WWW.VOLLEYBALWAGENINGEN.NL).

### agenda

Thursday 30 June to Wednesday 13 July

#### TWO FILMS FOR STUDENTS

*Truman*, an appealing, funny Spanish feel-good move about two vulnerable friends coping in their own ways with the impending death of one of them, without false sentiment and with a special role for a beloved dog; *Kollektivet*, a flawlessly acted Danish drama about a family that starts a commune, with complicated relationships, ideals, infidelity and jealousy, told from the women's perspective. Directed by Tomas Vinterberg (*Festen, Jagten*). Venue: Wilhelminaweg 3A.

[WWW.MOVIE-W.NL](http://WWW.MOVIE-W.NL)

#### Saturday 2 July, 13.00 BERGPOP (10TH ANNIVERSARY)

Enjoy great bands for free. Including Ten-hut, Funky Organizers and Moxa Overload. Popcultuur Wageningen aimed for a mix of internationally famous bands such as Eerie Wanda and local talent such as Saonda. The emphasis this year

lies on summery danceable acts. And with bands like Ten-Hut and Funky Organizers it'll be hard to stand still.

[WWW.POPCULTUUR-WAGENINGEN.NL](http://WWW.POPCULTUUR-WAGENINGEN.NL)

### in memoriam

#### Wouter Gerritsma



The terrible news reached us on Wednesday 22 June that our ex-colleague Wouter

Gerritsma has passed away. Wouter studied Tropical crop science in Wageningen and has been part of Wageningen UR as a student and a staff member since 1982. Until the spring of 2015, Wouter worked at the library as information specialist and Research team leader. In 2015 he became head of Digital services and innovation at the University library of the VU University Amsterdam.

Both within and beyond Wageningen UR, Wouter had built up a tremendous reputation as an expert in the field of bibliometrics, publication strategy and rankings, as well as in the field of social media and information skills. He had a big impact on the development of library services over the years. Not least because of his outstanding ability to inspire, communicate and convince people. Wouter was a man with a mission. And when he left in 2015 we could fairly say: mission accomplished. In a sense we never really said goodbye to Wouter. For the staff of the library even those who started work here after he left, Wouter is still a presence in all our work. In December 2014 Wouter sent a text message saying 'I'm leaving'. That was how he announced his resignation. When it started to sink in last Wednesday that Wouter really is gone now, we were struck dumb and extremely sad. Our deepest sympathies are with Els, Bouke, Gart, Hiltje and Keimpe. We wish them great strength to bear this terrible loss.

*On behalf of all the staff at the Library,*  
Hubert Krekels, librarian

# Forum Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2016

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday and Sunday
The Building	4 July to 31 July	8 am - 8 pm	Closed
The Library	4 July to 4 September	8.30 am - 5.30 pm	Closed
Student Desk IT Service Point	4 July to 14 August	12 pm - 2 pm	Closed
WURshop	4 July to 17 July	10 am - 2 pm	Closed
	18 July to 14 August	Closed	Closed
Restaurant	11 July to 24 July	8 am - 7 pm	Closed
	25 July to 28 August	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	8 am - 7 pm	Closed
Grand Café	11 July to 24 July	8 am - 3 pm	Closed
	25 July to 28 August	Closed	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	8 am - 3 pm	Closed
Wageningen in'to Languages	4 July to 4 September	9 am - 5 pm	Closed



# Orion Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2016

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday & Sunday
The Building	4 July to 31 July	Closed	Closed
	1 August to 4 September	8 am - 6 pm	Closed
Bike basement	4 July to 31 July	Closed	Closed
	1 August to 28 August	8 am - 6 pm	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	8 am - 10 pm	Closed
Restaurant	4 July to 31 July	Closed	Closed
	1 August to 28 August	Closed	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	11.30 am - 1.30 pm*	Closed
The Spot	4 July to 31 July	Closed	Closed
	1 August to 28 August	9 am - 2 pm*	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	8 am - 10 pm*	Closed

\* Open for AID activities



# Leeuwenborch Irregular Opening Hours Summer 2016

	Date	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
The Building	4 July to 4 September	7 am - 10.30 pm	8 am - 5.30 pm	Closed
Restaurant/ Coffee Bar	4 July to 10 July	8 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed
	11 July to 14 August	9.30 am - 3 pm	Closed	Closed
	15 August to 4 September	8 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed

	Date	Monday to Thursday	Friday	Saturday and Sunday
Library	4 July to 10 July	9 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm	Closed
	11 July to 28 August	9 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed
	29 August to 4 September	9 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm	Closed



**in memoriam**

**Hetty van de Voort**



We are shocked by the news that our colleague Hetty van de Voort has suddenly passed

away at the age of 52. Hetty went on holiday to Turkey and kept in touch with her colleagues via WhatsApp, as she always did. That contact stopped just before she was due to come home and we now know why.

From 1996 to 2002, Hetty worked in the chemicals storeroom at the Dreijen site. When she had to leave because of a reorganization, she joined our library, becoming a member of the media processing team. She found it hard-going at first but her colleague Diny in particular helped her learn new skills, and she started to enjoy her job again. Hetty was responsible for processing book orders (both for paper books and e-books). She also dealt with the theses that arrived at the library. For many people, Hetty

was a cheerful, pleasant, down-to-earth colleague with a great sense of humour and a great sense of responsibility.

The colleague who was so important to Hetty, Diny van Alderen, became seriously ill and passed away in July 2015. Hetty found that sad and difficult to deal with. It is distressing and still hard for us to comprehend that she herself has now passed away so unexpectedly, less than a year later. We have lost a reliable and cheery colleague. We offer our condolences to Hetty's husband Hans and her family, who have lost a loved one so suddenly.

*On behalf of all her colleagues from the library, Simone Kortekaas*

**Frank Veeneklaas**



He was ready. A bit more sharp advice at the WOT meeting last Monday afternoon, a few

more dossiers to hand over to a colleague, and then Frank Veeneklaas could retire. The date set was 1 August 2016. But on 28 June we received the terrible news from Frank's wife that he had died suddenly that night. An extraordinary person and an extraordinary colleague: that was Frank. Those who knew him well will recognize the following description.

He was allergic to protocol, but if you insisted on it as team leader, he would fill in that form for you. He was a good colleague who stood up for good scientists who are victims of the state of the market. He always found arguments for including so-and-so in a research team.

He was a rebel when it came to established academic standpoints. He would often questioned assumptions, thus frequently preventing tunnel vision among researchers.

As a scientist he cut straight through often woolly policy jargon. In doing so he knew exactly how to apply his extensive knowledge of economic theory. He was an ardent advocate of basing nature policy on a profound ecological knowledge. If you felt like it, you could shoot the breeze about that with him on a Friday afternoon. 'Sappy texts,' was his last addition to our vocabulary when we were evaluating research proposals on that Monday afternoon. We shall miss Frank a lot.

*Paul Hinssen, on behalf of the WOT Nature & Environment*

**colophon**

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen UR. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

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# >>TYPICAL DUTCH



ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

## Respectfully insulted

Here I was, a 24-year-old starting her Master's degree in the Netherlands. Coming from Suriname, where the language is the same as in the Netherlands, I thought this would be a piece of cake and there would be no big differences between the cultures. Well, I was wrong. It turned out I accidentally insulted people by showing them respect in the Surinamese way.

A big difference I encountered was how students talk to their teachers, parents and other 'older' people. They use the personal pronoun *jij* instead of the more formal *u*. I still decided that I was going to use *u*, because I thought it would be more respectful. Oh was I wrong.

The first time I said *u* to my teacher – who is around 40 years old – he looked very upset.

The second time I used it, he said, 'Please don't say *u* to me, I'm still young'.

Having lived most of my life in Suriname I am used to addressing people older than me with *u*.

And even people that are younger than you and have a higher position than you are addressed with *u*. So I was really surprised by the reactions I was getting. I noticed that here *u* is mostly associated with being really old or with formal, standoffish communication.

Having lived here for two years now I have learned that showing respect to others is not dependent on a little word but is always shown by attitude.  **Nyasha Dakriet, MSc student of Aquaculture and marine resource management, from Suriname**

**'When I said *u* to my teacher he looked very upset'**

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](mailto:resource@wur.nl) and earn twenty-five euro and Dutch candy.