The Journey to the Promised Land

by Henk Boer

Dutch Consul, Mr Hans Nieuwland, officially launched a book written by a member of the Millgrove Baptist Church on February 11, 2012. The colourful event was held in the Warburton Hall and was attended by many friends and family as well as members of the wider community. Those with a Dutch heritage dressed in national costume. Both the Australian and Dutch flags adorned the stage and those gathered sang the national anthems of both countries. The author undertook the obligatory signing of copies sold. The book has been in demand, so much so that a second printing is now available.

This remarkable family history was written Mr Henk Boer, long-time resident and businessman of the Yarra Valley. It is remarkable in that it covers the family history from 1635 to 1998 – some eight generations. The first part of the book encapsulates interesting Dutch history as much as the family story. There is detail of contemporary events and social conditions, obviously well researched. Throughout runs the strong Christian heritage which began with the conversion of the ancestor Evert Kyrs in 1635.

Historic pictures and photos are a great adjunct to the text, particularly pertaining to the period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which forms the bulk of the work. The major focus is the emigration of the family from the Netherlands post World War 2. It gives a very detailed insight into the issues confronting immigrants in Australia during this period. It also details some of the history of the Millgrove Church of which Henk’s parents were founding members.

This is a very readable and enjoyable book and can be obtained by contacting Mr Henk Boer at 54 Riversdale Road, Yarra Junction, 3797 or on 59671113 or 0408 396 093.