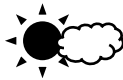





The world is threatened by an invisible virus, in almost every corner of our planet people stay at home to prevent further spreading. Those with a vital profession work day and night to keep the country running. The rest is expected to keep a social distance of 1.5 meters from each other. An unprecedented crisis that seems to have no end at the time of writing. The Herald is there to inform, entertain and give hope in these difficult times.

Weather		
Max	14°C	21°C
Min	1°C	18°C
Wind	4 ZW	0
Precipitation	0.0 mm	0.0 mm
Weather grade	8	10

Corona support Wageningen

If you do not use Facebook or have not received the flyer. Volunteer organisation Welsaam and the Municipality of Wageningen have set up a contact point for people who are looking for support or can offer help:

0317-413088
coronahulp@welsaam.nl
www.welsaam.nl/coronahulp

I walk the dike *Jesse Opdam*

I walk the dike, see the flooded floodplains and enjoy the first rays of sunshine this year. It is quiet, pleasantly quiet, quieter than usual.

Lone walkers move by silently, solitary cyclists whiz past me in silence. A friendly greeting is almost whispered. The sky sings of bird whistling, more than I have heard in years.

Airplanes seldomly cross Wageningen airspace, but now I see and hear none. The roads are empty during rush hour, like on an early Sunday morning.

Would that have caused the wonderful fresh air, or am I imagining it? I smell the growing grass, the blossoming daffodils and even the first dandelions.

It's not just me walking here, it's surprisingly crowded for such a quiet moment. Three dogs come towards me, walked by someone who only owns one of them. Two students are walking with well filled shopping bags, I see them leave one at a house that is not theirs.

Children are playing in the backyards, reciting math while playing with a ball. I see families sitting at the table, both mom and dad have joined. Together they write a letter to grandma.

I see hardworking people coming home after a long day. A hot meal is served by the neighbours, made from local products that have just been delivered.

I walk the dike, aware that people all over the world are fighting to save lives, but I hope that some of this peace and solidarity can be maintained.

On the first Monday evening of Period 5 I found myself sitting alone in my quaravan on a parking spot next to the German A3 highway, writing an email to my lecturer explaining that I would be unable to submit the first assignment of our online education in time due to, let's say, unexpected happenings in the past couple of days.

The night before I went on a long walk with my boyfriend which took us through the forest around Ppauw and the Wageningse Wijngoed. Away from visible urbanization and indulging in nature's beauty is the best place for me to make decisions. As we wandered further we also got to see a glimpse of the first blossom in the Arboretum Belmonte. My favorite tree in Wageningen, a huge Magnolia in the Generaal Foulkesweg close to the Building with the Clock, kept its beauty for the next time. That evening I decided to listen to my belly feeling and just do what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of my home country had advised me to do, in light of the outbreaking coronacrisis I should immediately start my journey of return to Austria. They wouldn't be able to guarantee that I could still enter at a later moment.

So here I was, leaving Wageningen with a crying heart on this Monday morning, while on Thursday I still refused to fully acknowledge the severity of this crisis and made jokes about people hoarding toilet paper. Uncertainty evoked from where and how I would spend the next couple of weeks, but at the same time I was happy I was on my way to home.

Somewhere on the road I got notice of the government ordering everybody who returns from a risk area (the NL is considered as such) to remain in home quarantine for 14 days. It took me two full days to get there and when I arrived at my parents' place, I could only greet them by waving to them from a distance. From the beginning, it was clear that it wasn't a good idea to stay there, given the fact my mum suffers from severe COPD, making her extremely vulnerable for the coronavirus. For the 24 hours I was there, I needed to disinfect every surface I touched, I could absolutely not go outside and my parents provided me with food while keeping a safe distance. The idea was to minimize the risk I would pass on the virus to my mum if I had it. We would have probably managed to get used to these things, but luckily two of my best friends who live self-contained on a piece of land outside of town offered me to come and spent the two weeks with my quaravan there.

So after all, this Carantine turned out to be not too bad for me, I am surrounded by nature and two very dear friends I don't get to see often when living abroad. Every morning we come together, drink coffee and then we all do our stuff. I will take the coming time to grow and regenerate and I am looking forward to doing all the things I don't have time for in my stressy everyday life such as reflecting upon what is really important in this world. I already spoke to all my aunts and uncles, my grandparents and friends all over the world this week, something I rarely do but feels really nice. We are living in tough times and most probably this crisis will last for a little longer, so get comfortable, eat well and take good care of yourself and the people around you. And who knows? We might end up in a better world when all this is over.

Now that we*Ivanka de Ruijter (City poet Wageningen)*

Now that we are not moving, the center of gravity is shifting.
Part baked bread rolls quietly rises in value, as if the ordinary
suddenly becomes less ordinary.

Now that we are not moving, there is beauty in convenience,
one bird on the highest branch, in rippling recovery,
in what already existed.

Now that we are not moving, we're standing still on our balcony.
singing in the spring sun and thinking about the war, but now
we fight it together.

The hospital beds are rapidly filled with new corona patients. The big question now is how long it will take until hospitals reach their maximum capacity. For some hospitals in Noord-Brabant this is already the case and patients are being transferred to the northernmost hospitals in the Netherlands.

Jessica de Groot, general director of the *Wageningen International Congress Centre*, is also thinking about ways to reduce the pressure on the hospitals. She therefore makes her hotel available for the less needy patients or for people who need to go into isolation. Such as recovering corona patients and for people for whom it is unknown whether they are infected with the virus. The hotel could even serve as a temporary childbirth clinic. The large building in the city centre of Wageningen has 208 rooms with a total of 300 beds and 26 conference rooms, which can also be transformed into dormitories. All rooms have already been made sterile, beds are covered with plastic and meals can be prepared and served by their own staff. It can be said that the hotel is ready for its new guests.

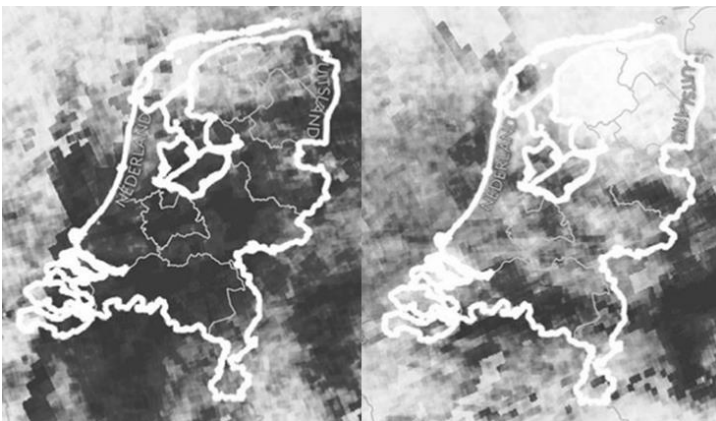
So far, only no healthcare institution has found the severity to transfer patients to the hotel. But should the need increase, De Groot is in any case known to all the CEOs of the care institutions in the area. Next to that, she is in contact with various ministries and the RIVM. So if the hospitals face a flood of patients soon, thankfully the beds at the WICC are ready for use.

Where everyone is a researcher

The *Wageningen Academy for Citizen Science* (an initiative of RUW Foundation) is committed to the future-proof gathering and sharing of knowledge in which the involvement of citizen is central. We will regularly publish and are open to submissions about knowledge you have acquired.

mail us at ruw@wur.nl

- The European Space Agency makes extensive use of citizen science, including the analysis of satellite imagery. The maps below show that social isolation not only reduces the spread of viruses, but also leads to cleaner air.



NO2 emissions measured by ESA satellite 2020 in week 10 (left) and week 11 (right)

Quarantine podcast at Droevendaal

Eric van Bruggen

How to communicate if you are slowly being cut off from the outside world? With my housemates we decided to host a small radio show with a daily, healthy amount of nonsense. It is fake news in its original and pure form. Obviously, the communication is one-sided. We send and hope others will listen. Nevertheless, we know for sure a few people are enjoying, that is, us the makers. It can be reassuring, in these abnormal situations, to keep structures and develop rituals. Our ritual is an extended breakfast with non-existent experts, live-music and discussions on space travel and make-money-quick-schemes. And later, half of the breakfast is cut out in the editing, because someone is laughing on the background.

It is difficult to determine to what extent laughing is appropriate, when the world is falling into a crisis. At the same time, sadness too is unlikely to be useful, so for now, we assume laughter to be some kind of medicine...

Radio Rooster appears daily on Spotify (With long-term quarantine perhaps weekly or monthly)

This edition has been made possible by RUW Foundation
stichtingruw.nl
 email: ruw@wur.nl

