

CUSTOMER FOCUS

Rabobank takes care of back-up

On the 31st of July they cycled past the Arnhem Council Housing Commission to return the key of their rented house and subsequently Aaldrik Mulder and Sonya Spry started their world trip that will last at least five years.

Their 'What a Wonderful World Tour' has been meticulously prepared for and Rabobank Arnhem has put forward their support as well.



Shortly before departure, an Rtussen reporter and financial advisor Mirko Schrijvershof visited the adventurous couple.



By the time this magazine is published, Aaldrik Mulder and Sonya Spry will likely be in southern France or possibly even Spain. Via southern Europe their cycle tour takes them to Asia during the next few years, after which they will cross the whole of the American continent. Following that a few countries in Africa, before finishing the 5 year tour in Melbourne, Australia and birth place of Sonya. At that stage the couple will have taken in impressions of more than 50 countries! Aaldrik: "In Australia, we'll have to see what we'll do. We just hope we'll know where we want to spend the rest of our lives."

Sonya: "It will definitely be a warm country."

Travelling is part of Aaldrik (born in Friesland) and Sonya's life. And in doing so, they prefer to take the bicycle along. Aaldrik: "Cycling is a great form of transport. You can easily make a significant amount of kilometres per day, around a 100 or so, while you still manage to experience the areas you're going through up close. Another advantage is that it keeps you fit."

Sonya: "and when you are on a bicycle, people see you as less of a tourist. Because of this you can get in touch with the local population more easily. When we are in Thailand, a beautiful country, we are definitely going to visit people we met during our previous travels. They have hardly anything, but are extremely friendly and appear more satisfied with their lives than a lot of people in the more wealthy western countries."

25 EUROS A DAY

During the preparation for the trip, the financial aspect wasn't left untouched. Aaldrik and Sonya calculated they needed, on average, around 25 euros per day for five years. Around 50,000 euros in total and this sum was amounted at our bank by working solidly over the last few years. Also in the next few years, the couple can count on the support from our bank.

Mirko Schrijvershof: "I think it's fascinating what Aaldrik and Sonya are about to do. It takes courage to do something like this. And because they have taken everything very seriously, we as a bank would like to continue to be available to them. We are

thinking about the kind of support when bank cards or security measures change. You just send a customer in The Netherlands a new card, but with a customer, who is in say Cambodia, that's not that easy. Wherever Aaldrik and Sonya may be in the next couple of years, we'll keep in touch and will help them if they need any kind of assistance in the financial department."

Aaldrik: "And we're obviously very happy with the Rabobank's stance on this. It wouldn't be very nice to be somewhere in the world: to have money, but not be able to get to it. That would be one very frustrating situation."

ART ACADEMY

Aaldrik and Sonya want to make sure that their tour is not purely seen as a holiday. Sonya has successfully followed a Fine Art degree at the Academy in Arnhem over the last couple of years and would like to make photo and video reportage along the way. "We've had a tripod made for the bike's handlebar and a video recorder and laptop are also part of our luggage. I certainly want to put photos and video on our own site, but maybe we can do even more. Possibly on a commercial basis or I may send something in for a film festival. We'll just see how it goes when we're actually on the road."

By the way, the power for the laptop is supplied by a solar panel on Aaldrik's bicycle. Mirko: "Isn't that great? I could almost see myself making the same plans, but we have a little daughter and once that happens, things get a bit more complicated."

You can follow the 'What a Wonderful World Tour' of Aaldrik Mulder and Sonya Spry via their own website: www.tour.tk Definitely worth visiting!

RTUSSEN: SEPTEMBER 2006