

Christmas greetings

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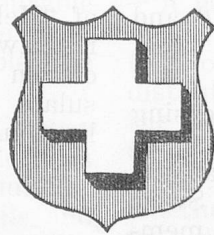
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Christmas Greetings

My Dear Compatriots,

When your President, Dr. Bosshard, kindly offered me the hospitality of this Bulletin to address you on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, I felt grateful for this opportunity to wish you all a merry rejoicing at this turn of the year, and prosperity and happiness in the days to come. I am thinking of the many compatriots we have had the pleasure to meet, my wife, my colleagues of the Consulate and myself, from the South Island to the Auckland Province, in the Waikato and in Taranaki. I am thinking none the less of those we have not yet met and whom we are looking forward to knowing—particularly of those who do not have the privilege of celebrating the fete among their family, of those also who feel alone and isolated because they are living far out in the country or because they are newly arrived, and last, but by no means least, the aged and the sick. To all, I had at heart to wish a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and with you all I wish to express these good wishes to the people of New Zealand, whose generous hospitality we gratefully appreciate, and, of course, to our compatriots at home in Switzerland.

At the time of writing these lines, however, other thoughts are unfortunately besieging our minds: 12 years after what was so much hoped by so many to be the end of a nightmare, the too familiar menace of the turmoil of war is with us again with its ugly procession of tragic consequences we know but too well. Men are fighting, individual and political freedom is being crushed, miserably unhappy hordes of refugees are lost in uncertainty. True, men of goodwill have been quick to help: from those in charge of the highest responsibilities of Government to the men, women and children in the street, who sponsor admirably such actions of humanity as the one led by the Red Cross all over the world. Unprecedented initiatives, so often calling for individual courage and appeals showing an in-

creased sense of world solidarity have been launched, such as that by our Federal Council. We will all hope, we most earnestly hope and pray, that these efforts will finally achieve what, after all, is the call of Christmas to men of goodwill: peace on earth! This will be our common thought on that day, my dear compatriots in New Zealand.

P-H. AUBARET,

Consul-General of Switzerland.

Readers will be delighted to hear of the acceptance of our youngest member in the Swiss Society. She is Miss Annabelle Joy Kaspar, born on August 24th, 1951, in Wellington, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kaspar, 39 Apu Crescent, Lyall Bay, Wellington.

SWISS CLUB, WAIKATO

On Sunday, 27th May, 1956, twenty-four Swiss resident in the Waikato District attended the original meeting organised by Messrs. A. Biland and W. Risi and held in the Te Rapa Hall, Te Rapa.

The meeting decided to form a Swiss Club, as a branch section of the Swiss Benevolent Society (now the Swiss Society of New Zealand), for the purpose of sociability and fellowship among Swiss by regular monthly gatherings. As committee members were elected: Mr. A. Biland, president; Mr. W. Risi, vice-president; Mrs. O. Fitzi, secretary; Mrs. Spirig, Mr. and Mrs. Binzegger, Mr. J. Arnet and Mr. Otto Fitzi. At a later committee meeting Mr. T. Loetscher was elected treasurer and reporter to the Head Office of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

Since its inception the Club has held four social evenings at the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton, which were all well attended and proved most enjoyable. Such items as Swiss card games, folk songs and yodels, Fahnenschwingen, popular music, dances and raffles made every