

President's report

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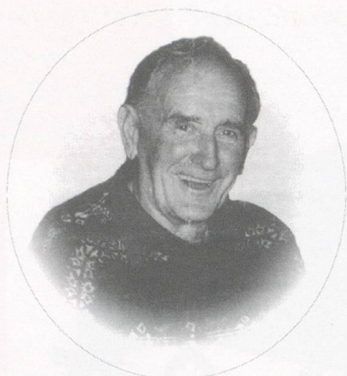
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Obituary



Alfred John Andreoli
1924 - 2002



Alf was born into a family of ten who all grew up in the Taranaki district. In 1953 he married the late Kathleen Kalin and together they started sharemilking in the Hawera area. In 1970 they bought their own farm in Kapuni, where they brought up a family of six. Ten years ago Kathleen passed away, which was a huge loss to Alf. He sold his farm and bought a run-off in Hawera.

We have lost a very good friend, a friend with humour and a lovely smile and a very loyal member of our club. He was a down-to-earth farmer and a very good father to his children.

To all the families, our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

R D

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller Ambassador of Switzerland

PRESIDENT: Marianne Drummond, Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford.

Phone 06 762 8757. Fax 06 762 8753.

Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz

VICE PRESIDENT/TREASURER: Walter Seifert, Denbigh Road, RD 24,

Stratford. Phone 06 762 8559.

Fax 06 762 8590.

SECRETARY: Silvia Schuler, Skinner Road, RD 23, Stratford.

Phone 06 765 8351. Fax 06 765 8380.

RIFLEMASTER: Peter Rust, 4202 Pepepe Rd, Naikie, RD 2, Huntly

Ph 07 826 6711.

DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

DELEGATE: Heinz Leuenberger, 33 Russell Terrace, Putaruru.

Phone/Fax (07) 883 8537

DEPUTY DELEGATES: Beno Noetzli, Normanby Road, RD11, Hawera.

Phone 06 272 6727.

Roland Schutz, 35 East St, Petone, Wellington.

Phone 04 568 6772.

EDITOR: Liz Amstalden, 421 Wortley Road, RD 9, Inglewood.

Phone 06 756 7064.

Email - paul.ben.amstalden@xtra.co.nz

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

Auckland

Secretary: Trudi Fill, 51 Clifton Rd, Herne Bay, PO Box 40152, Glenfield,

Auckland. Phone/Fax (09) 376 4923, email weidfill@xtra.co.nz

Hamilton

Secretary: Anita Zuber, PO Box 11-026, Hamilton. Phone (07) 856 2414.

Taranaki

Secretary: Doreen Schuler, Postal Agency, Kaponga. Phone (06) 764 6533.

Wellington

Secretary: Therese Scherrer, 66 Heretaunga Square, Silverstream, Upper Hutt.

Phone 04 528 7698.

Embassy of Switzerland: Panama House, 22 Panama St, Wellington.

Phone (04) 472 1593 or (04) 472 1594 • Fax (04) 499 6302.

Honorary Consul: Peter Deutschle, PO Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre.

Phone/Fax (09) 366 0403. Email deutschle@clear.net.nz

President's Report

Let's hope that summer is on its way ... all the summer sporting codes are commencing their season ... by having rained-out matches!!! A quick dash of sport between the showers isn't my idea of fun!!! I'm currently on duty at our new TET MultiSports Centre in Stratford, watching the cricketers running in and out of the rain ... I'm sure that they consider that fun?!!! Daylight saving is here, whether you love it or hate it ... although I must say it's very, very dark at 5am now!!! And do we go to bed earlier???

Sitting here writing this report, I can't help but think that, sadly, the volunteer base in all our organisations is shrinking. It seems to be the same people running and organising several societies or clubs for the enjoyment of many, many people who don't care to volunteer any time or effort of their own. This is valid for sports, churches, cultural entities ... well ... any club whatsoever really. Why is our volunteer base shrinking? Are we becoming more selfish and self-centred (if there is nothing in it for me, why do it?). Is time a factor? ... as more people work Saturdays, or their children are involved in many activities that limit the parents' time, or parents themselves are involved in many activities and don't want to give any time to volunteer work. Do we not have the enthusiasm or motivation to do volunteer work? Probably a combination of all of these reasons, or perhaps other reasons that I haven't even thought of. If people only knew the pleasure that you can get by doing volunteer work, we would have many more keen volunteers.

Unfortunately, as few people want to take on executive positions within a committee, or even become a committee member, many clubs and organisations are forced into recess. It is very sad for clubs when this happens, but it is inevitable when our volunteer base is shrinking at great knots. I guess the time will come when all these positions will be paid ... and then people will grumble that subscriptions and levies have increased and are far too expensive!!! We can never win!!!

We, at the Taranaki Swiss Club, are currently very lucky to have a big committee ... as the saying goes 'Many hands make light work!' ... and we are very grateful to all those who give so freely, generously and willingly of their time (and these include many club members who aren't on the committee ... for this, the committee is very grateful). Whilst Don was having the time of his life in Switzerland, Johnny kept the lawns looking superb. Thanks to you both for your TLC of the grounds. Good committee members are not easy to find ... and we feel very fortunate to have a great team ... a luxury not every club or organisation has!!! A big thank you to all our committee members, I'm sure all our club members appreciate the work and effort we put in. Let's hope we continue to have a huge volunteer base in our club in the years to come.

Regards
Marianne