

Association for the Swiss Abroad (ASO) in New Zealand

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **79 (2013)**

Heft [2]

PDF erstellt am: **30.05.2024**

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Election of new representatives

Othmar Hebler and Mani Züst have been our ASO representatives for the last four years and their term is coming to an end. On behalf of the Swiss Society, I would like to thank Othmar and Mani very much for their dedication in representing the Swiss Abroad in New Zealand.

At our forthcoming AGM in Hamilton, we will need to elect two new representatives for the ASO. I am pleased to announce that Peter Ehrler from New Plymouth has volunteered to stand as Swiss Delegate and Peter Canziani from Turangi for the Deputy. Please read through Peter Ehrler's resume before the election. Peter Canziani will be introducing himself at the AGM before the election.

The application process is now closed and the election of the new delegates will be held during the AGM in Hamilton on 2nd June.

Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg
President, Swiss Society of New Zealand

Concerns over tax and banking

The Swiss Abroad community has vowed to fight any discrimination by financial institutions. The Council of the Swiss Abroad called on the government to ensure that Swiss banks no longer refuse to open accounts or manage assets for Swiss expats. At a recent meeting in Bern, it also stressed that bank fees must not be excessive.

The move comes as expats in the US or with dual American and Swiss nationality in particular face being shunned by Swiss banks. The issue of tax compliance and a perceived discrimination of certain Swiss expatriate bank clients came to the fore in 2008 in the context of the global financial crisis. The Swiss Abroad Council has voted on several resolutions over the years.

Extracted from www.swissinfo.ch (8 March 2013)

Resume Peter Ehrler



I was born in Stratford 1953. Between 1956 and 1964, we lived in Switzerland. Between 1964 and 1971, I went to Francis Douglas College in New Plymouth. In 1971, I went back to Switzerland and became an Air Traffic Controller at Zürich Airport. In 2009, at the age of 55, I retired and returned to New Zealand with my wife in 2010. We have two children. Our daughter Lisa, 30, married and lives in Switzerland and our son Philipp, 28, has just taken up a position as a First Officer with Air Pacific and lives in Fiji.

During my time as an Air Traffic Controller, I advanced to Daily Operations Manager for Zürich Tower and Approach Radar. In the 38 years while in Switzerland, I was

also politically active and was vice mayor for 5 years, as well as president of a political party in Bremgarten, Aargau, for 8 years. I have also done some military service, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Swiss Air Force.

I would love to take on the challenge as the New Zealand representative for the OSA. Having lived in Switzerland for many years and with my "birth roots" here in New Zealand, I am well aware of our needs and the problems Swiss might have here, not only the older generation, but the younger generation as well. I personally think that it is very important to make our issues known in Switzerland and try to find solutions that satisfy the needs and expectations of the Swiss community in New Zealand. AHV, voluntary AHV for Swiss residents living in New Zealand, bank fees, internet voting, student exchange and education in Switzerland are just a few topics that I find worthwhile pursuing.

Please note that Peter's detailed CV is available from Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg by e-mail on request.

Proposed changes to the Society Games Rules

The Swiss Society Committee is proposing the following three amendments to the rules for Medal and Cowbell competitions.

1. Under General Rules where it says "Results are to be forwarded to the Society Riflemaster as soon as possible after each event, but no later than the end of June each year", the proposal is to change it to end of May, so that the medals can be ordered at the beginning of June. With a bit of luck, we can get them made before the Medal maker goes on holiday and the clubs can present them to the winners on 1st August.
2. For the Shooting competition, we would like to divide the categories into four; Men, Ladies, Junior Girls and Junior Boys, in the hope to attract a few more junior shooters.
3. The same for the Shotput. Girls and Boys should be in separate categories and awarded medals for each group.

The Society Committee would like to have a discussion on these proposed changes with the Society Members at the next AGM and have a show of hands.

Ernst Lanz - Riflemaster, Swiss Society