

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 31 (1968)
Heft: [6]

Rubrik: Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.) : president's report 1968

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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1968

Reviewing the past year of the Society one can easily find problems that should never have occurred, difficulties that caused worries, deaths of dear ones that hurt, but luckily there are sufficient bright events that at least partially make up for the dark spots. It has been truly a mixed bag.

The departure of our Charge d'Affaires and Mrs Weber and our Vice-Consul and Mrs Schaerer have left a gaping hole. It is, however, pleasing to note that Mr Erb as Vice-Consul and Mrs Erb have already made themselves at home amongst us.

Probably the outstanding event during the year was the grand opening of the Auckland Swiss Club's own hut, an event that surely must make the Aucklanders very proud and all of us happy.

The fact that the Society was not called upon to give assistance to needy Compatriots is in itself pleasing and speaks well for their endeavours.

However, last year's accounts showed quite a loss, accredited to the Helvetia. May I, at this point, congratulate our very able Secretary and the Editing Committee for the splendid work they did so selflessly. Despite their sterling efforts we just missed to square the balance sheet.

One aspect that still worries me is the apparent lack of unity that exists amongst us. 'One for all and all for one' should not only be a textbook sentence, but the golden thread that is woven into the life of our Society. The existence of the Society is to help Compatriots in need, but it can only fulfill its obligations of assistance when we all contribute while able to do so. It surely is this realisation that should unite us even when there seems to be some disagreement, or when the going is not as easy as one likes it to be.

It is this bond of unity that we should strive to achieve in the coming year. There is no doubt in my mind that this goal can be reached. It could mean some restraint in personal or Club ambitions, a better understanding of the needs of fellow members and a better co-operation of all for the good of all. If we put our hearts into this task and do not expect only the others to act accordingly, then the future will look brighter not only on the financial side but also on the personal and humane side.

KARL E. BISCHOF,
President.