

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 38 (1974)
Heft: [6]

Rubrik: Swiss Society of New Zealand : president's report

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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I submit with pleasure my report for the past twelve months. For their constant support during the past year I wish to thank the editing committee who gave so much of their time in support of the work of Helvetia. Their work was very time-consuming, and most worthy of mention. My thanks go also to our Swiss Rifle Master who so capably set out and managed the Society competitions. Finally, thank you to my committee who gave so much of their time in support of the work of the Society.

In the past year I am sorry to have to report the passing of the following members of the Society. They were: Mr Joseph Zimmermann (Taranaki), Mr and Mrs E. Merz (Auckland), Mr Merz being a former Secretary of the Society when it was known as the "Swiss Benevolent Society". To the families and friends of these departed members the Society extends its deepest sympathy. As a mark of respect I would ask all those present for a moment of silence.

Social Funds:

The financial position of the Society is good at the moment (even having shown a slight profit on last year). The majority of funds are still invested at the high rate of interest as stated in my last year's report. For the period ending March 31st, 1974, the Society had not been asked for any financial aid from any member.

New Advertiser:

I am pleased to announce the addition of one new advertiser, "Enicar Watches" to the pages of the Helvetia. I also had the added pleasure to meet during the year the Swiss representative for this company, who was in Auckland for a very brief period.

Publication of the Helvetia by the Swiss Government:

In February the committee had a brief meeting with the Ambassador when he informed us about the pending offer of the Swiss Government re the Helvetia. This would mean that four issues of the Helvetia would be supplemented by articles from the Swiss Government as well as from the Embassy, and these four issues would be paid for by the Swiss Government, thus leaving the remaining eight issues as it is at present paid for still by the Society. These eight issues would be issued to members of the Society only. If this offer by the Swiss Government is accepted I can personally see in the future a better financial gain for the Society funds, and perhaps an increase in the Society's membership.

Change of Rules:

In last year's annual report I stated that I felt that certain of the Society's rules needed revision because of the fact that they seemed outdated to fit the present needs of the Society. By a unanimous vote the committee, and myself, have seen fit to leave the rules as they stand for the present time. I would like to mention, however, that Mr Moser, from the Christchurch Club, went to a great deal of trouble in drafting a complete new set of rules, and sending these for my perusal. While these are very good, I sent to him a personal letter my thoughts on the matter, namely, that a complete change of rules would be very costly to the Society, and suggesting further that perhaps bringing these rules along with any other suggestions from members up for discussion at next year's annual general meeting. This would give all members ample time to study thoroughly all suggestions etc. after publication in the Helvetia.

The final decision would then rest with the voters. I thank Mr Moser for his interest.

This concludes my report for 1973/4 and I can only hope that 1975 will also be as good as previous years for the Society.

A. K. BINDER, President.

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