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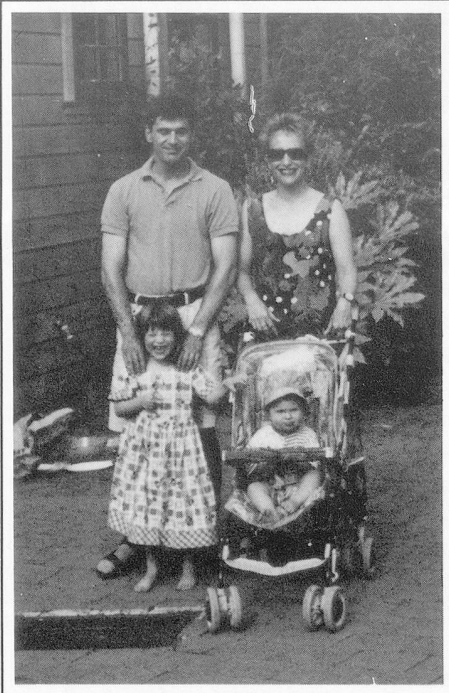
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Switzerland whose specialized skills were required to help build the roof and panels of the new Museum of New Zealand here at the Waterfront in Wellington. We are all looking forward to 1998 when they will return to see the opening of the building. Shortly we will take our rifles out of our cupboards and go to Trentham to rejuvenate our shooting expertise. And February's highlight will be our trip to Taranaki to see all our friends. To everyone: have a scintillating year!

MBG



Marcus Buscetta, team leader of the 6 Master Sheet Metalworkers with wife Myrta and daughters Sophie and Anna-Lena.

CHRISTMAS CARD

From Karl Waldvogel your Editor received a cheeky Christmas Card which had on the front page an unmistakable photo of the Matterhorn and, overprinted at the bottom of the page, in big red letters the words "NEW ZEALAND". The card was produced by a company called "The Right Card" with the insignia of "New Zealand Made".

Unfortunately the photo was too dark to be reproduced, so we cannot show it to you here. The Tourist Office of Zermatt would certainly take a dim view of such unfair use of their beloved mountain.

What "The Right Card" company tried to achieve by producing such a misleading Christmas Card remains a mystery to us and to Karl Waldvogel too.

EXPOVINA IN ZURICH

Every year in the European autumn, a wine tasting fair opens its doors in Zurich. Last November, Expovina, as the fair is called, offered to the wine lovers over 2500 wines from 20 different countries. The fair takes place on the eleven ships that regularly ply the Lake of Zurich, but temporarily anchored together near the "Bürkliplatz".

The report does not say whether New Zealand wines were also present at this fair. For many wine lovers who prefer to drink the wine rather than just swirl it around in their mouths and spit it out again, the chance of being able to taste some 2500 different wines must be quite a challenge. Wonder how they managed to get home after such an "ordeal". By taxi rather than by driving their own car we hope.

Talking about wine, there is a young winemaker in Geneva, Laurent Villard, who produces his own wine without growing a single grape.

Laurent Villard is an expert in wine. He has studied

winemaking in several wineries and has imported and exported wine as well. You could say that wine is really in his blood. His only problem is, he has no vineyard of his own for the simple reason that vineyards are generally not for sale in the canton of Geneva or, if they are, they are far too expensive to buy. Nevertheless, Laurent Villard has just produced 20,000 bottles of his "own" wine which is apparently selling very well.

The secret is that Laurent Villard buys his grapes from various winegrowers throughout the canton and blends them skillfully together to produce some very high quality wines.

If this trend should catch on in New Zealand, we may perhaps one day see dairy farmers without their own cows or woolgrowers with no sheep of their own. Our friends in the Waikato and Taranaki, think about it!!

GOOD HUNTING

The 5600 hunters (including 36 female hunters) who went shooting into the high mountains of Graubünden last September brought back a huge bounty: over 10,000 stags, deer and chamois were shot, the second highest number ever since statistics were introduced in 1872. According to the report, 83% of the hunters were successful, which means that 17% still returned empty handed.

Despite this large bounty, the hunters did only manage to get 83% of the total quota allowed and in some areas an extra hunt had to be organised in order to cut the number of deer down to a sustainable level.

OBITUARY

Just 2 months after her husband John's death, Peggy-Ann Wendelken passed away suddenly in her home in Ngaio. We will miss her and offer her family our deepest sympathy.



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