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Editorial

Are you one of us "two-language-people" using and mixing our native Swiss tongue together with the English language? This is second-nature for some of us first-generation-Swiss-Kiwis, especially for couples of the same Swiss-language background.

- While travelling on a country road the other day in a growing convoy behind a slow truck, the word "Rücksichtnahme" fell, as it would have been considerate of the slow driver to pull over just that little bit more, in order to let the growing convoy of cars pass on the relative short stretches of straight road ahead. Having to drive slowly and not wanting to get frustrated, it was a good time to find an appropriate word in English to explain the meaning of "Rücksichtnahme" to the Grandchildren. How would you have done it? Looking backward, having

hind-sight, respect, regard, consideration, ; none of these words describe the single German word of "Rücksichtnahme" very well by themselves. But whatever translation we use, the action of "Rücksichtnehmen" is a virtue that sets us human-beings apart from other creatures, I think. Would you agree with me that the spontaneous willingness of a person's "Rücksichtnehmen" is an indication of that person's strength of character and at the same time the beauty of humility of character.

- So often the Swiss forbears of our country of origin have practised "Rücksichtnahme" and it has paid off well. Having regard for each-other was the fundamental desire at the start of the Swiss confederation. Looking after the individual, so that the whole may be strong is once again needed among the cantons in Switzerland in these times of difficulties from outside and from within.

Maybe this is what the Swiss President, Arnold Koller, was asking for, in his address to the Swiss on 1. August, when he was appealing for solidarity amongst people to face the problems of the future.

President's Message

Another eventful month has passed and I'm happy to say that I now have the amputation of my leg behind me. My surgery and recovery all went very well and I am already mobile beyond even my own expectations. However, I'm still trying to find the solution as to how to relieve an itchy toe - on the leg which is no longer there. That feeling is really bizarre! But it's really great to be home at last, and to be able to get on with all the things that I have had to put on hold for such a long time. Although still slow, I'm eager to get out into the garden and get on with "normal" life once again. Of course Christmas is now only a few weeks away, and I expect everyone will be busy with such things as work functions, dinners, shopping, and most importantly the annual baking of all those delicious traditional biscuits. This is always a very hectic time of year, so to ease some of the stress, I hope you all manage to take some time out to relax and enjoy the festivities for what they are.

I send you all my personal best wishes for a lovely Christmas in the company of family and friends and a happy and prosperous New Year - "en guete Rutsch!"

Unlike in Switzerland, our Yuletide is combined with summer holidays, so for all those intending to travel, please take care on the roads - drive carefully, be patient, and always wear your seatbelts.

So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as President of our thriving Swiss Society, and look forward to another great year ahead in 1998. Again my best greetings to you all.

Beatrice.

*On behalf of the
Committee and Editing
team of the
Swiss Society, I would like
to extend to all
members our very best
wishes for a
Happy Christmas and a
safe and prosperous
New Year*

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