

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 64 (1998)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 04.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Editorial

Most of us Swiss Kiwis are aware that there are two opposing forces at work in Switzerland; one for integration with Europe including membership and the other a desperate desire to stay unattached, free of bondage, especially political bondage. Wouldn't it be interesting to take a survey in regard to differing views among us Swiss Kiwis?! Would you expect, as I do, that the greater majority of us is in favour of an unattached, unbonded Switzerland? The result of such a survey might well show up the somewhat hypocritical relationship with our "old Country", since we, as emigrants to New Zealand, have certainly opened up ourselves to the world, while perhaps hoping at the same time that our Country of origin Switzerland, would keep itself firmly unattached, totally neutral and self motivated forever!

- What do you think? What about expressing **your thoughts** through the column of "Letter to the editor"!
- The following news (Feb.1998) from the Zürich education department is "food for thought" and could well hasten the integration of Switzerland into Europe and the "global world"!

Controversy over language preference in Switzerland:

The Swiss Canton of Zürich has just announced (February 98) an ambitious language teaching project for primary schools. the Canton's education department wants children to learn foreign languages early and well. But the plan looks set to cause tension between Switzerland's German speaking majority and it's French speaking minority.

Canion Zürich's department of education has agreed the project which will ensure the children will begin learning a foreign language the mo-

ment they start School at age 7. What a wonderful idea you might think. But the project has been greeted with less than enthusiasm by Switzerland's French speaking community. The language these Swiss German children will learn is English. The director of education of the Canton of Zürich says English is preferred to French because English is the first world language and almost everybody will have to learn it in the future, therefore children should learn English at an early age. The problem arises when we consider that Switzerland has actually four national languages, German, French, Italian and Romanch. Switzerland has in the past taken a lot of pride in the fact that it has managed to unify a country with such a diverse language culture. The question arises shouldn't the children living in German speaking Switzerland be learning first one of the other national languages such as French or Italian, rather than English?? . The Cantonal education Department maintains that it has the same language targets for English and for French. It's thought that the children are better motivated to learn English first and by the time they reach the age of eleven they will be equally motivated to learn French, but on a more intensive learning scale. The Schools will be under an obligation to reach the same targets for both languages by the age 15 of the pupils. The project will begin in August this year in about 20 Schools. It is planned to use the immersion method of language teaching so that some normal lessons will actually be taught in the English language. It's an ambitious project and one that has the support of many Zürich parents. Nevertheless the fact remains that these children will not begin to learn French until they are 11 or 12. The director of education of the Canton of Zürich says he can understand the doubts of his French colleagues in French speaking Switzerland. They, the French speaking teachers think that the children will be less willing to learn French after they have learned English in the first place. In answer to the critics the director of education of the Canton of Zürich says that this is only a pilot project with relative few Schools and the experience gained will decide the future of the new idea on teaching

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: Mr Walter Simmen, Chargé d' Affaires of Switzerland

PRESIDENT/TREASURER: Beatrice Leuenberger, 44 Montgomery Crescent, Hamilton, Ph.(07) 843-7971 Fax (07) 843-7941

VICE PRESIDENT: Bert Flühler, 1 Bettina Rd. Hamilton, Ph. (07) 855-4308

SECRETARY: Ruth Waldvogel, 89 Crosby Rd. Hamilton, Ph. (07) 855-3417

RIFLEMASTER: Peter Rust, Bayley Rd. R.D.3. Te Awamutu, Ph. (07) 872-2636

DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

DELEGATE: Heinz Leuenberger, 33 Russell Terrace, Putaruru, Ph/Fax (07) 883-8537

DEPUTY DELEGATE: Marie-Therese Melville-Schöpfer, P.O Box 79-294, Royal Heights, Auckland 1230, Ph. (09) 833-4029

EDITOR: Rinaldo Rust, 242 Te Pahu Rd. R.D.5. Hamilton, Ph/Fax (07) 871-9946

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

AUCKLAND

SECRETARY: Albert Ryter, 32 Sunrise Ave. Mairangi Bay, Auckland, Ph. (09) 478-8547

HAMILTON

SECRETARY: Heidi Fransen, 30 Melva St. Hamilton, Ph (07) 847-1353

TARANAKI

SECRETARY: Doreen Schuler, Palmer Rd. Kaponga, Ph. (06) 764-6533

WELLINGTON

SECRETARY: Michelle Köppel-Schneider, c/o. Embassy of Switzerland, Home Ph. (04) 476-7805

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND: Panama House, 22 Panama St. Wellington, Ph. (04) 472-1593 or (04) 472-1594 Fax (04) 499-6302

HONORARY CONSUL: Peter Deutsche, P.O. Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre Ph./Fax (09) 366-0403. Email: deutschle@clear.net.nz