

# Editorial

Autor(en): **Rust, Rinaldo**

Objekttyp: **Preface**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **64 (1998)**

Heft [4]

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*  
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, [www.library.ethz.ch](http://www.library.ethz.ch)

<http://www.e-periodica.ch>



## Editorial

Have you heard the expression the "new poor" of today!? A couple of months ago this was the topic of discussion in Switzerland, while we in New Zealand were confronted with lively discussions on "a code of social responsibility". Here and over there it pertained to families, the backbone of any country as we have always been told. However in Switzerland the discussions revolved not so much around the responsibilities of parents or caregivers, as much as about the responsibilities of society at large towards modern-day Swiss families. Statistics, according to a study by the federal office of social security, in our country of origin show that a lot of Swiss families have become the "new poor", living below the poverty line. A study based upon such statistics has shown that it costs a staggering 800,000 Francs

to raise child Nr. 1 in a Swiss family up to the age of twenty. For a 2-child family this amount climbs to over a million Francs and for 3 children one and a half million Francs to raise them to maturity. If you think these are just exaggerated statistics, then your reaction is the same as mine. However by studying the subject a little closer it is interesting to note that the statistics include a very important modern-day component (representing approx. 70 % of total) called "lost earning-potential of the Mother"! With loss of earnings of this magnitude, to achieve the ideal of a Mother staying home to raise the children, it is proposed, that society ( taxpayer and husband's employer?) contribute a monthly family-subsidy of 600 Francs for the first child and 300 Francs for each additional child. This would rectify the situation, as Switzerland is spending only a bit more than 7 billion Francs annually on child sup-

port. This is calculated at only 1/6 of total family subsidies needed according to this exercise. Apparently there is no official maternity insurance in Switzerland and only a very low level of regulated childcare. It is estimated that a so-called working mother (or working father, as the case may be), staying home with one child, loses 7 full-time working-years, with 2 children approx. 10 such years and with 3 children 11 years.

- What are all these calculations about, our grandparents would probably ask? They would say; we used to get married to have children, Mothers took it as their vocation to stay home and raise the children to the best of their ability. Not always, but in most cases parents were rewarded for their sacrifices by seeing the children grow into decent citizens. Parenthood in most cases created a bond and respect between Mother and Father and the state had it's healthy foundation with the motto "Im Hause muss beginnen was leuchten soll im Vaterland" ( the state's foundation are being laid inside the family home).

We all know that in most families throughout history there were difficulties to be overcome, quite often specific difficulties due to financial constraints. Therefore discipline on personal as well as on family level became necessary and was practiced in schools, work environment society at large, as well as in local,

### 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: deutsche@clear.net.nz

## SPRINGFALLS

Knitted garments made of top quality natural Merino and Merino Cross/Mohair yarn

### **\*\*Call in and see us now\*\***

An ideal opportunity for your overseas visitors to choose from our great range of original, undyed garments

**All individually crafted on site** with satisfaction guaranteed (Currently cash sales only)

We are easily found just off State Highway One  
**only 15 km west of Mercer**

**For inquiries, phone (09) 233 4453**  
R Dance & Partners, Hunt Road, RD 1, Tuakau, South Auckland.



cantonal and federal affairs. Maybe there is an element of "glorification of the past" in these words, but in todays Swiss society, as in others, it has become commonplace for young couples to ask themselves if the family's income allows any children at all. Despite one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world, the average Swiss family finds it hard to make ends meet. The struggle with very high living expenses, the general need for mothers to work for financial reward, peer pressure for families and children alike and modern day expectations as well as the need for the childrens best possible education are all contributory factors working against families in a world that demands equal opportunities and finds little purpose in sacrifice of self. Perhaps the most disturbing factor during the lively discussions in Switzerland was the fact that a sizeable slice of Swiss society thought that couples choosing to have a family should carry the financial burden alone, or abstain from having children. Much food for thought, don't you think?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now, Clubs will have all completed their AGM's, some with only minor changes, and others with larger changes to their committee structure.

Over the past twelve months, a great number of Club events have taken place around the country so that members and friends have been able to come together on these many occasions to take part in and enjoy a whole variety of "Swiss" activities.

This, of course, could not happen without the hard work, commitment and dedication of the committee members and helpers, many of whom have already given many years of service to their respective Clubs. These people give so much of their time to ensure the success of the functions we all enjoy, and I'd like to encourage all members to attend and support as many Club events as possible.

At the end of this month, members from all over New Zealand (it would be great to see someone from the South Island) will once again be coming together for the Society

AGM, this year being hosted by the Taranaki Club. It seems such a short time since we last met here in Hamilton last June. I have certainly enjoyed my first year as President; I've been very lucky to have had the guidance of both several people who were part of the Society committee some 15 to 20 years ago, and also a great team of people on the current Society committee. I now look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming AGM, and hope to see a record number come along for what I am sure will become a weekend we will enjoy immensely. With kindest regards and my best wishes,

Beatrice

## SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 31 May 1998, commencing at approx 2.00pm, at the Taranaki Clubhouse, Kaponga

### AGENDA

- 1 Welcome by the President
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the last AGM, 1/6/97
- 4 Matters arising from the Minutes
- 5 Obituaries
- 6 President's Report
- 7 Matters arising from the President's Report
- 8 Editor's Report
- 9 Matters arising from the Editor's Report
- 10 Financial Report
- 11 Matters arising from the Financial Report
- 12 Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report

- 13 Matters arising from the Delegate's Report
- 14 Riflemaster's Report
- 15 Matters arising from the Riflemaster's Report
- 16 Setting of Subscriptions for the 1998/99 year
- 17 Election of Officers  
(President/Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer/Editor)
- 18 Election of Society Committee
- 19 General Business
  - Rule changes
  - Club reports
  - Other
- 20 Setting of date and venue for 1999 Society AGM
- 21 Meeting Closure

### MOTION

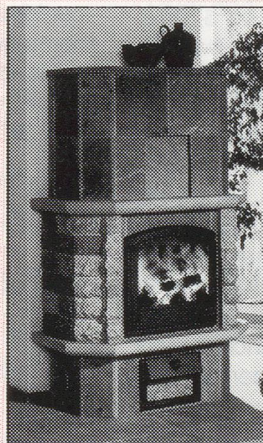
That the following rule be added to the Statutes in order to acquire tax exemption status with the IRD:

#### 14. Withholding Tax Exemption Status Requirements

a. No part of the organisation's income or funds is to be used or be available for the personal use or gain of any member or an associated person of any member.

b. In order to prevent forfeiture of tax exemption status, no alterations may be applied to Rules 13.b or 14.a.

**PLEASE SUPPORT  
OUR ADVERTISERS  
WHENEVER POSSIBLE  
AND LET THEM KNOW YOU  
SAW THE  
ADVERTISEMENT IN  
HELVETIA**



**TULIKIVI**  
**HEATSTORAGE**  
**FIREPLACES**

*One of the world's most beautiful  
and efficient ways to heat  
your home.*

**FINSTONE LTD. ROTORUA**

**0800 824 200**