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cantonal and federal affairs. Maybe there is an element of "glorification of the past" in these words, but in today's 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 children's 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.

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