

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 65 (1999)
Heft: [2]

Vorwort: Editorial
Autor: Rust, Rinaldo

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: 16.12.2025

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

Editorial

Prominent Images of Switzerland....

School holidays are occasions to host Grandchildren in our house. We regard this as a privilege and as they grow up we enjoy passing on some of our Swiss peculiarities in various aspects of daily life.

One thing we have to make sure of is to have our cuckoo clock in operation and as a special thrill we usually find ourselves turning the hour-hand to make the cuckoo appear in fast succession.

What a perfect image of Switzerland is your cuckoo clock remarked one of our visitors recently. -

But, did you know that this is only

partly so? The truth is that the real home of the cuckoo clock is the Black-Forest in Germany and has been so since the early 19th century.



Reality is that most of the cuckoo clocks sold in Switzerland aren't Swiss...! They can be from Japan, China or South Korea. Many are plastic and have quartz movements. - But apparently there is one and only one genuine Swiss cuckoo clock producer, the *Lörtscher Company* near Zürich. The subtleties

are explained as follows: The original cuckoo clock is either from the Black-Forest or from Brienz in Central Switzerland. The difference is that in the Black-Forest you have the 'hunting types' and the 'bird types' but the Swiss ones are the 'chalet types'. So if ever you want to have a genuine Swiss cuckoo clock you will have to obtain a **Swiss chalet-type**. Research has shown that there is written documentation in Switzerland and in Germany that the Cuckoo clock actually originated in Middle-Europe. The much respected dictionary of horology apparently states simply that they were produced as early as the 15th century in the German City of Nürnberg. -

But lets go back to the real Swiss chalet-type cuckoo clock that is available in some tourist shops in Switzerland.

A recent documentary heard on Swiss Radio International informed the listeners that the *Lörtscher Company* has 2 factories in Switzerland, one in Brienz where the 'chalet' for the cuckoo clock is carved in wood and the other in Zürich where the metal parts, the movement, manufactured in Germany, is added. Swiss industry does no longer produce those movements. - That could lead us back to the debate; is the chalet-type of cuckoo clock genuinely Swiss with the foreign movement in a Swiss chalet? And just as this is a complicated question so is the manufacture of the cuckoo clock itself. Apparently it is the wooden part combined with the metal part which makes it so. The more sophisticated Lörtscher cuckoo clocks contain a minimum of 146 pieces and come complete with dancing figurines, dogs, the cuckoo (of course) and a fine Swiss music movement. The Swiss Company Lörtscher claims to have been the first to introduce 'fine cuckoo clocks with music' in 1956.

The best-seller according to a Company-spokesman is the most loved-one by the tourists, model Nr. 570, produced since 1921, with the looks of a real chalet plucked out of the centre of the village of Brienz in Switzerland.

- One day I will have to admit to our Grandchildren that our cuckoo clock which we bought many years ago right here in New Zealand is not Swiss, but from 'the other side of the

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 Flüher, 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

COORDINATOR IN NZ FOR THE SWISS ABROAD YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHEME
Mrs. Nicole Helsdon, 58 A Marellen Drive, Red Beach / Orewa, Ph. (09) 426-0927

EDITOR: Rinaldo Rust, 242 Te Pahu Rd. R.D.5. Hamilton, Ph/Fax (07) 871-9946 E-Mail: rinaldorust@extra.co.nz

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: Trudi Brühlmann, 1 Marine Drive, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne Ph. 04 562 8019

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

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

border'. Never mind, it will be the cuckoo that remains the fascination and moreover cuckoos are known to fly in all directions and across many a border.

President's Message

In last month's *Helvetia* I wrote about the high interest the Swiss Government holds regarding its citizens abroad, and the role Swiss Clubs hold within their communities.

In 1995, a Working Committee, titled "Swiss Clubs", was established by the Council for Swiss Abroad. The role of this group was to research the make-up, functions and goals of clubs worldwide, in order to know how best to offer the necessary aid and support required by these organisations, as well as to how to form new clubs where there are currently none.

This was done by sending questionnaires to Swiss Clubs throughout the world, of which just half were returned. Through answers received, it was discovered that this action was long overdue, and concluded that many of the existing Clubs were in need of a variety of levels of guidance and assistance.

The information received was collated and presented in a report on the finding of Swiss clubs worldwide, divided into four categories:

1. Statistics
2. Problems within the Clubs
3. Ideas and Recommendations
4. Clubs into the Future

I have translated and summarised this important document, and will begin this month with the first category.

1. Statistics

Overall individual Club membership varies from between 20 - 600, over 75% being Swiss Nationals. Many Clubs are "ageing" - average age is increasing, many Clubs having the majority of members over 60. Most Club Committees are made up of at least half being Swiss citizens, aged along the lines of their Clubs. The average term of service is 1-4 years.

In most places, individual regional clubs are formed. Normally, a small membership fee is collected and then the cost of functions is often low or subsidised for members.

Only a small number of Clubs, mainly those with high membership or a large urban base, own high assets, both wealth and property.

The majority of Clubs organise 5-10 functions annually, and most of the rest offer regular monthly events.

Communication to advertise functions is normally made through official publications or newsletters, by invitation, or by word of mouth. Most Clubs or Swiss organisations produce a variety of regular publications of many sorts. This work is normally done within a relatively small budget.

New members are often found through contact with Embassies or Consulates, but recent restructures and reductions of these diplomatic posts means that Clubs must begin finding new and innovative methods to locate new arrivals to invite them to join their local club.

So - food for thought. Where do we fit within these statistics, both as a Society and as individual Clubs?

Next month - a look at further categories researched, beginning with the Problems clubs face. In the meantime though, I wish an enjoyable March. Regards.....Beatrice
PS. My thanks to the Auckland Club for the get well card following my recent further surgery. I appreciated your kind thoughts and good wishes.

SWISS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Over the past few months, many responses have been received from members for inclusion in our proposed Society business directory.

But we still want more !!

So, if you own, run, or work for any business, anywhere throughout New Zealand, providing goods or services, which could then be supported by the Swiss Community or Tourists, then don't miss out - please let us know immediately!

For a small fee, we will advertise basic details of your business in a directory, which can then be used by residents and tourists to locate "Swiss" businesses throughout the country. If enough responses are received, the directory will be prepared within the coming months.

To be included, write to:

Directory
Beatrice Leuenberger
44 Montgomery Crescent
Hamilton.
or fax 07 843 7941.

**Let us know about your
business, and then we can tell
everyone about you !!**

YOUR SWISS BAKERY, PATISSERIE & Café

EVELINE & FRANZ
MÜLLER

PH. 09 4899737

5 Milford Rd. Auckland ♦ Swiss and NZ specialities all produced daily on the premises

♦ Orders taken for all of your special occasions

♦ Stockists of Lindt and Maestrani Chocolates

Hours: Mon - Fri 8.00 - 16.30 Sat. 8.00 - 14.30
Sun. closed



SWISS CHOCOLATE

Maestrani
SWISS CHOCOLATE • QUALITY AND TRADITION



SWISS BISCUITS

Kambly
OF SWITZERLAND

available now



SWISS MADE

FINE QUALITY PRODUCTS

P.O. Box 528 Kerikeri
PhoneFax 09-407 9688

Your Corner.....

We are grateful to Heidi Wehrli of Matamata for her gallant efforts in composing 'a **Society Member's Profile**' on her Father Joseph (Sepp) Arnold of Hamilton.

A very prominent and long-standing member of the Hamilton Swiss Club, Sepp Arnold is of course the husband of Alice and the Father of a great family including Son Peter, 'Oberjodler' of the Swiss Kiwi Jodel Group of Auckland.

Thank you Sepp for allowing us a glimpse back into your life.

Doris and Trudy.