

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 66 (2000)
Heft: [7]

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: 26.01.2026

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

EDITORIAL

ANNIVERSARIES - days to remember, including HOMESICKNESS and such like.....

Just as the artist steps back from his work or creation to review his handiwork, so it seems all of us have the need or desire to step back every now and again to appraise and to celebrate annually recurring days of significance - days that are worth a remembrance.

Numerous are the jokes about the husband getting 'into trouble' as he forgets the Wedding Anniversary in busy daily life, and is then chastised in no uncertain terms by his wife.

Lucky is the man celebrating his Wedding on August the second, I said to myself forty years ago in 1960, as 'our big day' had been arranged for the day following our National Day in Switzerland (a day that nobody forgets in any case).

Yes, and as you have guessed it by

now, my 'better half' and I have recently been celebrating 40 years of togetherness in 'bad days and in good days, in sickness and in health'. They call it the 'Ruby Wedding Anniversary' and for most of us reaching this milestone, it happens during advancing years of age!

For my wife and myself, it coincides with reaching the significant 65th birthday. Having kept contact with some of our Swiss school friends in 'the old country' throughout the years, we have been made aware for some time of the plan to re-unite with a Class reunion celebration at reaching the entitlement to call ourselves pensioners...!

I don't know about you, but the necessary preparations for another trip 'home' seem to re-activate a host of nostalgic and quite emotional memories that have been rather dormant in my subconscious mind. Trying to analyse one's feelings of the past can be a fascinating undertaking for

anybody I venture to think. Why all these mixed up feelings of expectations during the time of travel preparations, I asked myself?

Do I subconsciously grieve the thoughts that 'it's never going to be the same' as we left it, that old country of ours, when returning once again this time? How foolish, I say to myself. I should know by now that change is inevitable and have I not heard and read about all the 'wonderful' advances in living standards and technology in my country of origin, Switzerland?

Why can I once again feel the scars left behind by homesickness in my emotional 'memory-box' 40 years ago? Why should some of us have had to suffer so much homesickness anyway during the first few years of life in this desirable country of adoption, New Zealand?

Have you asked yourself such questions? How many Swiss immigrants of earlier years have carried scars of homesickness with themselves to their graves? Why should people emigrating and escaping relative harsh living conditions suffer homesickness once they live an easier life in 'the country of their choice'?

Has anyone ever taken a survey among immigrants (Swiss or otherwise) to find reasons for people with or without homesickness?

- Have you, the 'long-established Swiss-Kiwi' ever recorded on paper or in your mind the things you most missed 'from home' in the early days, or were such thoughts trivial??

- Well, I for myself, to this day, don't know if it is a sign of 'patriotic love of homeland' or a sign of weak emotional character that I suffered greatly under homesickness for the first three years as a single man in New Zealand. A list of mitigating factors explaining my homesickness is firmly set in my mind.

As a twenty year-old, I left behind numerous relatives and friends (of both genders), made during primary and secondary school years; during years of professional training; military service, the church choir; gymnastic-circle; shooting-club; as well as several neighbouring families that had been part of my life up to the "time of maturity" which was twenty-one in those days...!

Living in New Zealand and working as a 'dairy farm worker by necessity', where was I to find the friendly attachment of camaraderie I was used to in a Swiss gymnastic club?

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller, Ambassador of Switzerland

PRESIDENT/TREASURER: Beatrice Leuenberger, 44 Montgomery Crescent, Hamilton, Ph.(07) 843 7971 Fax (07) 843 7941; bea.leun.rachel@xtra.co.nz

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, 4202 Pepepe Rd Naike, RD2, Huntly, 07 826 6711

DELEGATES TO 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

Nicole Helsdon, 58 A Marenell Dr, Red Beach, Orewa, Ph.(09) 426 0927

EDITOR: Rinaldo Rust, 242 Te Pahu Rd. RD 5, Hamilton
Ph/Fax (07) 871 9946, e-mail: rinaldorust@xtra.co.nz

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

AUCKLAND

SECRETARY: Trudi Fill, 51 Clifoton Rd, Herne Bay, PObox 40 152, Glenfield, Auckland. Ph/Fax (09) 376 4923, e-mail: weidfill@win.co.nz

HAMILTON

SECRETARY: Anita Zuber, P.O. Box 11-026 Hamilton, Ph. (07) 856 2414

TARANAKI

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

WELLINGTON

SECRETARY: Trudi Brühlmann, 1 Marine Drive, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, Wellington. 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, PO Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre
Ph./Fax (09) 366 0403. e-mail: deutschle@clear.net.nz