

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 67 (2001)  
**Heft:** [1]

**Vorwort:** Editorial... : reflections...  
**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:** 05.02.2026

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

## Editorial..

### Reflections....

For us living in the southern hemisphere the early summer period November to January is the year's most memorable time, I think, as it contains pre-Christmas, Christmas, New Year and holiday times all in one.

If you are anything like myself, the Kiwi Christmas-time is in great contrast to the "Weihnachtszeit" we remember so vividly from our young days in Switzerland. The annual 'excursion' up to the loft of our house to bring down the Christmas decorations invariably brings back to me 'memories-of-old'.

Have you ever recounted to one of your Kiwi-friends 'the way we used to celebrate in the old country'?

Not an easy task to undertake and equally difficult to hand-on the more unique aspects of our Swiss Christmas heritage to our young and New Zealand

born families. Doing so demands an effort over and above the Kiwi Christmas routine, I think. It can be almost like 'swimming against the tide'.

The 'handing-on' of Swiss Christmas customs also demands that we concentrate on the spiritual content of the occasion in greater detail, beginning with the feast day of Saint Nicholas on Dec. 6th and not having a real connection with the Swiss Christmas. A real effort, I think, to place 'Samichlaus' into his proper place here in New Zealand, where 'Santa' has captured the commercial aspects of Christmas totally.

Isn't it all too easy to 'go with the flow', after all someone has to bring the presents that can be found under the Christmas tree next to the crib of Bethlehem.

Sadly even in Switzerland itself it is becoming more difficult to explain the love-motivated deeds of the 'Christ child' (Christkindli) to bring presents and to fulfill the children's dreams.

Santa Claus (of American origin) with

his image of a red-clad old fool with pot-belly and 'ho-ho-voice' has according to reports from Switzerland made real 'in-roads' into the Swiss Christmas culture these days with thousands of the 'jolly-old-things' having appeared all over the country.

All the more reason, I think, for us Swiss abroad to cling to the 'old ways' as much as possible, don't you agree?

I can't imagine Christmas Eve without the sound of Swiss church bells (never mind if only reproduced by CD). Every year I enjoy lighting the few wax candles (with fire extinguisher at the ready) on the Christmas tree and around the crib.... I love to see the brightly wrapped parcels for young and old under the Christmas tree.....

Lucky for us (and maybe for you), to have a good number of Grandchildren to perform a nativity play and read from the Bible as well as performing some musical items or Christmas carols..... Lucky for all of us Swiss Kiwis to know that there are a goodly number of our compatriots still taking the trouble to 'hand-on' some of the more spiritual customs to our young families.....

And now that the next Christmas trees have another 10 months of growing period ahead of them, and the various decorations have been packed away, we are reminded to live the Christmas spirit in every-day-life. In 'good times and in bad' we are to live out the commandments to love God and our neighbour. For most of us, our Swiss as well as our Swiss-Kiwi culture has a Christian fundament. I think we can honour our culture by living our lives based on that special spiritual message which had its origin, brought to mankind as a gift, by the Christ child some 2000 years ago. - May the hope contained within that gift guide us throughout all the days to come.

## 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/Fax (07)855-3417

**RIFLEMASTER:** Peter Rust, 4202 Pepepe Rd. Naike, RD 2, Huntly 07 8266711

## 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, 58A MARELLEN DR, RED BEACH, OREWА, PH.09 426-0927**

**EDITOR:** RINALDO RUST, 242 TE PAHU RD. R.D.5.

HAMILTON, PH/FAX (07) 871-9946 E-MAIL: RINALDORUST@XTRA.CO.NZ

## CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

### AUCKLAND

**SECRETARY:** Trudi Fill, 51 Clifton Rd, Herne Bay, P.O Box 40152, Glenfield, Auckland, Ph/fax (09) 3764923, e-mail <weidfill@win.co.nz>

### HAMILTON

**SECRETARY:** Anita Zuber, P.O. Box 11-026 Hamilton, Ph. (07) 8562414

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

Please support  
our advertisers  
and  
let them know  
you saw the  
advertisement  
in HELVETIA