

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 67 (2001)  
**Heft:** [4]  
  
**Rubrik:** [Impressum]

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## Editorial..

Sooner or later in our lives we may come to the conclusion that our capacity to do good is just about equal to our capacity to be negative. It is however good to point out every now and again that we must never underestimate our capacity to do good. Has it ever happened to you that somebody benefited by your example without you ever expecting so?

Humility is a great virtue, but I think there is nothing wrong with reaping some unexpected harvest for 'having done some good for something or someone'. After all, we know of many exemplary lives that have influenced countless people throughout the world's history.

For Swiss/Kiwis two names come to mind, like Pestalozzi, the great humanitarian, or Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross in Switzerland. For New Zealand, there are such names

as M.J.Savage, who devoted his life to the sick, the aged and those in need, or "King Dick Seddon" as he was fondly called, who battled as Premier for the ordinary man. And then there are all the other names of famous people whose legacies are 'lives that have done good...'

I am reminded of such people as I encourage our visiting grandchildren to read a chapter or two from the book "Great Lives Great Deeds" The index of that book leads with Anderson (the story teller), goes to Bach Johann Sebastian, to Cook Captain James, to Francis of Assisi-Saint, to Ghandi, to Lincoln, to Edison, Einstein, Mozart, Nightingale, Picasso, Rembrandt, Strauss, sen. and junior, Toscanini, Verdi and Wagner. A modern day version of this book would also contain names like Albert Schweizer, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, or Martin Luther-King, Nelson Mandela and many more.

Edmund Burke (the English statesman) wrote the following two hundred years ago: "Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other".

Grandchildren are 'the spice of life' could be an old man's motto as it applies for me. How wonderful it is to teach a grandson or grand daughter some new skill (as I did recently) to ride a motorbike and to do so with safety in mind.

How wonderful for a Mother to instill in a daughter or grand daughter the thousand and one virtues of running a well kept household, or to enjoy some handcraft for the pleasure of creating something beautiful.

Very recently the Swiss City of Geneva was once again host to the annual inventors fair. Chances are that we will all benefit in future times by one or the other of new inventions. Should we not give the benefit of the doubt to the inventors for the possible urge to do good for mankind, rather than to think that it is all done for the sake of money only?

Are we making enough use of our elderly people to use their (retired) talents to do good for the instruction of young people?

Just recently there was a call from the New Zealand education-system for retired people to consider some form of voluntary teacher-aid-work (remedial reading). I know of one person that has done just that for years and has gained much satisfaction doing so, while at the same time making lots of school age friends....!

The Swiss pride themselves with a system of 'elderly professionals helping young firms (on a voluntary basis) to establish themselves in this our competitive world of trade and commerce.

This organisation "Swisscontact" is 21 years old, has its base in Zürich, and is funded mainly by private Swiss industrial establishments. In 1979 the 'Senior Expert Corps' was born out of this organisation. The knowledge and experience of pensioned professionals are used to help small and medium sized firms in some South American countries as well as places like Nepal. Most of the Swiss 'Seniorexperts', as they are called, are aged between 60 and 70, working for pocket money only, committing themselves initially for approximately four weeks and some-

### SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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#### COORDINATOR IN NZ FOR THE SWISS ABROAD YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHEME

MRS. NICOLE HELSDON, 58A MARELLEN DR, 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@XTRA.CO.NZ

### CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

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