

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 68 (2002)
Heft: [6]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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Editorial..

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm greeting to all Helvetia readers out there on behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club. As most of you are no doubt aware Rinaldo Rust and his editorial team from the Hamilton Swiss Club have wrapped up their marvellous five year job of producing our Helvetia magazine. It now stands on Taranaki shoulders to continue their tremendous work and try to fill the large shoes they have left.

Looking through past issues of Helvetia, the magazine is a credit to them, and every person involved in its creation should be proud of what they achieved.

Having a background in print journalism I am fully aware of the

amount of work needed to produce an issue every month.

The realisation of this daunting task hit me a few weeks ago and I must admit that being able to talk to Rinaldo during the long weekend last month was certainly invaluable. I only hope he does not get too sick of me during the up-coming months when I will take him up on his generous offer of advice and help while settling into the new job.

I would also like to ask that readers are patient with us as we get used to the job of putting the Helvetia together. While I sincerely hope there will not be any problems, you never know when there could be hiccups. But I am sure everyone will be supportive.

Now for quick introductions of the new editorial team. My name is Eliz-

abeth (Liz) Amstalden and I will be taking over from Rinaldo as editor of Helvetia. I am a first generation New Zealander, both my parents, Christine and Paul, are from Switzerland. While I can speak Swiss-German I unfortunately cannot read and write German, but I have already had offers of help with this if it becomes a problem while putting the magazine together.

Currently I am a full-time photography student at the Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki in New Plymouth. Prior to this I was working as a journalist in Auckland, and I also have a Bachelor or Arts in Media Studies and Communications from Massey University.

During the Annual General Meeting held in Taranaki last month Marianne Drummond was elected as the new president of the Swiss Society, making a shift from her previously held position as vice-president. That position was filled by our Taranaki club president Walter Seifert. Silvia Schuler, also from the Taranaki club, was elected as secretary. While undoubtedly many people will be contributing material and helping with the Helvetia, these three wonderful people will be making up the editorial team and contributing on a regular basis. I am confident that through sharing the workload around several people will not only make our job easier, but also bring a bit of variety to the magazine as a whole.

While we have not discussed any changes yet, I do hope that we will be able to put a Taranaki flavour into the magazine.

I would also like to invite all readers to feel free in letting us know of ways we might improve or add to the Helvetia, or your feelings about the magazine as a whole. Even if it is in the form of a letter to the editor. Reader feedback and involvement is always appreciated.

Yes, there maybe only a few people putting the magazine together, but it still belongs to all members in the Swiss Society of New Zealand. I feel it is very important to reflect this.

So on behalf of the new editorial team, we look forward to taking care of your Helvetia magazine and hope we can carry on the wonderful work Rinaldo and co have done over the last five years. Wish us luck!

Liz Amstalden.

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