

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 69 (2003)  
**Heft:** [3]  
  
**Nachruf:** Obituaries : Keith Anderson  
**Autor:** L.B.

### **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:** 19.08.2025

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



## Obituaries



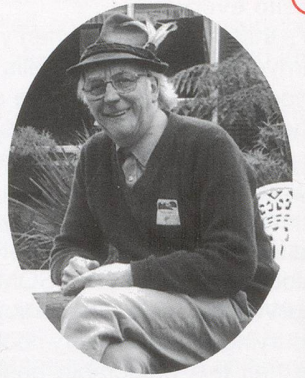
### Keith Anderson

Keith was born in Auckland on 12 November 1930. With his parents he lived in Taumarunui for five years and they then moved to Taranaki. Keith became a printer and he started our local paper, the Stratford Press. During that time he promoted and supported Stratford businesses and tourism in general, which he continued to do all his life. He married his first wife, Jenny, and had four children. In 1975 he bought Dawson Falls and renovated it into a typical Swiss lodge. During this time he met up with Berta Deck from Schwyz and they married and had two more children. In 1985 they purchased the Mountain House where they have lived ever since. He was very proud to become a Swiss citizen in 1995. In the last twenty years he has painted many landscape oil paintings (most

of them of Taranaki scenery, and especially Mt Egmont) which are now displayed in many homes throughout New Zealand and even overseas. Keith was on his way home from town on Saturday 1st February when he was killed in a head-on collision with Swiss tourists driving on the wrong side of the road.

He is survived by his wife Berta, his children Heidi, Hans-Peter, Ross, Sonja, Carl and Ward, and five grandchildren.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Berta and family.



LB



### Joseph Arnold-Portmann 18-12-1915 to 08-01-2003

Joseph (Sepp) Arnold was born in Alpnach, Switzerland, into a farming family. In 1938 he purchased half of his father's farm and settled at The Rengg to farm. He married Alice Portmann on 20/11/45 and six of his seven children were born in Switzerland. Sepp became a member of the Hergiswil Yodel Club and in 1948 Sepp founded the Alpnach Yodel Group. In 1961 they sold up and moved to New Zealand where his NZ farming career commenced at Hairini. Eventually Sepp sharemilked 120 cows at Springdale and in 1964 purchased 200 acres and milked up to 180 cows.

Alice and Sepp joined the Hamilton Swiss Club and then started the Yodel Chorli with Hans & Heiri Oettli, Ernst Studer and Rinaldo Rust.

The final son, Andrew, was born in 1964. Sepp and Alice retired to Hamilton in 1978, where they continued to play cards and enjoy travelling and family.

After a short stay at Trevellyn Resthome Joseph died there, peacefully. He is survived by his wife, Alice, and all his children Joe, Franz, Peter, Kurt, Heidi, Bruno and Andrew and 15 grandchildren.

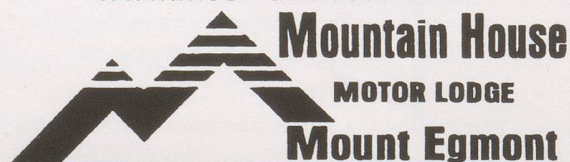


*The editing team wishes to apologise to the Arnold family for inadvertently not printing the photo with the obituary in the February issue of the magazine.*

### YOUR SWISS CHEF, BERTA

TARANAKI'S TOP RESTAURANT  
LODGE - CHALETS - FAMILY UNITS  
FREE PHONE 0800 MOUNTAIN  
(66 86 82)

[www.mountainhouse.co.nz](http://www.mountainhouse.co.nz)



It is with great sadness that we note the passing on of Ernst Thurnheer, an Ambassador of Switzerland in New Zealand several years ago. Many of you will remember him fondly, as an ambassador who had a great relationship with all the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand and who regularly visited them. He passed away suddenly in Switzerland at the end of January. To his family we offer our sincere condolences.

MD