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Children's Letters

The Past

Hamburg, Germany 1943. Through the pelleting of bombs, through the piles of rubble, through the sirens and frantic cries my grandma fled. Her parents stayed in Germany for the time being. So did her sisters who were all married. She crossed the border into Switzerland to try to find work. She had barely anything. She had to start from scratch.

She came to the small town of Rotrist where she got a job. A few months later her parents also moved to Switzerland. They went to Gais where her father who was Swiss had a stepsister. They lived together with the stepsister in her house. My Grandma was financially supporting her parents who had lost everything all through this. After working in Rotrist for about two years my Grandma also moved to Gais. She worked at a sewing company called Eisenhut. There she made friends with two ladies. One of these ladies had a cousin called Jacob whom my Grandma fell in love with and married.

Once married Jacob and my Grandma moved to Niederteufen where they bought a house. My Grandparents a dairy. Shortly after, my Grandma's father died. Later her mother came to live with her in Niederteufen. My Grandma had two daughters; Margarit and Ursula. Ursula is my mum. Through this time my grandparents had built up a fair sized farm with chickens, sheep, dogs, pigs and cats but my Grandfather worked full time for the Milk, Butter and Cheese Trade St. Gallen-Appenzell by

My name is Matthew Kitson.

My poppa is the best. His name is Peter Schtze. he was born in munsterlingeh in the kanton of thurgan

poppa made parts for the americas cup and a 500cc motorbike

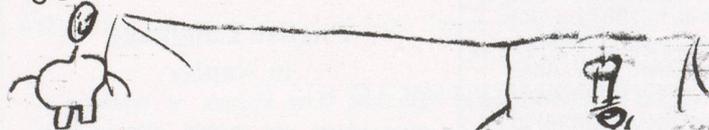
Poppa takes me to the park to play and he teaches me on the computer.

I love my Poppa

From Matthew

Waiuku

Age 7

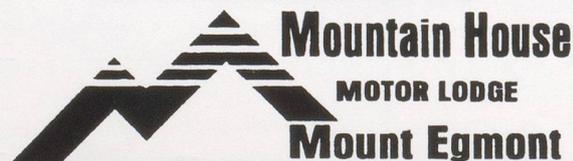


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now.

When my mum was 17 she started her apprenticeship in a bank. When she was 21 she fell in love with my dad who worked in that bank too. He had been brought up in Gais. They got married and bought a house in Teufen.

On the 16th of February 1989 I was born. In 1991 my sister Tanja was born. In 1992 we went on a holiday to new Zealand to see how it was because we were thinking of moving there. It was great and the following year we packed our things and moved.

First we stayed in an apartment in Paihia for a few weeks. We then moved to Russell where we rented a house. After living there for a couple of months we moved to Kerikeri. My parents bought a nice big house in which we stayed for seven years. Here my parents had another daughter called Giulia.

About two years ago we moved to another house in Kerikeri, and that is where I am sitting right now, typing up this story.

Marco Eugster, 2003

Age: 14

Swiss Society

Annual General Meeting

The Swiss Society invites all members

and friends to attend the

Annual General Meeting

to be held on June 1, 2003 at 2pm

at the Wellington Swiss Club, Wainuiomata.

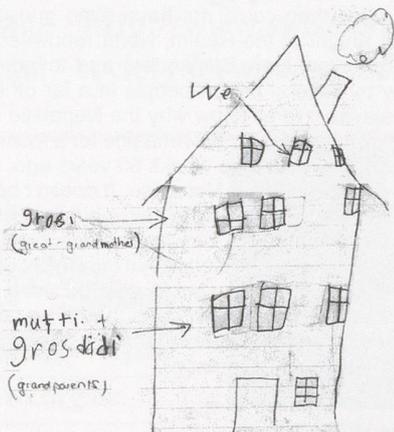
AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Scrutineers
4. Minutes of the previous AGM (held on June 2, 2002) and the matters arising (minutes printed in May Helvetia)
5. Obituaries
6. President's Report and matters arising
7. Editor's Report and matters arising
8. Address by the Patron of the Society, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci
9. Financial Report and matters arising
10. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and matters arising
11. Riflemaster's Report and matters arising
12. Setting of Subscriptions 2003/2004
13. Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor)
14. Election of Committee
15. General Business including Club Reports
16. Set date and venue for Society AGM 2004
17. Meeting Closure

My name is Matthias Hurschler.

I am 7 years old. I am born in Engelberg Switzerland. When I was 4 years old, we went to New Zealand. I liked my house in Switzerland, my grandparents, my great-grandmother and my family lived there.

From Matthias
Matthias Hurschler
Age 7



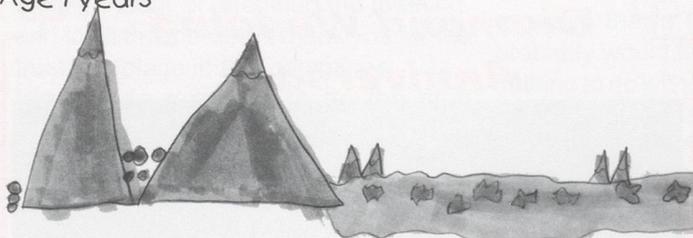
My Homeland!

My parents were born in Switzerland so do my cosins. They live right next to the school. They don't have to catch the bus or car, they can walk to school. My family lives in NZL now.

I was born in NZL but I went to Switzerland for two weeks. I was three and a half. My brother and my Dad stayed here. Only me and my sister and Mum went to Switzerland because my grandma was very ill. We stayed at our cosin's house. They have a dog he gets to sleep on the couch. When he is asleep he snores so loud!

We went riding on a train to buy some lollies when we wanted to go back in the train we missed it. So we had to walk home.

by Giulia Eugster
Age 7 years



Where is the alpine slope?

The Alpine Slope is part of the Alps, a mountain range in South Central Europe. The landscape includes huge mountains and deep valleys with forests of beech, oak and chestnut trees growing on the lower slopes of the mountains. At higher levels there are grasslands and pine forests. Only low bushes grow at still higher elevations, while the mountaintops are covered in rocks and glaciers. Melting snow from the Alps feeds many rivers.

Hydroelectric plants along alpine rivers provide much of Italy's electric power. The people of the alpine region live in small, scattered communities, and make their living by farming and herding. Many tourists visit the Alps to ski.



Fact File

The Apennines stretch almost the entire length of Italy. These mountains have steep inclines of soft rock that are constantly being eroded as a result of heavy rains, overgrazing of sheep and goats, and the clearing of forests for timber and farmland.

A REMINDER - SWISS is affiliated to the Qantas Frequent Flyer Programme

News from SWISS

- * Summer of 2003 will see **SWISS** rejuvenating its product through many aspects including new cabin configurations and the introduction of a new A340-300 to its existing 26 long-haul aircraft fleet.
- * **SWISS** will name every aircraft in its fleet after one of the country's mountains. This gesture confirms the airline's commitment to Swissness and acknowledges the significance of the Alps as part of Switzerland's global identity.
- * **SWISS** passengers are welcome to use the facilities of Allegra Arrival

Lounge in Terminal 1 on arrival into Zurich. The lounge offers showers, toilets, newspapers, drinks, fruit and snacks. Swiss TravelClub members as well as Business and First Class passengers can use the lounge free of charge, while Economy Class passengers pay approx USD20.

SWISS offer one way and return economy and business class fares to Europe from New Zealand with both NZ and QF. Contact either **Travelair** or **SWISS** for further information.

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