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Editorial

Hello again, to all our loyal members, readers, friends, and advertisers! Well, Walter informed me a few days ago that I am Helvetia's new Editor! At the June issue 'working bee' I told Walter he could nominate me at the AGM if our Editorial Committee felt confident with me! So, now I'd better put my thinking cap back on, fast, and leave it there! Unfortunately, Christine and I had to cancel our bookings to the AGM on the 'Taranaki bus', just 3 weeks before the event, when I received the letter to report to hospital on May 28 for my ops, and I sure didn't want to postpone it after 8 months on the waiting list! Christine and I have had a bit of a 'rough spell'

over the past 2 years, healthwise, but hopefully, the worst is behind us for a while.

Well, as we've all felt, winter has blasted in with a vengeance this past month, after a lovely Indian Summer and the power crisis seems to have receded as fast as heavy rains filling our hydro-lakes! Let's hope we don't get a dry late winter and spring!

Mt Egmont/Taranaki is looking beautiful with a heavy 'snow coat' down to about 1300m. Ten days ago it had only a small white 'skullcap'.

Now perhaps I'd better give a short brief of myself, mainly for our readers outside Taranaki. As you probably already guessed, I'm the father of

our last year's Editor, Liz. I arrived in NZ as a boy, with my immigrant parents, in 1939, and have lived in Taranaki ever since. Christine, also from Switzerland, and I, have 5 more living children besides Liz, two daughters and three sons. We also have two small grandsons so far! If you look in your August 2002 Helvetia, you will see a small glimpse of me hiding behind Christine in one of the photos on the Taranaki Club's Golden Jubilee.

Now I would like to say a special thank you to Liz, on behalf of our Swiss Society of NZ, for her service over the past 12 months. I know she tendered her resignation only because she felt she could no longer do Helvetia justice with her important job as editor of the weekly 'Stratford Press'. She has pitched herself into her job, heart and soul, because she loves to work in Taranaki. I guess she is a Taranaki gal through and through! I guess Mt Eden is only a pipsqueak compared to mighty Egmont/Taranaki, aye Liz...especially to a girl who grew up almost in its shadow!

So now yours truly will try to follow in her footsteps! I know it will be even harder to fill Rinaldo's mighty boots - but I'll give it a go!

Tschou everyone, till next month! Paul.

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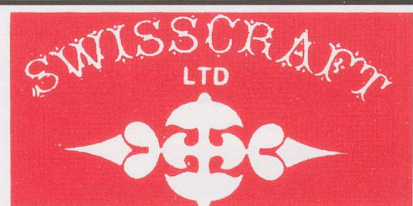
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