

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 69 (2003)  
**Heft:** [7]

**Vorwort:** Editorial  
**Autor:** Amstalden, Paul

### **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:** 03.04.2026

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

# Editorial

'I've been thinking'...to borrow a favourite phrase of a prominent member of our current crop of MPs! So, I've been thinking, one of the lovely 'perks' of being a pensioned-off 'oldie' is that one can sit in the armchair anytime one feels like it and, sometimes for hours, one can become an amateur philosopher, provided one's mentality is still sound, of course! Well, that has been my pleasant experience anyway, especially over the past two to three years. I must be getting old!

These thoughts and observations have been strengthened lately on reflecting on a number of news media reports, most of which I'm sure you will remember. These and memories of other media reports in years gone by, bring to my mind a marvellous aspect of human nature

which can be very accurately described by quite a short phrase - instant bravery and raw courage!

You will remember a very recent TV report on a terrible car crash where one vehicle containing three people burst into flames on impact. Two young men walking only metres away from the impact immediately ran to the flaming car and proceeded to rescue the victims, with some difficulty, I believe. As there were only two rescuers on the spot, the third victim had to wait some seconds longer until rescued and sadly died of injuries shortly afterwards. Both the police and firemen, who arrived on the scene within minutes, were loud in their praises of the two young rescuers and all were convinced there would have been three fatalities but for the quick

and daring actions of the two young men. The marvellous thing about these two heroes is that one is only 19 years old and the other not much more. Yet, seeing the dire need of fellow humans they jumped to the rescue without a second's thought of the serious danger to their own lives, had the burning car exploded! I'm sure you'll all agree, this is the stuff of real heroes!

I'm also sure most of you can recall other media reports of brave actions and rescues by police and firemen, many in other countries, often of brave people jumping into flooded rivers to rescue drowning people and risking their own lives. I suppose it's easy to say that the police and firemen are trained to deal with floods, fires and other emergencies, and there is truth in that. However, we, the public cannot expect them to risk almost certain death, yet they so very often do - for us! Witness the hundreds of police and fire people who lost their lives in the WTC terrorist attack in New York!

This, to me, makes it more remarkable when one hears of acts of bravery such as that of the two young men mentioned earlier. They are ordinary members of the public, untrained and untaught in the finer arts of a safe rescue bid, yet they jumped in without a moment's hesitation to help their fellow humans in deadly danger!

I could not help but wonder, in their shoes, would I not have hesitated just for those first few critical seconds? Would you? I could not find a sure answer for myself, Can you?

*Paul*

## SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

**PATRON:** Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller Ambassador of Switzerland

**PRESIDENT:** Marianne Drummond, Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford.

Phone 06 762 8757. Fax 06 762 8753.

Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz

**VICE PRESIDENT/TREASURER:** Walter Seifert, Denbigh Road, RD 24,

Stratford. Phone 06 762 8559.

Fax 06 762 8590.

Email: walterseifert@xtra.co.nz

**SECRETARY:** Silvia Schuler, Skinner Road, RD 23, Stratford.

Phone 06 765 8351. Fax 06 765 8380.

Email: frank.silvia@xtra.co.nz

**RIFLEMASTER:** Mark Kiser, 140 Pukengahu Rd, RD 23, Stratford

Ph 06 762 2922.

### DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

**DELEGATE:** Heinz Leuenberger, 33 Russell Terrace, Putaruru.

Phone/Fax (07) 883 8537, Email heileun@xtra.co.nz

**DEPUTY DELEGATES:** Beno Noetzli, Normanby Road, RD11, Hawera.

Phone 06 272 6727.

Roland Schutz, 35 East St, Petone, Wellington.

Phone 04 568 6772.

**EDITOR:** Paul Amstalden, 421 Wortley Rd, RD 9, Inglewood

Phone 06 756 7064.

### CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

#### Auckland

**Secretary:** Trudi Fill, 51 Clifton Rd, Herne Bay, PO Box 40152, Glenfield,

Auckland. Phone/Fax (09) 376 4923, Email weidfill@xtra.co.nz

#### Hamilton

**Secretary:** Anita Zuber, PO Box 11-026, Hamilton. Phone (07) 856 2414.

Email: zuber@xtra.co.nz

#### Taranaki

**Secretary:** Doreen Schuler, Postal Agency, Kaponga. Phone (06) 764 6533.

#### Wellington

**Secretary:** Therese Scherrer, 66 Heretaunga Square, Silverstream, Upper Hutt.

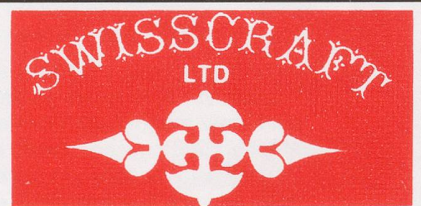
Phone 04 528 7698. Email: theresa@free.net.nz

**Embassy of Switzerland:** Panama House, 22 Panama St, Wellington.

Phone (04) 472 1593 or (04) 472 1594 • Fax (04) 499 6302.

**Honorary Consul:** Peter Deutsche, PO Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre.

Phone/Fax (09) 366 0403. Email deutsche@clear.net.nz



Incorporating Domestic & Commercial Work

Specialists in Fabric & Leather Upholstery

Also Deep Diamond Buttoning

All Furniture Re-Upholstery

**Swisscraft Ltd**

**Manager: Herbert Staheli**

**Showroom: 33-39 Colombo St**

**Frankton-Hamilton**

Call us

**Phone 07 8477 220**

**Fax 07 8473 039**