

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

**Rubrik:** Spruch des Monats

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# President's Report

## Hello everyone

I hope that you have all had a relatively good start to the winter. Keeping warm by the log fire is certainly a must!!! Here on Saturday (July 5) was bitterly cold...even had to close the curtains during the day to heat up the house!!! Then on the Sunday we ventured to the Swiss Club for the Anniversary Shoot...we decided to take the top road going through Cardiff and Mahoe just under the National Park...well...what an experience!!! The paddocks were covered with snow, and remained that way for several days!!! It was like a postcard from Switzerland...not something you normally see in Taranaki,

New Zealand!!!! It was beautiful scenery... but...well, not great if you had to work out in it!!! Although the forecast had been for snow relatively low down, we didn't expect this!!! It was wonderful to see many people enjoying the snow...making snowmen, throwing snow at each other or just looking at the beauty of their surroundings. It was certainly terrific to have a nice warm meal of sauerkraut and pork!!! But we had to watch out when we went home...the frost on the windscreens wasn't great!!! Thanks to Erna who put newspaper on our windscreen, ours wasn't too bad. We certainly took care driving home. In many areas of Taranaki snow hadn't been seen like this for over

thirty years!!! I'm sure that it reminded many Swiss people of home. This issue of the Helvetia covers two months - August/September - so I guess we will have quite a lot of news from the various clubs in the October issue of the magazine. I wish you all wonderful August 1 celebrations, and look forward to hearing from you soon - if you have smaller gatherings as you live too far from the main Swiss Clubs, please let us know how your functions went...we would love to publish details of them in the Helvetia.

Regards  
Marianne

## Spruch des Monats

### Der Raucher und die Nichtraucher

Im Dorfplatz drunten, am Freitagabend, versammeln sich die Jungen, beim grossen Dorfbrunnen! Sie haben sich alle vorgeschlagen, einen gemuetlichen Abend zu haben!!!

Auf dem Gehsteig, steht so ein junger Bengel, in seinem Mund, hat er einen brennenden Zigarettenstengel!! Umkreisst bei einer Gruppe Maedchen und Knaben, welche noch keinen solchen Stengel haben!!

Sie sind jedoch alle sehr beeindruckt, mit den tollen und unglaublich wirkungsvollen, Gebaerden und "Gestikulationen," des Besagten und schielen und ach!, auch schon mit der Absicht spielen, so schnell wie moeglich, wegzulaufen, um sich auch solche Gluehstengel zu kaufen!!!

Nicht wissend, dass der arme Bube, nicht eingeladen wird, in so manche gute Stube!! Das er sich den Zutritt, mit seiner Sucht, sich selbst verschliesst, weil man in den meisten guten Stuben, die **frische Luft geniesst!!!**

Darum die Moral von der Geschichte, Dein bester Weg ist totaler Verzicht!!!! Fange ja nicht etwas an, welches man spaeter, fast nicht mehr stoppen kann!!!

Written by Walter Seifert



Erna, Walter and Silvia. part of the Helvetia packing team, having a well earned break...and what are they doing? Smoking! Well, that doesn't go hand-in-hand with your poem, Walter!

## News from Switzerland

### The warmest month on record

With a hot day on 30 June came to an end a month that has rewritten the record books. The Meteo Swiss said that it had never been so hot on the north side of the Alps. On average the temperatures in North Switzerland were 7.0 to 7.5 degrees above the normal June temperatures. The average temperature in Zurich was 22.4 degrees. With a temperature of 36.5 degrees in Geneva on 25 June the absolute record temperature in Switzerland was achieved!!!

## NZ population facts

According to the best estimates of Statistics NZ, at about 5.30pm on 24 April 2003, our population reached 4 million. Our population reached 3 million in 1973, so it has taken nearly 30 years to gain 1 million more people! The population reached 2 million in 1951, and had reached 1 million in 1908.



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