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Editorial

Well now, even though I had an extra month to gather my thoughts together to write something interesting, they seemed to resemble a gigantic jigsaw puzzle lying in a heap of a thousand pieces, waiting to be put together to make sense. Have you ever tried to put together a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle without a picture or a clue of what the completed thing looks like? No? Well, I don't blame you! Neither have I! It's the sort of thing to drive one up the wall! As I said, that's what my thoughts resembled for quite a while!

Then two very pleasant things happened to me in quick succession. First, the birth of our third grandson on July 29 was a great joy to us. Then, on Father's Day I was entertained by my three daughters,

as none of my three sons were able to come home on the day because of distance and work commitments. Both Liz and Helen brought their partners, so I had a lovely portion of the clan gathered around me. After all the 'Hellos' and 'Gruezis' and 'Happy Father's Day, Dad', Liz with a huge grin all over her face, said "Guess what everybody? Marc and I are engaged!" Well that, of course, resulted in another round of hugs, handshakes and congratulations! They have no short term wedding plans yet - they just wanted to make a formal commitment to each other for now which I think is very lovely and romantic! I'm sure you all wish the very best future to our immediate past editor and her beau, nicht wahr (is that not so)? I hope all

you other Dads and Granddads had as lovely a Father's Day as I did!

Sadly, during the past few days we have been reminded of the dark side of human nature, also. Firstly, the very mysterious disappearance of six year old Coral Burrows from her school grounds in Featherston. At the time of writing she is still missing, despite an intensive search by about 100 police and volunteers, from dawn to dusk, for three days, aided almost continuously by a helicopter. It seems these brave people had to search in atrocious weather in the first 2½ days. By the time you read this, hopefully the police will have been able to clear up this mystery, one way or another.

Also, yesterday (Sept 11) was the second anniversary of the terrorist attack on America, a time of special grief for thousands of American families and hundreds in other countries who also lost loved ones in these attacks!

But let's cheer up! Spring is in the air and summer is coming to the Southern Hemisphere! The daffodils are still blooming, as are many more flowers, and thousands of calves and lambs are cavorting in the fields or hollering for their food and goat farmers are hoping for a good kidding, I kid you not!

So, let all families try and get together occasionally and enjoy each others' company and news!

*Adieu for this month
Paul*

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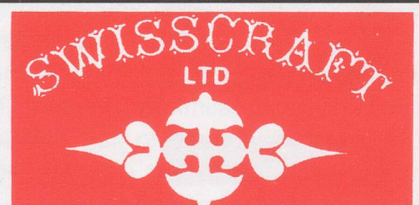
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