

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 70 (2004)
Heft: [3]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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Editorial

Ooops-a-daisy!!! We made a "blue" in last month's editorial!!!! Most of you would have wondered what I meant in the last paragraph; if you didn't, I have to assume you are not giving my scribbles much attention and this would greatly disappoint me!! You see, I'm trying hard to get your attention, and keep it focused on "our" magazine until you have read it from cover to cover! So, in the words of a famous ex All Black in one of his TV ads, "pay attention now"!!

Somehow during transcription I lost a whole line at the end of last month's editorial - the second-to-last sentence should have read, quote, "I'm also aware of several members of the large group of "new" settlers in "our" group, who never did manage a visit back to their old homeland etc --" unquote. So, if you re-read the last two sentences of last month's editorial with the above correction, it will make sense now!!!

On a new note, only two months ago I wrote of the devastating power of mother nature when she is in a bad mood! Lo and behold, within a few weeks she hits home right on our front doorstep, so to speak. Even for those of us not directly harmed by those devastating floods in Central NZ, it was heart-wrenching to watch on our TVs the utterly forlorn expressions of the owners of the flooded and devastated homes. But after a couple of days of apprehensive waiting, all of NZ heaved a huge sigh of relief! Among all the destruction, there was one bit of marvellous good news - as far as was known at that point, there was no loss of human life, a fact confirmed during the following few days! But the material and financial damage to homeowners and farmers, who had thousands of hectares of pastures and crops wiped out, is astronomical to put it mildly!!!

But, as so often happens, out of the midst of a disaster, an unexpected hero or heroine will emerge! And so it was in the middle of our disaster. A four-legged, bovine heroine, simply known by her owners as cow no. 569 emerged as the saviour of the one human life that appeared to be almost certain to have been lost, according to the rescued victim's own words. Suddenly slipping into deep floodwaters in almost total darkness, while herding the cows home to the dairy shed for their early morning milking, "Mrs Farmer" made a desperate grab for the nearest cow's neck with one arm and just hung on for dear life! Our intrepid heroine, 569, punching water with all her bovine strength and dragging the boss's wife with her, just kept on going until she found solid ground above water level! It was almost certainly only then, standing beside each other, both shivering with exhaustion and cold, human and beast, that "Mrs Farmer" was able to make out the cow's eartag number in the gloom. She later described her rescuer as "a cantankerous old biddy" with a strong mind of her own! Well, I think we would all understand that, come springtime and near calving time, "you know who" will make sure 569 is in a paddock near the farmhouse so she can spoil our heroine rotten with lovely bovine tit-bits like cabbage leaves and carrots, parsnips and apple peelings and, of course, the occasional whole apple amongst it all would not go amiss!!!

Does this story of a "Bovine Heroine" not warm the cockles of everyone's heart? After this story of two intrepid females, I ask you, what male will ever again dare to even hint that the female gender is weaker!!!

Live on, 569, - live on to a ripe old age!!!

Cheerio, Paul

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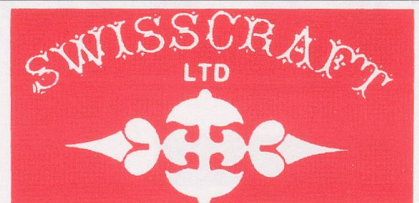
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