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President's Report

Greetings to you all,

Well, another wet ... let's say very wet month has passed. We were astounded to have 670mm in our rain gauge and thought ... wow ... but then talking to Walter he had 1108mm ... I think he and Myrtha must have taken the row boat to get the cows in!!! Amazing the deluges we had ... however we are fortunate around Mt Egmont to have very porous soils and the rain goes down. Further south in Taranaki, the Waitotara region, they had very serious flooding problems ... and I am sure that we all saw on television the devastation caused there .

My thoughts go out to the people there who will have many, many months of cleaning up to do. And what about the havoc caused through the Manawatu Gorge ... the tonnes and tonnes of dirt and rocks that gave way ... and the road is unlikely to be open for several months. Let's hope that they are able to clear the road without further slips coming down ... what a dreadful job clearing the slips will be ... and what about the poor power faultsmen who had to work in the dreadful weather conditions to get power restored in numerous areas? Although some places were without power for a considerable time (and I am sure it felt even longer than it really was), the faultsmen I'm sure

did all they could. Let's hope that we don't have a repeat of this chaos for some time!!!

At least so far in March the sun has appeared more often than last month ... so we do have something to be thankful for!!!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and see you next month.

Regards
Marianne

A man never discloses his own character so clearly as when he describes another's.

Spruch des Monats

The Water Bearer

A water bearer in China had two large pots, each hung on the end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Moral : Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots - but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them

Contributed by Walter Seifert

Itinerary of visit by Mr Georg Stucky, President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

Saturday 1st May - Auckland
Sunday 2nd May - Hamilton
Monday 3rd May - Kaponga
Tuesday 4th May - Wellington
Thursday 6th May - Christchurch

Should you be interested in hearing what Mr Stucky has to say, please contact the relevant Swiss Club who will advise you of what is happening in their region.

*It's sad to grow old,
but nice to ripen.*

*The best exercise for the heart
is to lean over backwards for
somebody else.*