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Editorial

Well!!! It's already nine days since the AGM in Auckland and I've only just recovered from that marvellous weekend!!! I'm sure President Marianne will have thanked Auckland Presi. Fritz and his team already for the fantastic weekend 'shindig' the Auckland Swiss Club put on for us all, but I would also again like to thank Fritz and his Auckland clubmates for their fantastic hospitality to all of us visitors. The Aucklanders didn't even miss a beat on Monday morning when our boisterous 35 strong group exited the "Taranaki Express" and dropped in for the scrumptious breakfast they had cooked up for us!!!

But did I detect a slightly worried crease on Fritz's brow early that morning? Was he wondering, will I get that bell off a very dejected Walter reluctant to part with his favourite clubhouse wall decoration? Well, Fritz, some of us were a little concerned. Walter had hidden that mighty trophy well,

within the cavernous interior of the Taranaki Bus!!! But we need not have worried Fritz! Walter is a gentleman through and through!!! He was only keeping it safe for you and your team!!! Hail to the mighty Aucklanders, in spite of our best efforts, they beat us fair and square on the day!

Did I not write only last month on the value of good friends and friendship? I could not help but wonder at the amazing coincidence that a month ago I was thinking and writing on this very subject! These thoughts have been strongly reinforced by my wonderful trip to Auckland with my Taranaki friends, many of whom have known me for up to 65 years!!! It was not only the jovial optimistic trip north under our very capable 'pilot', Captain Alan, which made it so memorable for me, but Auckland's warm welcome into an immediately convivial and warm atmosphere of friendship and 'gemuetlichkeit'!!! This

wonderful atmosphere continued throughout the weekend and indeed, left Auckland with us on the Monday morning to cheer us up, no doubt, because yes, on the homeward run, the 'optimistic' part of our trip north was considerably deflated!!!

But let me assure Fritz and his team, by the time we got to Hamilton, we had cheered up Walter back to his old smiling self!!! We promised him we would try a bit harder next year!!! That did the trick!!!

Now I would like to express my special delight to be able to meet and greet a member / delegate of the Christchurch Swiss Club. I hope Christian (I think I've got the right name?) enjoyed Auckland's hospitality as much as I did and perhaps he can persuade a few more members from 'the Mainland' to join him at next year's AGM in Hamilton!

Also I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller, our Swiss Ambassador in Wellington and Patron of our Society, for making a special effort to be at our AGM. Most of us know that an Ambassador's appointment diary can be pretty full for weeks ahead sometimes. But I think we are all also acutely aware of the importance of a good liaison between the Embassy and our Society. This is so very important, so we can let our compatriots know of changes in Swiss Federal laws as they may affect us who also have to live by the laws of our adopted country.

*Cheerio for this month,
Paul.*

**One barrel of wine can
work more miracles than
a church full of saints.**
- Italian proverb.

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, 536 Ahipaipa Road, RD11, Hawera.

Phone 06 272 6707. Fax 06 272 6706.

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: Paul Amstalden, Wortley Rd, RD 9, Inglewood. Phone 06 756 7064.

Wellington

Secretary: Theres Scherrer, 66 Heretaunga Square, Silverstream, Upper Hutt.

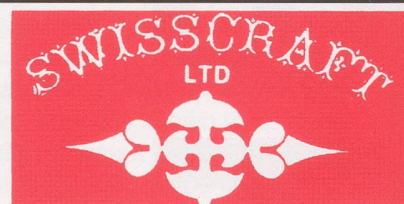
Phone 04 528 7698. Email: theresas@free.net.nz

Embassy of Switzerland: Panama House, 22 Panama St, PO Box 25004, 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



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