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President's Report

Hello everyone,

We have just had a wonderful weekend in Auckland, and are recuperating!!! On behalf of all the Society members present, I would like to thank the Auckland Swiss Club very much for hosting us. Your hospitality was terrific, the entertainment superb, the food delicious ... what else can we say but "THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!!" Much hard work and effort goes into organising

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Friendship! (What is real friendship?)

Friendship is an under-estimated quality, in a close relationship! If you are entwined and lucky enough to be best friends, this can be a source of tremendous warmth and support to you!

It only takes about a minute to befriend someone, but it can take a few hours to become friends!

Maybe it will take you a whole day to form a real friendship!
(to really like, or even love, your new friend!).

But once you have recognised your best friend, it should take you a whole lifetime, never to forget, who your best friend is! Your friendship should never end! It should be like the extra pounds or inches, you're carrying around your hips, from living the good life!!! It'll be there forever! It will never sway, it's well and truly here to stay!

So it's good to know and realise, you never get a best friend twice! Then in this busy world of ours, where true and special friends are few, it really is a joy, to have a friend, as jolly and nice as you!!! And it's with great pleasure, to have the chance, to share this special friendship, just, with the one and only you!!!

Written by Walter Seifert

these weekends, and it is so rewarding for committees to see people enjoying the hospitality. To me the nicest thing about the Swiss Society is getting together every year and rekindling old friendships and making a whole heap of new friends. It is always wonderful to see people from the different clubs mingling and enjoying each other's company. What a pleasure it was for everyone to have a member from the Christchurch Swiss Club among us ... thank you very much for coming Christian Weber and making yourself known to so many people. Let's hope that you have started a trend ... and we may see a few more Christchurch members in Hamilton next year. It was also a great pleasure to meet our Ambassador, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller, and her husband, together with our honorary Consul Peter Deutsche ... and I hope that you, too, enjoyed meeting so many people from the various Swiss Clubs.

The AGM was held on Sunday afternoon and proceeded rather smoothly. Most items of business proceeded quickly, and our Editor Paul Amstalden, at his first AGM in the capacity of editor, gave an excellent speech. Next, our patron and Ambassador of Switzerland, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller, gave a very informative speech on issues regarding Switzerland (for those who weren't at the AGM the address is published further on in this issue), followed by Heinz Leuenberger reporting as our delegate for Swiss Abroad. This speech, too, was interesting and raised several issues, particularly regarding the

AHV versus the NZ Superannuation!!! A regular debate it seems!!! It was decided that the subscription would remain the same as for the past few years - \$25.00 ... so come on everyone and promote membership to your fellow compatriots ... a good little magazine to read, and great friendships can develop!!! Delegates from all the clubs spoke as to what was happening in their clubs ... it is always very interesting to hear what events are taking place!!! Thank you to everyone who took part in the discussions at the AGM, and we look forward (yes, already!!!) to seeing you in Hamilton at Queen's Birthday Weekend 2005!!!

Oh ... how could I forget??? The cowbell!!! Well, after all these years it has found a new home!!! My hearty congratulations to the members of the Auckland Swiss Club team for beating Taranaki in the final of the Cowbell Competition ... the first time that "Auckland" will be engraved on the plaque!!! Well done Fritz in your first year as president ... what a coup!!! The Auckland Swiss Club committee will never let you resign your presidency now!!! I just think what a great idea it was to create this competition, as this is really what brings the Swiss Clubs together ... so, long may it continue!!!

Once again, many, many thanks to the members of the Auckland Swiss Club for hosting the AGM. It was terrific.

**Regards to you all
Marianne**

Congratulations Anna

Recently, Anna Blattler graduated from Waikato University with a Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Materials and Processing Engineering.

Anna was born and bred in Hergiswil (NW). After leaving school in 1975 she started training as a Laboratory Technician (Chemical) with Ciba Geigy in Basel for one year. This was followed by a three year course in Agricultural Chemistry. She married in 1979 and completed her final exams while breast-feeding her first son. In 1985 the couple, together with their two sons, came to NZ, having largely been influenced in their choice of foreign country by Anna's Uncle Robert, who at the time was farming near Te Aroha. Initially they intended to start up a beekeeping business. However, things didn't quite work out as expected. In order to make ends meet, Anna took on a job with IRD before becoming an analyst of Vitamins and Minerals in Milk Powder with the NZ Dairy Co. Subsequently, the NZ Dairy Board sponsored her to a Masters Degree in Science and Technology with the specific

purpose of finding the source of aluminium in milk powder. During these studies she advanced to Laboratory Manager. In 1991 she graduated with a Master of Science and Technology Degree. At this point, the couple bought the Te Aroha Holiday Park. Once again, things didn't work out as planned - they separated, with Anna now running the business on her own. In 1996, Government funding made it possible for Anna to begin studying for a Ph.D by investigating pumice and iron sand for the application of waste water technology. With Waikato University and ETH Zurich working in tandem, Anna is very proud to have had her thesis checked out by an ETH professor who happens to be a world authority in this particular field. During her forthcoming trip to Switzerland, she hopes to, at last, meet up with her mentor.

Contributed by Heinz Leuenberger.