

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 70 (2004)
Heft: [7]

Vorwort: Editorial
Autor: Amstalden, Paul

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 18.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Editorial

I suppose it is only natural that this time of year our thoughts tend to wander back to the 'old country' more than any other time. With the rapid approach of Switzerland's National Day, our Swiss Clubs are all busily preparing functions to celebrate Switzerland's birthday on the first day of August 1291AD. Although this is the official National Day, all we know for sure is that some time in the late summer of that year a small group of 'people leaders' from the three 'forest districts of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden', as they were known in those days, came together at a top-secret meeting in the 'field of Ruetli' to discuss ways and means of ridding their people of the oppressive rule by the Habsburg-Austrian Empire.

By the end of that meeting, the fate of those regional governors, who ruled so cruelly on

behalf of the empire, was sealed by 'the Oath of Ruetli', made by all the patriots for and, to each other, all those centuries ago! And the rest, as the saying goes, is Swiss history!

So, as I said, our thoughts at this time are very much on 'Swiss' things and Switzerland itself. And for those of us who were born there, most still have some close relations living there, so our thoughts are visualising them enjoying beautiful summer weather, tramping the forest or climbing the mountains or, at my age, just taking a leisurely steamer trip around one of the many beautiful lakes!

But it is not only us Swiss-born Kiwis who are interested in Swiss culture and history. I am delighted to note in recent years, many first and second generation NZ-born Swiss-Kiwis taking a keen interest

in all things 'Swiss' and taking a lively part in their local Swiss Club activities!

This can only bode well for the future of our Swiss Clubs and hence our Society as well! I can only say to all our members, give all possible encouragement to your children and grandchildren to be proud of the Swiss part of their heritage. Encourage them to take part in their nearest Swiss Club's activities as much as is possible for them and tell them a bit about Swiss history and above all, about your families' ancestry, which town they are from, which Canton, etc. It is an inescapable fact that some of us 'oldies' will not be around many more years, so we had better tell our children these things soon!!!

So, let us all be proud of our Swiss heritage by doing our best to keep our Swiss Clubs going, to keep our Swiss Society of NZ going, to always try to give a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, which is a well-known trait of the Swiss people, to which all should always try their best to live up to! This too, is part of our heritage, developed by our ancestors over many centuries because mountainous Switzerland did not make it easy for her country people to produce a bit more food than the families' needs, as the farmers, even centuries ago, had to trade food with townspeople to buy things the farmers could not make themselves!!!

So, on the eve of Switzerland's National Day, let us reflect on her turbulent first 500 years of existence and wish her peace for the next 500 years!!!

A very happy 713th Birthday to you, Switzerland!!!

Cheerio, Paul

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.

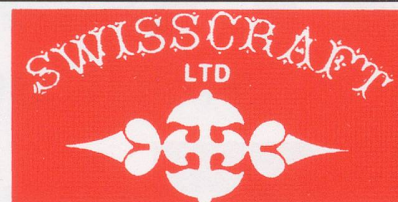
Phone 04 528 7698. Email: theresas@free.net.nz

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



Incorporating Domestic & Commercial Work

Specialists in Fabric & Leather Upholstery

Also Deep Diamond Buttoning
All Furniture Re-Upholstery

Swisscraft Ltd

Manager: **Herbert Staheli**

Showroom: 33-39 Colombo St

Frankton-Hamilton

Call us

Phone 07 8477 220

Fax 07 8473 039