

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 71 (2005)
Heft: [4]

Rubrik: Spruch des Monats

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President's Report

I note that although we in Taranaki have held our Annual General Meeting, all the other clubs will either just have had their Annual General Meetings or are about to have them.

Sadly, our volunteer base in most clubs and organisations throughout New Zealand and, I guess the world, is decreasing, and I am hoping that the Swiss Clubs here can buck this trend.

Even if members aren't able to stand for committee for various reasons, perhaps they could help in some small (or big) way ... there are various ways in which one can assist in club events and functions ... and as the saying goes "many hands make light work". Setting up venues,

cleaning up venues, washing dishes, selling raffle tickets, organising children's activities ... really the list is endless!!!

So, if you are able to help in some way (you may think that little job is trivial, but all little jobs done by someone is something less someone else has to do!!!) please contact a committee member ... I am sure that they will be glad to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual General Meeting in Hamilton, or at one of the various activities that the Hamilton Swiss Club has organised, at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Regards
Marianne

Letters



Dear members of the Swiss Society, Honour, to whom honour is due! The notice in the September issue of *Helvetica* touched me: Toni Sidler, the great fighter and maker, is no more among us.

Toni Sidler was an idealist and he lived according to the motto: "Dienen vor verdienen" (serve before you make money) - and this specially for the nature, "his" mountains, but also for the Swiss colony in Auckland. There would not be a swiss Farm "Kaukapakapa" without him! Wisely enough he secured this property back in the 60s for many generations after him. Also his hospitality, the interesting conversations and the spontaneous cooperativeness for newly immigrated Swiss are unforgettable.

Nature lover and mountaineer: as a landscape gardener protecting nature, Toni Sidler created great stone walls with rocks from the quarry - real pieces of art indoor and outdoor! His way of building was often copied, but almost never reached.

He was not someone who always agreed with everything. Toni was a straight-line, idealistic, often inconvenient Swiss - but these characteristics influenced many of us in a positive way. No theoriser, but a practical person: what he made, endured!

Toni influenced an era of the Swiss Club Auckland very strongly. He really deserves a huge thank you from us all. A commemorative plaque at Kaukapakapa would be desirable and recommendable - as a motivation, I would pay the cost of it!

My family and I have been influenced positively for our whole lives by our terrific years spent in New Zealand. The happy and unforgettable hours among the active Auckland Swiss Club and with Toni Sidler a part of this experience! Kia ora and happy greetings from the 'old' homeland!

Bruno Böckli,

Owner Ozeania,
Fislisbach, Switzerland

News from the Embassy

Une nouvelle association vient de se créer sur Auckland:

'Auckland - Accueil'

Animée par des bénévoles, cette association a but non lucratif offre aux francophones arrivants ou vivants sur Auckland, la possibilité d'avoir accès à de nombreuses informations (formalités administratives, santé, éducation, loisirs, culture, shopping...) ainsi que l'opportunité de pouvoir se rencontrer lors de diverses activités.

Libre de toute influence politique, confessionnelle ou commerciale, 'Auckland Accueil' s'adresse à tous les francophiles de toutes les nationalités.

Pour contact: aucklandaccueiltra.co.nz
Tel: 021 543 150

Auckland Accueil -
PO Box 74365 (Market Road) Epsom

Spruch des Monats

Every Woman is Beautiful

A little boy asked his mother "Why are you crying?" "Because I'm a woman", she told him.

"I don't understand", he said.

His mum just hugged him and said, "And you never will". Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason", was all his dad could say. The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God; and when God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?" God said :

When I made the woman she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world; yet gentle enough to give comfort".

"I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children".

"I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining".

"I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child had hurt her very badly".

"I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart".

"I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly".

"And finally, I have her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see : The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair."

"The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."

Every Woman is Beautiful.

Contributed by Walter Seifert