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# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated,

**Held at the Clubhouse of the Auckland Swiss Club, Kaukapakapa on 6 June 2004**

**Meeting opened : 2.00pm**

Welcome: The Society President, Marianne Drummond, welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Swiss Society of NZ, with a special welcome to the Ambassador of Switzerland, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller. Congratulations to the Auckland Swiss Club for winning the final of the Cowbell competition against Taranaki. Grateful thanks to the Auckland Swiss Club for hosting this weekend, organising the final of the Cowbell competition and offering wonderful hospitality. It's terrific to see people from all the Swiss Clubs enjoying each others company, and I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

Thanks to Christian Weber from the Christchurch Swiss Club for attending this AGM. Would all Society members please sign the attendance register that is circulating, and feel free to take part in any discussion during the AGM. When speaking to the AGM, would you please tell us your name and which club you belong to? Thankyou.

**Present :** Marianne Drummond (President), Walter Seifert (Vice President), Silvia Schuler (Secretary) and 81 Society members from the Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki, Wellington and Christchurch Swiss Clubs.

**Apologies :** O & S Suri, B Leuenberger, A & R Biland, K & R Waldvogel, H & V Vetsch, C Amstalden, O & M Hebler, D Luond, B & L Noetzi, F Schuler, R & E Zimmermann.

Moved by : Markus Buehler  
Seconded by : Ernst Gfeller

**Minutes :** The minutes of the previous AGM held on 1 June 2003 have been published in the May issue of the

Helvetia. Presumably these have been read. May I please have a mover and seconder that these minutes are a true and correct record.

Moved : Heinz Leuenberger  
Seconded : Anita Zuber

**Obituaries :** Sadly, several Society members and friends from throughout the country have passed away in the past twelve months. These were :

Wellington Swiss Club – Bernard Napp; Hamilton Swiss Club – Elise Oettli, Martha Wenk, Hans Graf, Otto Fitzli, Albert Schweizer; Taranaki Swiss Club – Marjorie Butler, Anna-Kathi Danz, Hans-Ruedi Speck; Christchurch Swiss Club – Kurt Suter, and friend Peter Gutmann. The past director of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad Mr Marcel Ney also recently passed away. Would everyone please stand for a moment's silence in remembrance of these past members and friends?

**President's Report :** Once again this has been a busy year for your editing team, with most of our time being spent on the Helvetia. We are slowly getting to grips with the work load, and sincerely hope that you continue to enjoy reading our magazine. We are always open to any suggestions that you may have regarding the Helvetia, and would appreciate any contributions of material or items to print. We ran several competitions throughout the year, and I would like to thank all participants very much ... especially the children who put so much time and effort into their pictures. They were wonderful! I would like to thank the following : all members of the executive for their fine work, our dedicated group of packers, to everyone submitting these contributions – Paul for this editorials, Walter for his "Spruch des Monats", Silvia for the children's corner, Lisette for the "This 'n' That Corner", the people submitting articles about happenings

in their clubs, the Christchurch Swiss Club for their newsletters (articles from which get published in the Helvetia), our wonderful team members at the printers, the Stratford Press who we couldn't do without, and lastly Adrian and now Daniel for allowing me the time to spend on Swiss Society matters. Membership now stands at 549, including 18 honorary members, a slight increase from last year. Many thanks to all the members who promote membership to the Swiss Society ... it is certainly the best way to obtain new members, and congratulations to Auckland who are attracting the most new members. I would now like to move my report for adoption.

Moved : Marianne Drummond  
Seconded : Herbert Staehli

**Editor's Report :** It gives me great pleasure and honour to present to you my first annual report as your new Editor of our cherished little magazine. It has been a bit of swim or sink shock for this complete greenhorn, as by month two last year, I thought, "what the hell have I let myself into?" But, with a bit of serious thinking and observation, I even surprised myself what pops into ones head! But I freely admit, at the start, I rummaged back over the last six years Helvetia to read Rinaldo's editorials far more carefully than I did the first time! I'm sure he'll forgive me for that, but I found them very inspirational! In my editorials, I have endeavoured to write about something of human interest, or sometimes, something that affects us Swiss-Abroad specifically. I have always tried to write interesting and forcefully in the hope of really catching my readers' attention! If I have succeeded in this, to the point where you are thinking, "I wonder what the old blighter comes up with next month?", then I would feel I have accomplished with my editorials what I set out to do! Now I want to say a huge thank you to the other three members of our editing team, President Marianne, Vice-President Walter, and Secretary Silvia, who, between them, virtually put every issue of the Helvetia together, word wise, with tremendous support from Marianne's Dad and Mum, Ruedi and Lisette Benkert. I'm sure Lisette must spend many hours each month digging up all those recipes and info, from our different cantons! My problem is, I've never learned a thing about computers, so my input is very limited!!! Also a big thank you to all our volunteers who turn up so willingly every time to help get "Helvetia" ready to post. Thanks to all Club Committees for your regular

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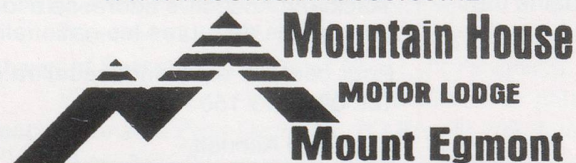
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reports, keep them coming! Also thanks to individual Society members who send us interesting tidbits, we try to print as much as possible! Finally, many thanks to our advertisers for their loyal support. My fellow Eidgenosse, I thank you all very much, and I wish to move my annual report for adoption.  
 Moved : Paul Amstalden  
 Seconded : Rinaldo Rust

Address by the Society Patron - Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller addressed the gathering giving information on foreign affairs affecting Switzerland, European integration, and other matters of interest affecting Switzerland or Swiss Abroad (the full report was printed in the July '04 issue of the Helvetia).

**Financial Report :** Copies of the financial report were circulated and Walter reported that we had had a slight deficit of income over expenditure by \$869.35. This was mainly due to us not submitting any applications for donations this year, and receiving all funds from the debtors in last years' financial report (IRD for the previous two years and also advertisers), an extra lot of postage and vouchers paid in advance, in our expenditure. Good income was once again obtained through advertising and we encourage all Swiss Society members to support our advertisers whenever possible. Accumulated funds now stand at a healthy \$37,688.34.  
 Moved : Walter Seifert  
 Seconded : Ernst Gfeller

**Delegate for the Swiss Abroad's Report :** Heinz Leuenberger reported that he has continued working on the issue of introducing English as the third language at the Swiss Abroad meetings. A lengthy discussion was held regarding NZ Super versus AHV, which Heinz was continuing to work on. Hans Fitzi said there was no point talking to Work and Income as they could suspend your superannuation. He felt that an agreement between New Zealand and Switzerland was a long way off. Heinz moved his report for adoption.  
 Moved : Heinz Leuenberger

Seconded : Henry Werffeli

**Rifle master's Report :** As Mark had not received all the necessary documentation from Hamilton, he could not provide a report.  
 Moved : Marianne Drummond  
 Seconded : Heidi Leuenberger

**Setting of Subscriptions for 2004/2005 :** It was recommended that subscriptions remain the same for the next year.

Moved : Marianne Drummond  
 Seconded : Herbert Staehli

#### **Election of Officers :**

**President:** Marianne Drummond  
 Moved : Walter Seifert,  
 Seconded : Hans Iten

**Vice President:** Walter Seifert  
 Moved : Marianne Drummond,  
 Seconded : Heinz Leuenberger

**Treasurer :** Walter Seifert  
 Moved : Marianne Drummond,  
 Seconded : Margrit Dudli

**Secretary :** Silvia Schuler  
 Moved : Walter Seifert,  
 Seconded : Joe Buehler

**Editor :** Paul Amstalden  
 Moved : Marianne Drummond,  
 Seconded : Hans Iten

**Auditor :** This was left for the executive to organise.

**Rifle master :** Mark Kiser

Moved : Marianne Drummond,  
 Seconded : Walter Seifert

**Committee Members:** will be appointed by the above executive as required.

#### **General Business :**

##### **Club reports :**

**Wellington :** Roland Schuetz reports that their club is going strongly, 96 people at their Fondue evening and it was nice to share this function with people from other ethnic origins. He congratulated Auckland for winning the cowbell.

**Taranaki:** Walter Seifert congratulated Auckland on winning the cowbell. Good club year with a slight increase in membership. Doreen Schuler, our longstanding secretary resigned from her role. We are very grateful to all the parents who encourage their children to become involved in our clubs' activities.

**Hamilton :** Vitus Ackermann reported that the year went well. Good attendance of about 45-50 people at card evenings. Our walking tours are also popular. Thanks to the Auckland Swiss Club for their hospitality and to the Taranaki team for organising the Helvetia

**Auckland :** New Auckland President, Fritz Scheidegger thanked everyone for their attendance. Their club

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membership has increased by fifteen new members.

Christchurch : Christian Weber was the only South Islander attending the AGM and reported that they send their newsletter to 146 Swiss people in the South Island. He has found the friendship amongst the Swiss at the AGM great and thanked the Aucklanders for their hospitality.

Honorariums :Feedback from club discussions regarding the issue of Honorariums resulted in the following : Auckland and Taranaki in agreement to pay travel expenses. Hamilton wanted status quo, and Wellington hadn't discussed the matter. Due to different opinions, it was decided to leave the issue of honorariums as is.

Name Tags : Vitus Ackermann suggested we all have name tags. It was decided that every club hosting the AGM organise this.

ASO visit : Heinz Leuenberger advised everyone that Mr Georg Stucky, president of the Organisation for Swiss Abroad, had visited various clubs in May.

Swiss Cross : Rinaldo advised us that the Swiss Cross for advertisements was being abused. He will inform companies as required.

Records : Silvia would like AGM minutes from as far back as possible so that we have a good record of the societys' affairs. Would any secretaries or other people who have some records, please get them to Silvia so that she can put them in files and hand them on to the next secretary.

Common Seal:Has anyone seen the Common Seal of the Swiss Society? It has apparently been many years since this has been seen and is a valuable item. No-one could shed any light on the subject.

Helvetia : Would all contributions

to the Helvetia please be in to Silvia or Marianne by the 15th of the month to make our job easier.

Venue for the next meeting : Herbert Staehli thanked the Auckland Swiss Club for hosting the AGM and invited everyone to Hamilton for next years' AGM to be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Meeting Closure : On behalf of the Swiss Society, Marianne accepted Herbert's invitation on behalf of the Hamilton Swiss Club, to host the next AGM.

Grateful thanks to the Auckland Swiss Club for organising such a wonderful weekend for everyone, and hope that you all enjoy the dinner and entertainment tonight. Marianne thanked everyone for attending and participating in the AGM and wishes all a great evening and a safe trip home.

The 2004 Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 3.30pm.

## Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

The Swiss Society invites all members and friends to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on June 5, 2005 at 2.00pm at Matangi hall in Hamilton.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Scrutineers
4. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising
5. Obituaries
6. President's Report and matters arising
7. Editor's Report and matters arising

8. Address by the Patron of the Society
9. Financial Report and matters arising
10. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and matters arising
11. Riflemaster's Report and matters arising
12. Setting of Subscriptions 2005/2006
13. Election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Riflemaster, Delegates to the Swiss Abroad)
14. Election of committee
15. General Business including club reports
16. Set date and venue for Society AGM 2006

17. Meeting closure

**At the last Annual General Meeting it was requested that any past secretaries (or other past executive members, or anyone at all for that matter) with any AGM minutes or other relevant information regarding the Swiss Society of New Zealand pass the information on to Silvia Schuler (our current secretary) so that all the documents can be filed and kept as a Society record (which will be passed on to each secretary when in office). It is very important that we keep all our records as they are the history of our club. Would anyone with any minutes or other documentation please bring them to the AGM for Silvia to file. Our grateful thanks for your co-operation.**

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