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Editorial

"It came to pass." This famous and oft-quoted phrase appears in the Bible as well as many famous Novels. It popped into my thoughts as I was sitting at my desk trying to formulate a start to my valedictory Editorial. How very appropriate, I thought, of these four little words to begin this Editorial!

Of course, I shall write another small Editorial for our July issue because, as most of our members are aware of, every five years, the out-going editorial committee does the July issue as well, on behalf of the new in-coming committee, a wise and practical thing introduced many years ago, as it would be nigh impossible for the new 'team' to do this, given our Annual General Meeting is on Queen's Birthday Weekend. This way the two teams also have adequate time for an interchange of management of our Society!

So here I am sitting, almost on the eve of my retirement as editor after four years since taking it on from my daughter, Liz, with ever

so many thoughts and questions criss-crossing my mind, feeling quite certain that most of our readers would like to ask me those same questions; i.e. was it easy?, did you enjoy it?. Where do you get all your ideas from? The answer is both yes and no!!! Yes, I always enjoyed reading my completed editorial every time, because the job was done for another month!!! No, it wasn't easy, sometimes it was b...y hard work to put something sensible together!!! But the end result gave me a sense of deep satisfaction, most times!!! And from all the comments I've received over the years, all my readers have also been satisfied with my efforts!!! But what gave me one of my cosiest feelings was the satisfaction of knowing that over the last four years I have been able to give a little bit back to our Society for a whole life-time of benefit from the hard work of scores of previous volunteer Society workers!!!

I recall only too well the financial crises the Society was in from the late 1950s to the end of the 70s, mainly due to the ever-

increasing costs of printing and distributing 'Helvetia'. On more than one occasion, 'Helvetia' was in serious danger of 'disappearing down the gurgler forever'. In fact, if memory serves me correctly, for quite a few years during the 70s, 'Helvetia' was reduced to a quarterly, appearing only four times per year! It was one of several desperate measures undertaken to save 'Helvetia' from extinction during those crises years.

Thankfully, since about 1980, the Society's financial situation has steadily improved until today it is in a very good position to weather a small crisis which we all hope will never again eventuate!!! We owe a huge 'thank you' to those two great 'Society Warriors' Messrs Walter Risi (senior) and Arnold Biland, who battled through most of those crisis years to keep 'Helvetia' afloat!

Now, by the time you get to read this we will be on the eve of our Annual General Meeting in Wellington, and I hope to see a huge number of you there to help Wellington celebrate their Golden Jubilee as well!!! I am reluctant to say 'au revoir' which, I think in my very limited understanding of French, means 'Goodbye'. I would much rather say, 'auf Wiedersehen, see you again!!!!'

Cheerio everyone, from Paul



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