

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 74 (2008)
Heft: [8]

Nachruf: Obituary : Wendel Franz Appert : 1931-2008
Autor: [s.n.]

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Wendel Franz Appert

1931 - 2008

Wendel grew up on the family farm in Ibach, Schwyz, together with two brothers and six sisters. After attaining an Agricultural Diploma he joined a fellow student in 1956 for the long trip to New Zealand. He worked in Hikutaia for a short time before taking up farm positions in Taranaki. Five years later he returned to Switzerland where he met and married Kathy in 1963. Back in New Zealand they took up sharemilking positions and bought their own farm in 1976 at Okato. Together they had three sons and three daughters, Daniel, Luzia, Catherine, Peter, Bernadette and Martin.

From an early age he suffered from arthritis in his hips which required many operations. But this did not stop him from working hard on the farm and in later years supporting and helping out his sons who all took on farming careers.

His hobbies included growing grapes. He spent many hours tending to them with great pride and joy. Beekeeping was also a great passion; there was always plenty of honey. A favourite pastime was the game of Jass with friends and family. Wendel greatly valued time spent with his family, including thirteen grandchildren.

After twenty-five years he finally travelled back to Switzerland; mainly to catch up with family. And in later retirement years more time was spent travelling, with a few trips around New Zealand and Australia which he immensely enjoyed. Wendel enjoyed the camaraderie of Swiss Club functions.

Sadly Wendel did not recover from his courageous battle with cancer.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Kathy and family.

Heinz Leuenberger, Delegate to the Swiss Abroad Conference, sent us the following reminder:

Win-Win

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad is seeking accommodation for young Swiss from abroad. Most young Swiss abroad only know Switzerland from pictures and from their parents' stories. Many would like to learn more about the country's economic, cultural and social life. The OSA organises a variety of courses and seminars. Sometimes they encounter a problem, however: The OSA cannot find enough willing hosts offering board and lodging for a few weeks to a young Swiss from abroad. The OSA is a non-profit organisation and is unable to offer the host families any kind of recompense. Yet having a young Swiss from abroad living with a Swiss family can be enriching for both sides and is a step towards deeper understanding. The host families gain insight into the way of life of the Swiss abroad and a foreign culture, and the young Swiss gains first hand experience of today's Switzerland.

If you have family and friends in Switzerland interested in hosting a young Swiss from abroad, please tell them to contact the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern.

AHV business

On 24 July 2008, the NZ Herald reported that officials had recommended New Zealand should adopt the standard international policy of proportionality, i.e. paying one 40th of the New Zealand Super for every year that a person lived in New Zealand between the age of 20 and 65. A Cabinet paper released last month says this was rejected because people with an overseas pension entitlement would be advantaged in comparison with people who have lived in New Zealand all their life.

The fact that the 50'000 pensioners with an overseas pension entitlement have all and sundry arrived in New Zealand fully educated and trained in a trade or a profession and were therefore never a burden to the state of New Zealand counts for zilch. Yours, Heinz Leuenberger

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