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Report from Othmar Hebler, Delegate for Swiss Abroad

The ASO (Swiss Abroad Organisation) is an organisation with a communication link to the Swiss Government from all over the World. There are about 750 Swiss Clubs networking together through 140 Delegates. Every year there is an AGM held in Switzerland. I represented New Zealand in Lucerne and this year our other representative Emanuel Züst from Wellington will represent us in St Gallen in August. Do not worry: We pay our own airfares and hotels and the ASO pays for the registration for the two day meeting.

The ASO represents (statistic December 09) almost 700'000 Swiss who live outside of Switzerland: North and South America 172'770, Europe 423'340, Asia 39'730, Africa 16'630, Oceania 29'500.

Our job is to sift through all the mail we receive from the ASO secretary and select the topics that are relevant to our area.

E Voting:

You can vote via the Internet, however before you can do that you have to register at our Embassy in Wellington.

Swiss Review:

The Government has cut the budget for this paper by \$650'000. Now instead of receiving 6 issues you will receive 4. If you like to save money you can get the issues from the Internet. 100'000 people are now getting it through the Internet. The Swiss review is sent to 416'000 addresses all over the world and in 5 languages.

Youth Programmes:

Every year up to 300 young people from all over

the world take part in either a Ski Camp or Summer Camp. Everything is organised with instructors and teachers. The Ski Camp was in Wengen and the Summer Camp was held in Leukerbad.

For more information please check the Internet on youth@aso.ch

Schools:

There are 17 schools for Swiss abroad but none in Australia or New Zealand.

Ausland Schweizer Park:

1991 as part of the 700 Year celebration of Switzerland the Swiss Abroad got there own ground in Brunnen. Whenever you are in Switzerland go and visit the place. The ground is a part of the Weg der Schweiz.

Swiss Citizenship:

To all Swiss citizens: I would like to urge you to make sure your children and grandchildren will continue to be registered as Swiss citizens at the Embassy before they are 18 years old. It is not that expensive to keep a foot in the door. Swiss citizenship entitles your children and grandchildren to a Swiss passport, which allows them to work in all EU countries with no restrictions.

Change of our Ambassador:

I would like to thank Dr Beat Nobs for the last 4½ years as our Representative from the Government. With all the other jobs he did he shifted the Embassy from Cuba Street location to the new Waterfront Marine Tower. Thanks for putting Switzerland on the forefront in New Zealand. We wish him well at his new job in Switzerland.



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Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2010

Income	2009/2010	2008/2009
	\$	\$
Subscriptions	12,750.00	14,372.50
Advertising	2,113.50	2,335.50
Interest	2,479.71	3,369.26
Donations	25.00	2,860.00
Competitions subscriptions - Medals	1,397.00	1,124.00
	18,765.21	24,061.26
Expenditure	\$	\$
Helvetia - Printing	11,580.00	11,153.33
Packing/Postage	3,140.51	2,255.45
Stationery/Administration	1,110.73	631.45
Competitions - Medals	1,794.78	1,379.75
Auditor	-	225.00
Bank fees	61.00	25.00
	17,687.02	15,669.98
Cash Profit	1,078.19	8,391.28
Accumulated Funds at beginning of year	55,546.24	47,154.96
Accumulated Funds as at 31/03/2010	56,624.43	55,546.24
Current Assets		
Cheque Account	16,624.43	15,546.24
Term Deposits	40,764.16	40,764.16
Less Current Liabilities	NIL	NIL
Net Assets	57,388.59	56,310.40
Represented by: Accumulated Funds as at 31/03/2010	57,388.59	56,310.40

Wellington, April 2010
Heidi Amelung, Treasurer

ACCOUNTS AUDITED BY
LYN HANSEN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
WELLINGTON



Albert Meier

20 July 1930 - 21 May 2010

Albert was born in Zurich, Switzerland to Herman and Freda Meier. He was the second of eight children. His home life was not that rosey and at the age of three he was placed with foster parents (bauernhof) and it was there he developed his interests in animals.

Albert received eight years of schooling in Zurich before leaving to make his way in the world. He left home at the age of 18 and worked for a butcher delivering meat to the homes of his employer's customers. After a while he entered into an apprenticeship as a welder and became very competent in his trade.

In 1956 he met Frieda, who was working in the kitchen of a restaurant where he had gone for refreshments with his best friend. They courted for three years and finally married in 1959.

The young couple had heard about New Zealand and the great way of life people lived there, and so they decided to emigrate. They came to New Zealand in 1964 and worked on farms around Taranaki until 1975 when they purchased their own farm east of Eltham. Five years later they purchased a smaller block of land on York Road and continued to farm until their retirement. That's when they moved back to Eltham, to Maata Road, and have remained there since.

Albert was a great "fixer" and would spend many hours pottering around in this workshop. Probably because of his love of fixing things, Albert was a hoarder and would avoid throwing out any item that "might come in useful".

He had a number of long-time friends; those that become part of your family. Albert was loved and respected by all his family. He loved his grandchildren and great-grandchildren deeply.

As a farmer, Albert will have touched many people's lives in Taranaki. I have no doubt that many people will carry his memory and inspiration forever.

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