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Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi

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Strange - it is mid September; the last editorial was written in mid July. So much has happened since then.

The Christchurch earthquake has shaken all New Zealand. Of course we knew, especially we in Wellington, that we are sitting on fault lines and that they are unpredictable, but somehow it was all in theory and not quite real. It has become painfully real all of a sudden. Have you checked your emergency kit and updated your emergency plan? Read the last pages in the Yellow Pages - and act on them!

As far as I know our compatriots in Christchurch have survived without too much damage. I rang a friend in Canterbury; her aquarium had shattered and flooded her living room, and the goldfish became earthquake victims, but she still thinks she got off lightly. - The Christchurch Swiss Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary; wouldn't it be nice if they belonged to the Swiss Society? I realise that it is a long way to the clubs in the North island - but actually, Christchurch is closer to Wellington than Wellington to Hamilton, let alone to Auckland! And there is always the option of becoming Society Only members of the Swiss Society...

News of the world: floods, fires, wars, riots, sports victories and defeats - you'll have read and seen them in the news.

On my private level: This year I did go for a holiday, a real overseas trip. Well, it was more 'overland': The flight to Sydney took not quite 4 hours; the connecting flight, from Sydney to Darwin, took almost 5 hours. Midwinter in Darwin was wonderful: blue sky, cool nights (well, 20°) and warm days, soft breezes all day long, a lukewarm sea, hardly any waves - why don't we all move to Darwin? I don't know about you, but I'll stay here and wait for our summer when I can go for swims in our admittedly rather cool sea - but at least there are no deadly jellyfish, and no crocodiles...

Trudi

The Swiss Society of New Zealand would like to welcome our new Ambassador

H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski

We hope she and her family enjoy their time in New Zealand, and they find time to meet many New Zealand Swiss.

We appreciate very much her introduction and the introduction to her family she wrote for this Helvetia; we shall do our best to answer her questions and make the whole family feel at home.

Roland Schütz
President of the Swiss Society

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	H. E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski
President	Roland Schütz, 35 East Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012 Ph h 04 568 6772, w 04 568 5737. Email: moehau2@gmail.com
Vice President	Max Fuhrer, 8 Curacao Place, Grenada Village, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037. Ph 04 478 0003.
Secretary/Editor	Trudi Brühlmann, 401 Marine Drive, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013. Ph 04 562 8019. Email: bruhlmann@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Heidi Amelung, 32 Hinau Street, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013 Ph 04 562 7568. Email: gravure@xtra.co.nz
Riflemaster	Mark Kiser, 140 Pukengahu Rd, RD 23, Stratford. Ph 06 762 2922

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Othmar Hebler, 9 Larlin Height, RD 15, Hawera. Ph 06 278 6878
Deputy Delegate	Emanuel Züst, 43 Cheltenham Drive, Kapiti Village, Paraparaumu Ph 04 905 0017

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Heidi Wilson, 53 Rothesay Bay Road, Rothesay Bay, Auckland. Ph 09 478 9751. Email: heidi.wilson@hotmail.com
Hamilton	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Ph 07 856 2414, mob ph 027 498 5170. Email: zuber@xtra.co.nz
Taranaki	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford. Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz
Wellington	Odile Stotzer, 24 Fitzherbert Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt 5010. Ph 04 586 3095. Email: odilestotzer@gmx.net
Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington 6140. PO Box 25004, Wellington 6146. Ph 04 472 1593, Fax 04 499 6302. Email: wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutsche, PO Box 302239, North Harbour, North Shore City 0751. Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honorarvertretung.ch