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## Louis Müller will be 100 on 7 August

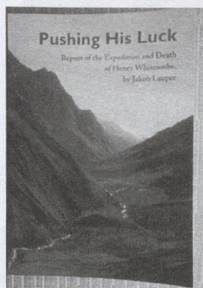
*A very Happy Birthday Louis, what a wonderful achievement!*



Louis arrived in New Zealand by boat in the late 1930s. He spent his first few years in Wellington, working in his trade as a hairdresser. After another spell in Switzerland, he returned to New Zealand with his wife Hanni in the early 50s. They made Auckland their home; he had a shop in Queens Street. He was active in the Swiss Club in the early days, known for his love of partying into the wee hours, dancing, playing the piano. In the 1960s Louis was president of the Auckland Swiss Club.

Louis lives in his own house in Henderson. He misses Hanni, who passed away five years ago. His son Paul and family live in London. Louis does his own cooking, and likes visiting friends for a cup of coffee with a bit of reinforcement. The photo was taken at the recent market day, what a good looking centenarian! All the best Louis!

## Pushing his luck – Hilary Low's book on Jakob Lauper



In the May *Helvetia* Hilary Low wrote a page about Jakob Lauper – and now her book is published. It is a fine book, with many illustrations and good maps. Its centrepiece, thirty pages long, is Low's new translation of Lauper's manuscript with the title "Umständlicher Bericht über die Expedition und den Tod des Hr Withcomb", written in 1863. This report was translated only once before, and omissions, mistakes in translation and the inadequate style of the first translator led to many misunderstandings. Of

course I did not read the original (it is in the Turnbull Library), but I carefully and with great pleasure read Low's translation, and the expedition came to life – rain, loneliness, hunger, fleas and all.

The preceding chapters place the report in time and place; a hundred and fifty years ago there were few bridges and hardly any reliable maps. The Hurunui Saddle, a long and arduous journey, was the only known access route to the West Coast, where gold had just been discovered.

Low also paints a vivid picture of the two explorers. She is obviously fascinated by Jakob Lauper, but that does not lead her to always paint a rosy picture of him.

In the concluding chapters Low follows Lauper back to Switzerland – and finally back to New Zealand.

The whole book is a fascinating read, and extensively researched – a scientific book that reads like an adventure story.

The book should be available in bookshops and I hope in many libraries. I have one copy I'm happy to lend, but there is already quite a queue for it!

tb

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