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It seems a long time since I wrote the last editorial, and good and bad things have happened: The Pike River Mine disaster unfolded; over the holiday period many people died in road accidents and many drowned. Floods, earthquakes, wars, terrorist attacks – it is not a pretty picture. As far as I'm aware, no Swiss nationals died in these disasters – but this doesn't make them any less tragic.

The topic of today's editorial is choices, decisions we make every day. In fact we can't avoid making decisions, as even making no decision is making a decision.

Most decisions are decisions for something as well as decisions against something: I decide to have a cup of coffee, which is a decision against having a cup of tea. If you decide to go to Switzerland for a holiday it is a decision against having a holiday in Samoa.

Some decisions turn out only later to be wrong, e.g. if you are invited to a pot luck dinner and decide on a potato salad, only to find that half a dozen of your friends had had the same idea. Some wrong decisions you can't be blamed for can have more serious consequences, even if you arrived at them with best intentions.

However, we can't help making decisions that are plainly wrong; we all have moments when we are not thinking clearly and only realise what we did was wrong when it is too late.

The other day I mistook icing sugar for baking powder; luckily, I realised what I had done before the cake went into the oven, and I added some baking powder, too. The cake turned out alright, maybe a bit on the sweet side, but if I hadn't told you, you wouldn't have known.

I don't want to bore you with my wrong decisions; some are funny, some are ridiculous, some are infuriating, some are embarrassing. They mostly have no far-reaching repercussions, and the cat won't tell that she is on a tin of Ocean Fish again, the third in a row; she might get something different next week, and no lasting harm is done. I make dozens of wrong decisions; I don't even know whether they become more frequent with age, and I'm glad they go mostly unnoticed. If a wrong decision is obvious for all to see, let's not be self-righteous and let's not pontificate about them – rather think of our own wrong decisions that luckily went unnoticed and had no grave consequences.

Trudi

The books listed below are available for the cost of posting them. Please contact Trudi Brühlmann.

Alice Miller: Am Anfang war Erziehung
Alice Miller: Das Drama des begabten Kindes
Catherine Duttweiler: Kopp & Kopp
Stephen King: Dead Zone. Das Attentat
Norbert Golluch: Schmusehoroskop für den sehnächtigen Skorpion
Norbert Winistörfer: Ich mache mich selbständig
Al Franken: Kapitale Lügner
Howard Hughes: Milliarden und Mythos
Frank Mc Court: Ein rundherum tolles Land
Schweiz. Verband der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologie: Berufe der ICT
Torsten Tomczak & Christian Belz: Kundennähe realisieren
Urs Wiegand (hersg): Acapickels drücken sich aus!
Wolfgang Hirn: Herausforderung China
Andreas Lötscher: Von Ajax bis Xerox
Volker Pispers: Völkerkunde
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Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	H. E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski
President	Roland Schütz, 35 East Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012 Ph 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 Hinazu 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
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