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Summer is over. For us in Wellington it ended at the end of March, with one digit temperatures at night. Then it settled again, and we had the most glorious autumn days. Thanks to the cold spell in-between they came like presents, and we appreciated these sunny, calm days and made the most of them.

Hm, how do you make the most of a sunny, calm day? Friends and I decided to be un-Swiss, and instead of working in the garden we went for a long walk to Pencarrow Lighthouse. We had a shared picnic on a sun-bleached log, and without exactly looking for them, we found iridescent paua shells - and of course my favourites, cat's eyes. For those of you who live far from the sea: Cat's eyes are the doors with which the common sea snail Turbo smaragdus protects itself against drying out and against predators. The door, the cat's eye, is part of the snail's foot and acts as a door when the snail withdraws into its shell. But even with that protection, each creature eventually dies. The snail shell eventually breaks, the soft body of the snail disintegrates; what is most durable is the door, lost in the gravel or sand, with nothing to protect anymore. Cat's eyes are beautiful, almost round, with a delicate spiral on the flat side and a tinge of grey-brown-green on the round side. I like the idea of closing the door and being protected. I don't quite like as much to be reminded that the protection is the only thing that survives, long after the creature it was meant to protect has died...

Well, we got home safely, the shoulders a bit sore from the pack with the shells we found, the feet a bit blistered. And yes, there was still time to cut back the tiger lilies, to pull out the cape gooseberry bush. And the rest of the garden will have to wait. It will wait; have you ever seen a garden running away?

TnD



I hope you all had a nice Easter break, which is always a good time to catch up with the family, and relax. Summer is coming slowly (or if you live in Wellington, very quickly) to an end.

The Wellington Swiss club is already busy, making preparations for hosting the upcoming Swiss Society AGM and Cowbell competition final, which will be held in Wellington on the 4-5 June 2011 (Queen's Birthday Weekend).

As last year's winner of the Swiss Society Cowbell competition, we are spending the last few

weeks admiring it before the cowbell is removed from its 'Ehrenplatz' in the Wellington Swiss Club. I would like to encourage as many members, friends and families to attend the event. It would also be an opportunity to interact with our ambassador who would like actively participate in discussions, and issues of interest to members. This year, perhaps we could change the format slightly, to also include an issues section for mutual discussion, or questions and answers.

Have a safe journey and drive carefully.

Uf Wiederluege
Roland Schütz

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 Hinai 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, 41 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, Aclercetown, 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 Deutschle, PO Box 302239, North Harbour, North Shore City 0751. Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honorarvertretung.ch