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When you read this editorial, at the beginning of December, you might be in the Christmas mood, but as I have to write it in November, I'm not, and although Christmas decorations are in the shops, I don't feel particularly Christmasy yet. As I was wondering about how to write something for Christmas on a windy, cool Wellington day, it just happened, and I'm going to tell you what happened.

I went shopping this afternoon - nothing exciting, only a punnet of strawberries, flour, some cat food; just something one has to do, whether you like it or not. My bus goes to Petone via Lower Hutt. As it was early afternoon, the bus wasn't very full. In Lower Hutt some people got off, others got on. Then came two bus drivers from other buses - with a beautiful bouquet! One of them addressed all the bus passengers; she said it was our bus driver's birthday, and we'd all have to sing Happy Birthday to our bus driver. And so we did, and our bus driver, surprised and blushing, turned round and said thank you. The other bus drivers went back to their buses; the whole incident had only taken a couple of minutes. The passenger who got out at the next station wished her Happy Birthday again, and so did the next one, and so did I when it was my time to get out. And on the way to the supermarket I thought about it and became aware that my mood had changed. I felt strangely happy and elated; it was an unexpected case of non-religious and unexpected, but none the less intense 'Joy to the World'.

I wish you many such spontaneous instances of Joy to the World - not only at Christmas, but through the whole new year. It takes some imagination to create joy, but let's try and do it, the way our bus driver's colleagues did.

*Merry Christmas and
a Very Happy New Year!*

Inde



Mini liebe Mitglieder

d'Zit geit wieder mau einisch ganz schnäu der Wiehnacht entgä; das heisst bi mir, es chunnt eim aus Mögliche z'Sinn wo me nid söu vergässe. Aber z Wichtigste isch ja de schlussändlich, dass me sich de cha Zit näh für d Familie und aui liebe aaghörige Lüt, u Zit cha gmeinsam gniesse.

I wünsche aune liebe Mitglieder e gmüetlechi Wiehnachtsfiir mit viu Liebi u Zfrideheit.

My dear Compatriots it's the time of year when we take note of all the months and days past in this year and how quickly the Christmas and New Year season is in front of us. The Swiss Clubs will start organising and preparing the Children's Christmas Party and the function for the members and their family and hopefully we don't forget the ones who may have some transport problems. I know a lot of time and effort goes into it and hopefully you all can participate in these activities.

This year I had the opportunity to spend a few weeks in Switzerland with my family, and I had the pleasure to visit the various places of historic family interest, and it's this occasion that brings us closer together.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Roland

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	Marcel Rüedi, PO Box 40558, Glenfield, North Shore City 0747 Ph 09 551 5830. Email: ruedi@orcon.net.nz.
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, 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, 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 Deutschle, 3 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011. Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honrep.ch