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The new year isn't quite brand new anymore. I hope it has started well for you, has brought you rain if you need rain - and sunshine if you need or wish sunshine.

To the topic of sunshine, here is an uplifting story. As you know I always go shopping by bus, and so I'm going to tell you another bus story - only this time the hero is not the bus driver.

It was a glorious summer day, after a series of less glorious days. The bus was almost empty, the bus driver on time - and I thought she should be delighted to see about twenty teenagers, obviously keen to go to the beach, waiting for her bus. Not so. Before she even came to a halt, she growled at the waiting girls that she could probably not take them all and that they should let adults get in first - which happened anyway, as the adults had all queued up in front of the girls. The girls didn't growl back at the driver but paid their fare - and to the bus driver's disappointment, they all had the correct fare, their ID cards ready, didn't push. So she growled anyway, repeating that she couldn't take them all. More and more of the girls poured into the bus, and all found a seat and kept talking. One girl tried to reassure the bus driver that there were still many empty seats, but that was not what the grumpy lady wanted to hear. She hissed at the innocent girl that she was the boss and she called the shots. The girl did not answer back; I quite admired her for it. In the end, the driver simply had to accept the fact that all the girls fitted into the bus easily; even she couldn't think of a reason to leave anybody behind.

I got out of the bus before the girls' beach. I hope they had a lovely day at the beach - and I hope the driver didn't explode before she got them there.

I wish you the girls' immunity against bad moods and their determination to enjoy the day anyway!

Inde

Inner Peace

- *If you can start the day without caffeine,*
- *If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,*
- *If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,*
- *If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it,*
- *If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,*
- *If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,*
- *If you can conquer tension without medical help,*
- *If you can relax without liquor,*
- *If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,*

...then you are probably the family dog!

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	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, 11 Larlin Heights, RD 15, Hawera 4675. Ph 06 278 6266, mob ph 027 499 4344

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Othmar Hebler, 9 Larlin Heights, 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. 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, 3 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011. Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honrep.ch