

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 78 (2012)
Heft: [6]

Artikel: A message from the new president
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944072>

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HELVETIA

MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND



AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2012

YEAR 78

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Welcome from the new Swiss Society President
- Introducing the new Helvetia Team
- Canvassing your opinion
- Swiss National Day

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A message from the new President

Grüessech, Bienvenu, Benvenuti, Allegra and Haere Mai to all members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

The AGM in June marked another milestone in the history of the Swiss Society: Wellington handed over their responsibility to Auckland who will be hosting the Swiss Society for the next 5 years.

We would like to thank the outgoing Wellington team very much for their tremendous effort and huge commitment:

Roland Schütz (Society President), Max Fuhrer (Vice President), Heidi Amelung (Treasurer/Helvetia lay-out), Trudi Brühlmann (Editor/Secretary) and Mark Kiser (Rifle Master).

The Wellingtonian's grin was even bigger after they received the huge "Chueglogge" - they had also won the Cowbell competition that day: Well done and congratulations! The attendees of the AGM had the pleasure to elect a new team - this time from Auckland. I was the lucky winner of the presidential race - not that the queue was very long...

I'd like to hereby introduce you to our new Swiss Society team: President & Secretary: Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg, Vice President: Marcel Rüedi, Treasurer: Carmen Fitz-Gordon, Helvetia Editor: Susie Wood and Rifle Master: Ernst Lanz. Thank you very much for your support during the next few years. (cont. p2)



The old and the new Swiss Society team: Front row, from left to right: Ernst Lanz (new riflemaster), Mark Kiser (previous riflemaster), Adrian Blaser (new Helvetia Team), Trudi Brühlmann (previous editor/secretary); standing, from left to right: Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg (new president/secretary), Renate Meyer-Knecht, Nelly Steinemann, Edith Hess, Melissa Lanz (all new Helvetia Team), Heidi Amelung (previous treasurer/Helvetia composer), Susie Wood (new editor), Roland Schütz (old president); behind Melissa: Marcel Rüedi (new vice president).

From the new President and Editor

(cont.) The Swiss Society was established in 1935 by a group of Swiss immigrants who left their homeland to begin a new life in a country totally unknown to them.

The objectives of the Society were to assist other compatriots requiring moral or financial support, teaching immigrants the New Zealand way of life as well as to promote cultural traditions by setting up Swiss clubs around the country.

The Helvetia magazine is traditionally published by the Swiss Society and is currently in its 78th year!

Trudi Brühlmann and Heidi Amelung have done an outstanding job in producing the Helvetia in the last 5 years – the commitment they have put in is admirable and on behalf of

the Swiss Society I would like to thank them very much for their tremendous effort.

I could hear the champagne corks pop up in Auckland when they finished their last Helvetia issue. Our new Helvetia team in Auckland has very large shoes to fill, so we decided to get our own boots instead...

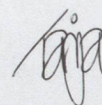
We are lucky to have a very dedicated new Helvetia team and I would like to thank each of you very much for your contributions and commitment over the next few months and years.

You would not be reading this article if it wasn't for our wonderful new editor Susie Wood who has already spent hours and hours producing this "new look" Helvetia for you!

Thank you very much Susie!

Last but not least we would like to thank everyone that travelled from near and far to attend the Swiss Society AGM and everyone who helped make the Queens Birthday weekend a memorable couple of days.

"Der krönende Abschluss" (the finale) for me was the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group's song about the Niesen and the Thunersee – I felt homesick just listening to them singing about "mini Heimat" (my homeland)...



Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

From the Editor

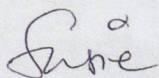
Greetings dear Readers!

As Trudi Brühlmann and Heidi Amelung leave their respective roles as editor and lay-out expert of the Helvetia magazine and tidy up their bits and pieces, our desks and minds are flooded with the new tasks at hand. It is only as we take over that we truly appreciate the amount of work and organisation that is involved in creating such a magazine.

I am delighted to be supported by a very creative Helvetia team which will help with both editorial matters and writing articles. This team will be instrumental in shaping the Helvetia over coming months and also contribute key articles.

You will see on page 4 that this change of guard is also an opportunity to ask you for your opinion about the Helvetia magazine. I hope many of you will participate in the survey (with a good prize to be won!) and send future letters to the Editor.

Best wishes,



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