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From the new Helvetia Team

Welcome

Finally the big moment has arrived! The new Auckland Helvetia Team bids all our readers across New Zealand a warm welcome. We hope you will bear with us over the coming months while we hone our writing and publishing skills, and give you a Helvetia magazine which you will come to enjoy just as much as the old one.

A big Thank You to the outgoing Helvetia Team

No doubt you will all join us in thanking the amazing outgoing Wellington Helvetia team. Past editor Trudi Brühlmann and publisher Heidi Amelung, as well as their regular and occasional authors, have done a truly outstanding job in creating a Helvetia magazine that is professional, creative and engaging. Special thanks also go to Carolyne Lane, a key contributor.

Trudi and Heidi have maintained this large commitment over five years without fail, working their lives around the many tasks and deadlines such a job involves. Their friendship and plenty of cups of coffee have carried them through all the way.

Over the years, the Helvetia magazine has been instrumental in weaving the New Zealand Swiss people together and sharing what it is to be Swiss in New Zealand. We have all learnt things about Switzerland we never knew and would have never known even if living in Switzerland! And we have been kept up to date with Swiss current affairs where important.

But there has been much more than just information to the Helvetia magazine. The graciousness and insightfulness of Trudi, Heidi and their contributors have given the Helvetia a unique flavour, and have made us think and smile many times over the years.

We know that Trudi and Heidi look forward very much to their newly won freedom...although we may need to call on them just occasionally for their advice and opinion. Already they have done everything they can to promote a smooth transition to the new team.

We wish you all best for the future and many more friendly cups of coffee...



Change is in the air...

Even though we know you like the Helvetia just like it is, the handover of the Helvetia to a new team also presents an opportunity for change. We are very much aware that the Helvetia is about you, the reader. Therefore, we are not proposing changes lightly and without careful thought.

Some of that change is already evident by the modified look of the Helvetia. These changes are not large and focused more on updating the Helvetia as a publication. We hope you like it.

Perhaps the most important issue we have had to grapple with is the monthly publication of the Helvetia (10 issues/year). Members of the new Helvetia Team are engaged already in the Swiss Club, other volunteering jobs, professionally and with their families. Therefore, the commitment to a monthly publication, with all the attendant work and deadlines, is difficult to sustain in the long term.

As a result, we have decided on the two-monthly publication of the Helvetia (six issues/year). In this, we are supported by Trudi Brühlmann and Heidi Amelung who have found the commitment, although enjoyable, at times difficult to reconcile with their personal lives.

We presented our proposal to the AGM of the Swiss Society in Auckland on 3 June 2012 and it was unanimously accepted.

We know that many among you will be disappointed and apologise for this. However, we trust you will understand our decision. We hope to make up with a high quality and enjoyable two-monthly Helvetia magazine with more colour and the occasional "bumper" issue.

The new Helvetia Team

Having an active Swiss Club in Auckland has enabled us to assemble a lively and diverse team of contributors who have agreed to write on a range of topics.

The Auckland Helvetia team embraces a range of interests and ages. These will hopefully reflect the diversity of interests and ages among our readership across New Zealand.

Over the coming months, we will take the opportunity to introduce the various members of the team and their respective areas of interest.

We also intend to "shoulder tap" other members of the Swiss Society occasionally to see whether they would like to make a contribution to the Helvetia. Further, Carolyne Lane has promised to continue to make an occasional contribution.

From the new Helvetia Team

Give us your opinion – and win a box of wine!

Your brand new publishers would love to know what you would like to read in future editions of the Helvetia magazine. To this end, we have devised a questionnaire. It's fun to complete, and will take you five minutes only, unless you have lots to comment on. You can do it either online, or on paper.

You find the link on:

<http://www.swiss.org.nz/event.php?ID=1567>

It is also on the Hamilton, Taranaki and Auckland Swiss Club websites. For the non-computerised, request a paper version by writing to or phoning Nelly Steinemann, 8 St. Ives Tce, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0630, or phone 09 4794038 (message with your address is fine).

All entries received by 30 August will go into the draw to win half a dozen bottles of fabulous Renato wine (two Pinot Gris, two Pinot Noir and two Sauvignon Blanc), delivered to your doorstep.

The draw is open to all paid up members of the NZ Swiss Society (your membership in your Swiss club includes the society). Maximum two entries per family.

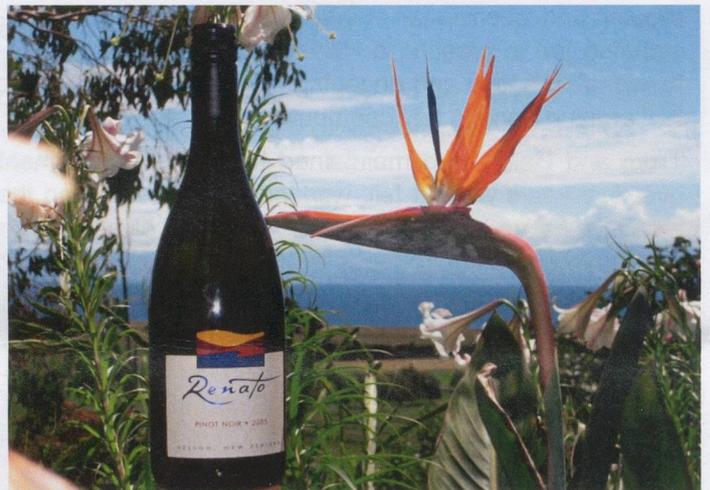
Renat Nussbaumer is a Swiss winemaker, who established the Renato vineyard on the Kina peninsula near Nelson 12 years ago. He produces exquisite wines, which he sells in New Zealand as well as in Switzerland and other countries. You can find out more about him and his wines at <http://www.renatoestate.co.nz/>.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have any issues or comments that are central to the Swiss Society and its members in New Zealand, and that you would like to see raised and addressed in greater detail? Would you like pass on some important news about the Swiss in Switzerland or New Zealand?

We would really like to hear from you, either via e-mail or letter to the Editor and we will do our best to include your message into the Helvetia, time and space permitting. As a general guideline, we would like to encourage you to limit your messages to approximately 100-150 words.

Please send your messages to the Editor using the details on page 2. We look forward to receiving them!



A visual sample of Renato vine

Are you interested in an electronic version of the Helvetia?

Given the age of computers we live in, some people like to receive their printed matter via 'cyberspace' and save some paper, waste and postage in the process. Of course, we realise that many of you prefer the printed version and having the ability to read it at a place of your convenience - and you will be able to continue to do so.

However, those who are interested now have the option of requesting the Helvetia magazine in electronic form - but please note that if you chose this options, you will not receive the paper version anymore.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of the Helvetia, please advise the Secretary (Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg) by e-mail (latham@zurbruegg.co.nz), and we will make the necessary adjustments to the data base.

Öisen Wäg

*Leere luege,
wie der ander
zfride blybt und gsund und zwääg.*

*Leere lose
was de Mitmänsch
öis wott mitgee uf de Wääg*

*Leere lauffe
graad und wäidli
hilft äim über mäenge Haag.*

*Leere tanke
tüüf und eerli
für so mäenge schöne Taag.*

Contributed by Edith Hess