

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 79 (2013)  
**Heft:** [2]  
  
**Rubrik:** Special celebrations

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

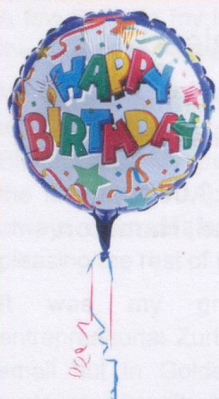
### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 19.04.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# Special celebrations



## Special birthday celebrations

The Swiss Society and Helvetia Team congratulate both Joseph Keiser and Hilda Iten most cordially on their 90th birthday: Joseph celebrated his birthday on 11 February and Hilda hers on 20 March. We also congratulate Nelly Steinemann, our fabulous ladies' choir mistress and Auckland club news editor on her 70th birthday, and Herbert Staeheli, the Hamilton Swiss club's President for over 35 years, on his 60th birthday.

We hope you all had a truly enjoyable day amidst family and friends, and wish you happiness and good health for the coming years. We thank you for the important contributions you have made to your clubs and the Swiss Society over the years. Without you, we would not be where we are today and would not have had half the fun! A Toast to you all!

## Mother's Day

### Brief an die Mutter aus der Ferne

Wenn ich nur ein Vöglein wär,  
käm' ich zu dir geflogen,  
über Tal und Berge her  
mit dem Wind gezogen!

Brächte selber meinen Gruss  
Unter Lust und Scherzen,  
gäbe dir den schönsten Kuss,  
froh an deinem Herzen.

Leider soll's nicht also sein.

Hier, in weiter Ferne,  
richt' ich meinen Blick allein  
Auf zum Herrn der Sterne.

Kindlich flehe ich ihn an  
Um sein treues Walten,  
mög' er dich auf deiner Bahn  
lange noch erhalten!

Dir gehört mein Herz allein,  
dir soll's ewig schlagen! -  
Oh, wie herrlich müsst' es sein,  
könnt' ich's dir selber sagen.

Über Tal und Berge her  
mit dem Wind gezogen -  
wenn ich nur ein Vöglein wär,  
käm' ich zu dir geflogen!

*From the 19th Century*

*Contributed by Edith Hess*



Zum Muttertag

(Source: [www.upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9b/Herztorte\\_zum\\_Muttertag.jpg](http://www.upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9b/Herztorte_zum_Muttertag.jpg); Photo Josef Türk Jun.)



## Hilde Iten



Born in 1923 on a little farm near Lucerne as the eldest of seven girls, Hilde has always looked after people. She made a career in hospitality,

working in hotels and restaurants in Switzerland before going to England on her big OE in the early 50s. She wanted an adventure and didn't stop when she got there, continuing on her travels to Australia. Hilde landed in Sydney, then went on to Adelaide, where she bumped into a handsome Swiss man called Hans. They married and came to Auckland on their honeymoon in 1960, with the intention of staying if they liked it...and they did.

When they first arrived they boarded in Arch Hill until they could find work and save up for a house. She and Hans moved into their first home in Mt Eden while Hilde was pregnant with their first child, Andrew and had Lillian three years later. Their son Andrew remembers hearing how when they first arrived, they were told not to bother with the Swiss Club because all it entailed was men playing cards and women knitting!

However, a chance encounter with the Swiss Club president of the time in the local barber shop persuaded them to see for themselves and Hilde and Hans have been stalwart members of the club ever since.

Until recently, Hilde has always helped in the background ensuring people are welcome and well fed, often found with her hands in the sink doing the dishes! Hilde is well-known for her generosity of spirit as well as her baking, particularly her apple strudel. She has become a keen Jass player, and there's always a pack of cards near, in case there's an opportunity to have a game or two.

Hilde's known for her big heart - for decades there's been a steady stream of visitors turning up on her doorstep, knowing there's a warm welcome for them, no matter how distant the connection. One couple visiting New Zealand needed witnesses for their wedding, Hilde and Hans stepped in, and they have been firm friends ever since. Her hospitality is legendary, with plenty of home-made baking to share along with a cup of coffee and the latest news.

Hilde has had a life-long interest in natural remedies and herbs, long before it was fashionable, and is always happy to share her findings with others and keep exploring new ideas. She is also a keen gardener and amateur winemaker - using the fruits from her garden.

Ties with Switzerland have remained strong - until recently she's made regular visits to see her sisters and old friends, with the added incentive of seeing her daughter Lillian, who has lived in Switzerland for the last 25 years.

Happy 90th birthday Hilde, wishing you many happy returns!

*By Andrew and Lillian Iten*

