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From the editor

Dear Helvetia Readers

This June/July 2014 edition of the *Helvetia* is the 12th issue the Auckland "side" has produced. This brings us to the half-way mark of our four-year stint and coincidentally, also to the end of the Swiss UNESCO World Heritage sites. It has been exciting to cover these sites and portraying Switzerland from a different perspective. In concluding the series, we take the opportunity to explore the obligations these sites bring to different countries. As you can guess, the challenge now is to set the themes for the next 12 issues. We already have a fair idea what these might be – but if you have any pressing interests, please drop us a line!

Being at the half-way mark also gives me once again the chance to say a **big thanks to the Helvetia team**. No doubt you recognise most of the members now by the individual contributions they make. I am also really pleased to welcome two new members to the team: **Peter Deutsche** (also the Honorary Consul), who will take on the lay-out of the *Helvetia* with his **VERY** professional eye, and **Sabine Wyss**, who will be providing assistance in an co-editorial role (phew!). It's great to have you on the team!

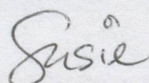
With Peter on board, you will notice some minor but very nice improvements to the layout of the *Helvetia* and I trust you will like them.

Did you fall for the 1st April joke in the last issue? I was hoping you would not miss it but for those of you who did, refer to page 13 of the April/May issue – the St.Gallen male Swiss Trachten look. We had few rather funny responses; some took it quite seriously and thought what a far-fetched idea it was, others went as far as to put in an order (in joke, of course)! I heard someone else sent it to friends the world over.

Regretfully, we will have to farewell our Ambassador Marion Weichelt Krupski at the end of June. In anticipation of this, she has prepared a message for the Swiss Society (page 3). We also include in this issue an opinion she prepared on the role of referenda in Switzerland and New Zealand. It was a pleasure to get to know our Ambassador and the *Helvetia* team thanks her for the many contributions she made to the magazine over her years in New Zealand.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Taranaki at the beginning of June and wish you good health for the coming winter months.

Uf Widerluege



From the president

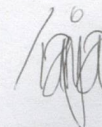
Grüessech mini Helvetia Läser,

A week ago I had cheese coming out of my ears! Now all that's left is empty fridges and fond memories of another successful Swiss Market day! I always thought that with the Guggemusik my market would be complete – and so it was this year. It was a tremendous effort by everyone who helped and attended and I hope many of you were able to come and enjoy our special day.

The fridge of our lovely Ambassador Marion Weichelt Krupski will be empty soon too as she is preparing to leave for her new position in Berlin. On behalf of the Swiss Society of New Zealand I would like to thank her very much for everything she's done for us at the Embassy, for the many speeches she prepared for our functions and for all the articles she wrote for our *Helvetia*. Big shoes will need to be filled down in Wellington...

We all wish you and your family a great start in Germany and only the very best for your future. Should you return to New Zealand, may it be for business or pleasure, we will always welcome you with open arms.

Yours,



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