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Autor: Wood, Susie

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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 Deutschle** (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

Susie

From the president

Grüeszech 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,

[Signature]

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt-Krupski
President	Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg, 45 Kinross Street, Blockhouse Bay Auckland 0600. Ph 09 627 8777. Email: tanja.latham@swiss.org.nz
Secretary	Nelly Steinemann, 8 St.Ives Terrace, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0630 Ph. 09 479 4038. Email: nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz
Vice President	Marcel Rüedi, PO Box 1026, Whangarei 0140
Editor	Susie Wood, PO Box 65206, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0745
Treasurer	Ph 09 479 1996. Email: editor@swiss.org.nz
Riflemenster	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon, 2 Coldham Crescent, St. Johns Auckland 1072
	Ph 09 528 0903. Email: c_and_ian@xtra.co.nz
	Ernst Lanz, 23 Hawaiian Parade, Ārkle Bay, Whangaparaoa 0932
	Ph 09 428 5687. Email: lanzfamiliy@slingshot.co.nz

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Peter Ehrler, 46 Wesley Ave, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310
Deputy Delegate	Ph 06 753 3441. Email: pehrler@clear.net.nz
	Peter Canziani, 30 Heretekiekie St, Turangi 3334
	Ph 07 386 7775. Email: canziape@xnet.co.nz

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Sabine Wyss, c/o ASC 157B Colwill Rd, Massey, Auckland 0614
Hamilton	Ph 027 930 1392. Email: sabine.wyss@swiss.org.nz
Taranaki	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253
Wellington	Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: zuber@xtra.co.nz
	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD24, Stratford 4394
	Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz
	Nathalie Leamy, 6 Shrimpton Way, Newlands, Wellington 6037
	Ph 04 461 6541. Email: wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com

Swiss Government Representatives

Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Custom House Quay, Wellington 6140
	Email: wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
	Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington. Phone 04 472 1593
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutschle, 3 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011
	Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honrep.ch