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Last words from the President

My very last president's report – where has the time gone? It was quite a ride, the last 4 years, and even though it was stressful at times, I felt honoured to experience amazing events and functions and especially to meet and get to know so many special and fascinating Swiss people all over New Zealand.

Since I pretty much had to read every single *Helvetia* front to back, believe me I learnt quite a lot about Switzerland! My list of things to do there in the years to come certainly keeps growing! We always put a lot of effort into the *Helvetia* to make it an interesting read for you all – I hope there is something for everyone to enjoy and that you appreciate our Swiss magazine here in NZ.

Honestly sometimes it can be such a good laugh researching articles that we want to write about. I've been meaning to read up about the Swiss Navy for ages since I find it amusing that Switzerland actually has a Navy – but then again, aren't we also pretty much the best sailors in the world even though we are a landlocked country? Anyway, googling "Swiss Navy" gets you nowhere unless you're looking for pleasure... "Swiss Navy" is apparently a very famous lubricant – according to the first 5 pages of Google (no kidding!)

Anyway, back to more serious stuff: Yes it's no joke, Switzerland has a Navy! I found an old newspaper article from 1957 that informs New York readers that their colourful figure of speech "as non-existent as the Swiss Navy" will have to be dropped from the language since it's been confirmed that Switzerland does in fact have a Navy.

It didn't turn out to be a very interesting article after all - simply because there isn't much to it (a few boats on a few lakes – no cool submarines). But if you do want to read up about the Swiss Navy, I suggest you go straight to page 6 on Google...

I would like to thank all of our readers and Swiss Society members for your

support and trust that you have given me during my 4 year term. Without your subscriptions there would be no *Helvetia*, so YOU are the core. A massively huge thank you goes to every single person that helped and supported the Swiss Society during the last 48 months. I have done a small farewell on pages 4 & 5 – it was an amazing team effort and I'm proud of what we have achieved together.

*It has been an absolute pleasure to be your president and *Helvetia* editor and I feel the experience made me grow into a better person.*

For the last time, Tschüssli




PRO PATRIA 1 August 2016 Badges

The 1st August 2016 badge produced in Switzerland by Pro Patria (www.propatria.ch) is dedicated to the heritage of our Landscape. The money raised from the sale of Pro Patria 1 August badges in 2016 will contribute to the restoration of protected mills, saw mills, stores, barns, oven houses, wash houses or chapels. The Swiss "Bonbon" Badges can be purchased at the First of August celebration of your local Swiss Club.

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