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Word from President and Editor

Dear Readers,

I'm Heidi Wehrle and I am the new editor of your Helvetia magazine. You will get to know me better on the Team introduction page. As Hans has mentioned, you will meet all of our team in the first 2 issues. We look forward to receiving articles from all you readers who wish to contribute.

I, too, would like to take the opportunity to thank the Auckland Helvetia members for helping Hamilton Helvetia Team transition into our new role as smoothly as possible. Tanja, Susie and Nelly have been extremely accommodating and Peter Deutschle has become my mentor (just do not tell him!!!)

As I reflect on who the readers of the Helvetia may be, I realise that some of you will not have arrived in NZ until adulthood, others, like myself, may have been born in Switzerland but never set foot in a Swiss educational institute. Then there are those of you who were born here, in NZ, and due to familial, cultural and social connections enjoy celebrating Swiss traditions and having the company of Swiss people

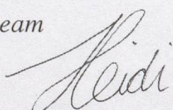
As you read through our first publication some of you will read about things that have been a familiar part of YOUR life e.g. Swiss National day, Ruetlischwur etc and, as editor, I hope that you will find other articles such as "Swiss World Records" or "Swiss Invention" which will bring new news to you!!

Overall our aim is to present to you news from your clubs, your life stories, as well as news from The Swiss Society, The Embassy, OSA and excerpts from various publishers of Swiss news and views. With many of you now using internet to read "The Blick" or "Swissinfo.ch" it becomes more challenging to bring you "new" news, but we will do our best.

I also note in Peter Ehrler's report from OSA, in Brunnen, that the Swiss Review will still have 6 issues a year but only 4 will be printed and posted, but all 6 will be available in electronic form. I think this is a sign of the times to come as printing and postage costs increase.

*Drop me a line anytime:
cwehrle@ihug.co.nz*

*On behalf of the team
Happy reading*



Dear Society Members

As the new President of the Swiss Society it gives me pleasure to share a few thoughts with you. Queen's Birthday is always a special occasion in New Zealand and for the Swiss Society it is the annual get together for the AGM and the sports final. This year this occasion was celebrated on the farm in Auckland in conjunction with the club's 60th anniversary. We, the Hamilton Swiss Club, also battled for and won the sport final and retained the Trophy (large cowbell) for another year. Thank you Taranaki for being such great competitors.

For the Hamilton Club this was a very busy occasion as we formally took over Swiss Society and Helvetia activities for the coming 4 years. Society duties have been on our minds for some months. We discussed how we can continue bringing you news of interest and it became pretty obvious, just talking to a few of you, that there is a wide range of opinions on what could be of interest to the majority. I don't think we will ever satisfy everybody.

Our first edition falls in line with our national day celebrations and what better occasion than this to dedicate the front page to.

We also agreed that the members showed interest in hearing the life stories of members especially from those who left their home country some 50 to 65 years ago. The first story will be about one of our very early Hamilton members and we hope to follow up with more such stories. Here is a great opportunity for other clubs to get involved and tell us about their early settlers. (Such reports can be forwarded to me or to our editor!)

Back to the change over, I know the Auckland team was pretty sad to hand over the Helvetia duties (or may be not??). Anyway, I would like to thank Tanja and her team for a job well done over 4 years and also for the help the team gave us during the changeover and for their willingness to help us as we settle in. A big thank you also has to go to our Hamilton Club members who raised their hands to participate in this new task and you will see their faces in the early editions.

That's it for my first report, I encourage you all to give us feedback on the Helvetia content, it is the best way for us to publish what you really want to read.

I look forward to your comments. Until next time,



Es war einmal....

Once again the Hamilton Swiss Club inherits the honourable duty to publish our 'HELVETIA'.

I remember; from pen, pencil, eraser and ruler to computer.....!

In June 1997 Beatrice Leuenberger travelled to Auckland with me (Rinaldo Rust) and my wife Gritli, to visit Henry Siegerist, previous editor of 5 years of the "Helvetia" magazine. Taking pity on Rinaldo as the newly elected editor, (retired dairy farmer), Henry offered his help to bring us up to speed for the 5-year project ahead of us. We were presented with pen, pencil, eraser and ruler. Henry imparted to us his knowledge regarding the insertion of two or three column arrangement and the need to juggle available space on each page for photos or advertisements. He presented us with boxes full of magazine cuttings and political extracts from Switzerland suitable for insertion in future issues. Sometime later, personal computers became available at an affordable price. Now we faced 'software, hard drive and floppy disc'. With internet

unheard of at the time, contributions from secretaries of the four Swiss clubs arrived handwritten and posted by snail mail. Some contributions from Switzerland, most often in German, had to be translated. With all contributions duly inserted, the editor had to deliver his handiwork to the printers, (for us it was Rosetown Printers in Te Awamutu).

All content appeared in black and white with the exception of the front page. Colour printing was still very costly.

Now the many new advantages of computer publishing can really only be fully appreciated by our new editor. Our 5-year term of publishing the 'HELVETIA' from 1997 to 2002 on behalf of our Hamilton Swiss Club was a happy undertaking; thanks to a very helpful editing committee.

R.R.



The Helvetia packing team from 1997-2002