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Embassy News

Mobile passport station will be in Auckland again in December 2016



Dear compatriots,

In December 2016 it is the turn of the Embassy of Switzerland to fly the extra mile!

Swiss citizens residing in New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Niue and American Samoa will have the opportunity to apply for a new Swiss Passport and/or ID in Auckland instead of flying to Wellington for this purpose. This service will be offered exclusively from the **5th till the 9th of December 2016**.

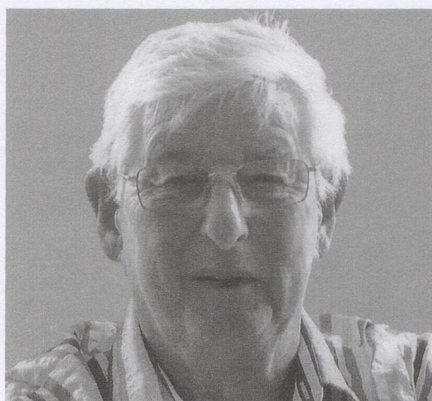
All Swiss citizens registered with the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington will be informed about the exact details and procedure by e-mail or letter three months before the date. Please do not register your online applications for this visit or contact the Embassy of Switzerland or the Helvetia editorial office before receiving those instructions, as all details are to be defined and communicated at a later stage.

Please make sure that your personal data are up-to-date and that also your family members are duly registered with the Embassy in order to receive the detailed announcement and to be able to benefit from this service.

Should you miss the opportunity of having your biometric data captured in Auckland, you can always apply for a new identity document at our Wellington office under the regular procedure. Please refer to our website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington under "Services".

You may also have your biometric data registered in Switzerland or in another Swiss representation abroad. Please note, however, that you have to lodge an online application on www.schweizerpass.ch beforehand, with the indication "Wellington" as your place of registration and a remark mentioning where and when you wish to have your biometric data taken. After our verification, your passport application will be forwarded to the passport office you have selected and you will get a confirmation.

Obituary



Sydney (Syd) Melville

01 January 1929 – 15 March 2016

Many of our members joined Marie-Theres to farewell Syd and share precious memories in a special ceremony, complete with Alphorns, Yodlers, and Swiss Ladies singers. As it often happens on these occasions, we got to know even more details about Syd's interesting, full life.

He was born in his beloved Dunedin, the eldest son of Janet and Hamilton Melville, and an older brother to John and Alice. His Dad was of Scottish origin. Syd grew up in Dunedin, and on leaving school he worked at the Herald. His talents were soon recognised, and his employer supported him to study accountancy at Otago University.

Syd has always been very community oriented; he was a well liked and hard working member in service organisations and in many sports- and other clubs.

After qualifying as an accountant, Syd worked for a time at the Dunedin Council before moving to Balclutha, and later on to the Solomon Islands where he was a Town Clerk. During his five years in the Solomons, the community adopted him and even hoped he would choose a local wife. But that was not meant to be.

Syd returned to New Zealand in the 1970s to settle in Auckland. He was the treasurer for the then Waitemata City Council, situated in Grey's Avenue in Auckland city. It was whilst he was working there that he met the woman who would become his wife, Marie-Theres.

Romance blossomed for the couple. On one of their many trips to Switzerland they decided to marry. The family was delighted to be able to attend their wedding in October 1985 without having to travel halfway around the world.

Both Syd and Marie-Theres enjoyed travelling. Marie-Theres has many fond memories of their trips around the South Island. Syd was very proud of his origins. He loved both Dunedin and Scotland, and was an avid fan of the Highlander Rugby Team. They both also treasured their biennial holidays in Switzerland where they had a large family and many friends to visit.

Syd liked being Swiss as well as New Zealander. In fact one of his happiest occasions was receiving his Swiss Passport. They both enjoyed many happy times with the Swiss community in New Zealand. He was a great support to Marie-Theres when she was involved in the club as committee member and president. We also thank Syd for having been the Swiss Club's auditor for many years. Syd got good at Swiss activities, and offered us stiff competition, be it in playing cards, shooting or bowling.

We will remember Syd as a caring, witty and sometimes cheeky friend. Our sympathies and love go to Marie-Theres; we hope to be able to give you some support in this difficult time.



sBündel

By Hanspeter Treichler

Was haett mini Fee
am erste Tag
noed alles mir i dWiege ggleit
en Sack voll Treum
en Huufe Stolz
e Hampfle Widerborstigkeit

Es Heft mit Gschichte
fuer uf dReis
und dFarbe vome Raegeboge
es Chummertuech
en Pfiil wo zeigt
was wahr isch und was ggloge

Träg all die Sache
sitthär mit
das Bündel isch nöd schwär
ha's nie ufgmacht
und ha schiss
vilicht isch's underdesse lär.

Contributed by Edith Hess