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Word from President and Editor

Dear Readers,

What wild weather we are having throughout the land of the long white cloud!!!

Time to take a break have a coffee and read our latest edition of the Helvetia.

This issue has the final in a series of articles on underground tunnels in Switzerland. Special thanks to Beatrice Luenberger for translating them for me. The paragraph about the designers of the tunnels amused me and made me wonder how many things in today's world that we may be designing with precision but omitting adding practicalities!!!

Please familiarise yourself with Embassy information on page 3. I know that some are having difficulties finding the services needed when on Embassy Website, hopefully this article will help you.

Recently I felt the need to read up about Hornussen after reading in lenews.ch about a Lady seeking Swiss Citizenship who was asked "...eine typische CH-Sportart?". She answered "Ski, aber das gibt es auch überall". The answer they were seeking: "Schwingen und Hornussen". She was rejected. This of-course was not the only question. The article and transcript made interesting reading and makes one wonder about the difficulties in obtaining citizenships in the future. To help you readers I have published an article on "Hornussen" on page 13 should you ever need to know. !!!

*Enough from me..
on with your reading!!!*



Dear Friends

I am now in my second year as Vice President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and this is my first address to you. For me it is something special to belong to a supportive group who come from or have ties to the same homeland: some of us with close family still at home and at the same time firm roots in New Zealand and bonds to new friends here.

Recently I spent some time looking at the original Constitution of the Swiss Society of New Zealand which contains a few anomalies. It was first drafted in 1956 with the last revision in 1999. The Society's aim is to conserve, promote and advance the cultural standards of citizens of Swiss origin living in New Zealand, maybe we should/need to add more to this?

Amongst other things, criteria for membership and eligibility for the traditional Swiss games need clarification. We are also collecting feedback for a possible change to our medal. Once our committee has gone through all these issues in detail we will feed our thoughts through to your Swiss Clubs and then publish suggested changes so all Swiss Society Members can comment; with the goal being to finally introduce the new version at the AGM in June 2018.

Right now, our New Zealand elections are upon us. In our family everyone will be voting for a different party and some of us are worried. I hope that the outcome will give New Zealand good stability. Perhaps some of you had a chance to attend candidates meetings, which I highly recommend as this is history forming at its roots. It all makes voting so much more personal. In our last edition, Hans urged you to look out for proposed changes to the New Zealand pension system, sensible measures to allocate funds more fairly. You might even switch your party vote. I remember going along to see Kim Dotcom prior to the last elections, 3 years ago out of concern that his influence might create a terrible future, it helped me put things into perspective. Right now is the New Zealand film festival season. I'm looking forward to watching a portrait of a swiss watchmaker, Kobi from Wanaka and hopefully will get time to see another movie, called "Mountain". Fantastic to see something like that on the big screen.

I spoke to so many people recently who suffered flu like symptoms more than any other winter before. Even found it difficult to get a team together for a card night! Health issues and Tax are the only two certain things in life! Spring is here now, hopefully you can all enjoy the benefits of sunshine and those of you who are still not well, get the boost you need to be active and fully functioning again.

Anna (Vice President)

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