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Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

Held on Sunday, 03 June 2018, 2pm, at the Taranaki Swiss Clubhouse, Ka-ponga

Present:

David Vogelsanger - Patron, Juerg Bono from the Embassy, and 67 members

Welcome

Hans Vetsch, President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, welcomed all present, with special thanks to David Vogelsanger, Ambassador and Patron of the Society, Juerg Bono and Presidents of the clubs and all the members.

Apologies

- Hamilton: Herbert and Willetta Staheli, Manuela Epp, Sandrine Smith, Erika and Ueli Elmiger, Beatrice Leuenberger
- Wellington: Peter Hynes
- Taranaki: Emmi Kiser, Remigi Zimmermann

Moved Peter Canziani, seconded Marianne Drummond

Appointment of Scrutineers

Adrian Blaser and Mark Kiser, nominated Marianne Drummond, seconded Peter Canziani

Minutes AGM 4 June 2017

held at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton
Appeared in Helvetia and distributed today.

Matters arising – Nil

Moved Heinz Leuenberger, seconded Adrian Blaser

Obituaries:

Sadly, some of our members have passed away in the past year:

Auckland: Hans Enzler

Taranaki: Paul Amstalden, Rodney Mills, Alf Kalin, Kevin Thomas, Brian Hiestand, Martin Appert, Carolyn Butler, Josie Gillbanks

Hamilton: Willy Stevanon and Hans Meister

Wellington: Nil Society: Nil

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of these members

President's report (Hans Vetsch)

Published in June Helvetia and taken as read. *Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Juerg Bono*

Editor's report (Heidi Wehrle)

Published in June Helvetia and taken as read.

Moved Heidi Wehrle, seconded Henri Werfelli

Treasurer's Report (Sandrine Smith)

– read by Anita Zuber, from 31 March 2018

The accounts have been reviewed by an independent party in May 2018. Based on the review, nothing has come to the reviewer's attention that caused him to believe that the financial statements didn't give a true and fair view of the financial position. The Swiss Society of New Zealand has made a net loss of \$1,242 compared to a net profit of \$453 for the year ending 2017. The "loss" is due to the fact that the Swiss Society donated \$2,000 to Eli's assistance dog through Give a Little. Six issues of the Helvetia were produced. The costs of the 6 issues were \$13,634. The income from the subscriptions and adverts were \$17,125. A profit of \$3,490 for the year or \$581 per issue has been achieved. The Society has approximately 594 paying members: Society only: 68; Auckland Club: 135 incl. 4 honorary; Hamilton Club: 147 incl. 7 honorary; Taranaki Club: 195 incl. 1 honorary; Wellington Club: 62 incl. 4 honorary. Total: 594 members (6 more members than 2017). All account receivables and payables have been paid for the year ending 2018. Accumulated funds decreased from \$71,376 in the prior year to \$69,923 in the current year. Thank you to the Clubs' treasurers for helping me. Nil matters arising.

Moved Anita Zuber, seconded Mark Kiser

Rifle master's Report (Manuela Epp)

– read by Anna Blaettler

Statistics on participation: Auckland: 33 participants in 47 events / 15 medals (2 double); Hamilton: 63 participants in 98 events / 26 medals (1 double, 1 triple); Taranaki: 36 participants in 93 events / 19 medals (6 double); Wellington: 13 participants in 19 events / 5 medals (1 triple). In Total 145 participants in 257 events / 65 medals.

Moved Anna Blaettler, seconded Richard Wehrle.

Report from

Ambassador David Vogelsanger

- Superannuation deductions update – nothing has happened since new coalition government. The most important five-man delegation from Switzerland met this year in NZ. Automatic Information Exchange to come into force on 1 January 2019, banks will then share information. Agreement had been put on hold due to AHV problems.

- Peter Deutsche's tenure as Hon Consul will end this year after 25 years service. The next appointment of Adrian Blaser has been decided but not confirmed – awaiting Government approval.

- Forthcoming tour of Swiss Army Band – to perform in Auckland, Taranaki and Wellington. Young band of 20 and 21 year olds – some combined performances with NZ Defence Force.

- Gloria Giugno to finish at Embassy and heads to Germany. Many thanks to her. New vice Consul to be introduced in Helvetia. Several other changes later this year.

Hans expressed a huge thanks to David, in particular for his large contribution in pursuing the AHV issues with the Government and supporting the Swiss community and clubs in NZ. This will be his last AGM of the Swiss Society.

Delegate for Swiss Abroad Report (OSA), Peter Ehrler.

- Letters to Politicians and Political parties continued well into 2017
- Intensive contact with Politicians in Switzerland
- Close Contact with Embassy reporting to each other on progress and exchange of relevant information.
- In August 2017 the OSA Conference in Basel Switzerland
- Meetings specifically with Senator Lombardi and National Council Member Mrs Schneider-Schneiter, also Councilors Zanetti and Büchel
- The message from the Swiss in New Zealand have clearly been heard in both Chambers of Parliament. Although we did not reach our goals, this is more than we had ever expected. The Swiss Government now knows how to go forward when dealing with New Zealand as Section 70 is in everybody's mind and has been truly well documented which was not the case before.

Other activities:

- During the last 12 months my contact with other groups, especially the Germans has intensified and regular exchange of information is taking place especially with Sissi Stein.

- Erich and Regula Widmer from Auckland have passed on their Pension story to Sissi Stein who has written an Article which has been sent to several Swiss News Papers for printing.

- I have also the impression over the last 12 months more and more groups are becoming active on the INTERNET openly condemning Section 70.

- At the moment I am disappointed with NZF and its handling of the pre-election promises. 2 ½ years to go.

- Judgment time will be at the next Elections

- Bank Issue is moving slowly forwards. BCGE has opened up for us.