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Obituaries

Christine Ann Suter

9 February 1956 – 2 August 2018

Chris (as she was known to us) was born on the 9th of February 1956 to the late Lou and Rose Shaw, one of six siblings who lived in Eltham. She attended Eltham and Rawhitiroa Primary Schools and then Stratford High School. She worked at Modern Drapery in Eltham for several years and during this time she met and later married Tony Suter, who was a truck driver. They were blessed with three children; Dean, Matthew and Kylie. After renting several farm houses all over Taranaki, they purchased their own house in Midhirst where Tony still lives.

Chris was a stay-at-home mum and worked at a few Midhirst businesses during the weekends. After the children had left school she worked at various shops in Stratford in customer services. She loved these jobs as she thoroughly enjoyed people and having a chat; she loved figures, being busy and was a terrific organiser.

Tony and Chris really enjoyed two trips to Switzerland where they visited relatives and appreciated sight-seeing trips. Although Chris wasn't "Swiss" she thoroughly enjoyed Swiss culture and traditions, and understood a little of the Swiss-German language. They attended various Taranaki Swiss Club functions, especially the fondue evenings where she appreciated her separate bowl due to being gluten-free.

While Chris was unwell she appreciated Tony taking her on several trips from her 'bucket list', mainly Perth, where she swam with the dolphins, and the trans-alpine train trip in the South Island.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Tony and family. MD



Freda Rosa Wilson

1 February 1936 – 20 June 2018

Freda was the only daughter of the late Frank and Rosa Nolly. She had two older brothers, the late Frank and the late Len. Her father, Frank, was one of four brothers who immigrated to New Zealand after World War 1. They were young, brave and adventurous, spoke little or no English and knew very little about where they were heading. Her mother, Rosa, was engaged to Frank and followed him to New Zealand a couple of years later. She was in her teens and left behind her parents and three sisters; she never saw her mother again and saw her sisters only once.

Freda was born in 1936 and was raised on the family farm on Bird Road, Stratford. She and her brothers attended Bird Road School and the Nolly clan spent much time together. When Freda finished high school she got a job at the Stratford Shoe Store. It was here she first met Colin – tall, dark, handsome, genuine and dependable. Freda was genuine Swiss, superbly crafted and Colin was a man who appreciated quality and precision. They married in 1958 and settled on the Wilson family farm in Mahoe (just out of Stratford). They



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| Delegate | Peter Ehrler, 46 Wesley Ave, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310 Ph 06 753 3441. Email: peter.ehrler@swissonline.ch |
| Deputy Delegate | Peter Canziani, 30 Horekiekie St, Turangi 3334 Ph 07 386 7775. Email: canziape@gmail.com |

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| Auckland | Daniela Bossard, 3C/28 Stanwell Street, Parnell, Auckland 1052 Ph 027 527 5835, Email: daniela.bossard@swiss.org.nz |
| Hamilton | Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: Anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz |
| Taranaki | Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD24, Stratford 4394 Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz |
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made life-long friends in the Mahoe community and joined various clubs and organisations in the district. Freda was very proud of her Swiss heritage and they were members of the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years. She read every issue of the Helvetia magazine from cover to cover! They attended many Swiss dances and both Colin and Freda loved dancing. They were blessed with two daughters, Maree and Sheryl.

The Wilson's was an open house – everyone was welcome, at any time of day. They provided great hospitality and food was Freda's forte. They loved music, cards and pool. Freda loved people and enjoyed a chat, cared for others, was correct but friendly, conservative and frugal.

Colin passed away in 2011 and Freda missed him dearly. The day after Freda passed away would have been her and Colin's 60th wedding anniversary. She surely would have wanted to celebrate it with him – it was time to go.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Maree, Sheryl and families.