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Word from President and Editor

Hello Everyone,

Like Hans, the daily rain is helping me to catch up with some of my scheduled jobs. In this edition we have some more interesting and informative articles.

I am pleased with the response to the Life Stories/Experiences but admit that I am running out of these. I invite you all to be brave and share your stories.

That said I must say that I am pleased with all the team and I have brought to you, the reader.

Presently I am intrigued by the questions presented to want-to-be citizens of Switzerland. The citizenship changes in January truly herald a different time and I will hopefully have some articles re this in next few magazines. Just to give you a taster would you know the answer to this question:

What are the names of your local cinemas?... yes really!!!!

On a more local note... it was wonderful to catch up with some long time Taranaki Swiss friends while attending the Swiss Society AGM. I always enjoy this area for it takes me back in time and reminds me that no matter how much time one spends in each other's' company during the years it is always a delight to meet up again and relive old times. At the AGM Richard and I enjoyed taking to the dance floor to a live band!!! Thank you to Taranaki for hosting the AGM in such a convivial manner!!!

I am presently juggling articles for the next 2 issues in the hopes of getting it all together before 5 of my team members leave the shores of New Zealand. (At the time of writing they were still all here but by the time you read this most will have departed on their various directions!!)

I wish you all well for the next few months and hope that unlike me you survive the winter months without being laid low with the sniffles.

Regards

Heidi

Dear Friends

It's a cold afternoon at my place and what better thing to tackle than the report for the next Helvetia.

Can I just take this opportunity again to thank all the people who attended the AGM of the Swiss Society in Taranaki and also thank the Taranaki Club for putting on a good show and being a fabulous host. Overall I think the meeting went well and I thank you for your support.



I would like to pick up on a couple of topics arising from the meeting because I feel they are of great importance to us all and we really do need your input and opinion on them.

ONE: your committee has been working at overhauling the Society Constitution and Sports Rules but we failed to realise just how much work this created for us and the clubs. In the end there was no, or late, feedback from the clubs and we made the decision to postpone adoption of any amendments to the Constitution and Sports Rules. We did pass a resolution to attend to this over the coming months with the intention of having an agreed revised version ready for presentation at the next AGM.

Please have a look at these documents on line on our website under "links" and have your say. (www.swiss.org.nz/links/)

Two: We discussed the progress made on issues such as AHV, AIA and other topics that were discussed with various sources back in Switzerland. All this correspondence went either through our Embassy or our CSA Oceania representatives. Our representatives are Peter Ehrler and Peter Canziani.

You probably know all this and that's great, but I wanted you to be aware of the association we have with the representatives in Australia and there are 4 over there. Through the closer contacts we now have we have a stronger voice at the conferences in Switzerland or simply when communicating with the OSA in Switzerland. (Organisation for Swiss Abroad)

The CSA Oceania organises a get together with Swiss club presidents and key club members every 2 or so years. I think we took part for the first time two years ago in Melbourne. You may not see a benefit yet from this closer association but I can assure you it is a huge help to have more people pushing our concerns. This year's conference is in Sydney and several members of our clubs will attend again and we are now looking at holding the following meeting in Auckland sometime late 2020 or early 2021

Please have a look under www.csa-oceania.org for more information

I do hope you will all have a very good winter here. We are off to Europe to enjoy some warmth, visit family and friends and explore places we haven't seen before. (Never got that saying early enough: Don't leave home before you see the country!)

Till next time

President