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Word from Vice President and Editor

Editor's Ramblings

Can you believe it we are 2/3rds through 2018 already.

Anna in her report speaks of internet and the speed of information exchange it provides compared to 30 years ago.

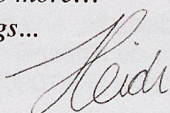
I personally love the immediacy and ease of use and I think it has also sped up our lives and brought the world's happenings, the good and the bad, into our living rooms almost as they happen.

This issue makes me think of my late aunt, Maria Louise Bartlett who passed away aged 94 nearly 2 years ago. She worked in Territet in the Grand Hotel in her 20s. She came from a family of eight girls; three of whom are still alive: two of them live in Morges. I am sure those two must enjoy the annual tulip festival featured on our front page.

When I read about the changes in requirements to becoming a Swiss Citizen I am led to wonder how many of those who were born and have been living in Switzerland all their lives would be able to answer some of the questions!! Page 5's article states that one of the questions, according to Le News, asks whether Ursula Andress is on Swiss coins. I say no more...

Enough of my ramblings...

Enjoy.




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Kia Ora everyone

Most of the Helvetia team is away now, including Hans our president and I, as your Vice President, have the pleasure of presenting the report for this issue.



I have just come home from attending a conference, in Hamilton, with about 100 other Holiday Park operators. The support with almost uninhibited exchange of tips for the trade was formidable. So important to step away from your busy small home business and hear from like-minded people. Changing trends in technology that can make it necessary to adjust the way we are doing things; I will be installing a high tech eftpos machine next week that can process specific Chinese pay cards! Guests are expecting rooms with near Hotel standards. A professional bed maker gave me a quick demonstration on folding sheets as well as creating the perfect bed corner. I am energized to modernize, tidy up and systemize!!!

My annual Swiss Holiday was early June. I took a trip to the summit of Mt Rigi with my father to see a 1 ton rock from China, a cultural exchange monument put there for visitors to see. On that day the scenic display of Swiss Alps was hidden in the fog with only the metallic panorama plate indicating what it would have been like.

As Hans mentioned in his last letter, the constitution still needs some adjustments and is available on our website for you to comment on (www.swiss.org.nz/links/)

Before we load a revised version from the one we published in April, I am keen to get your opinion on two issues:

1. The distribution of Swiss branch club funds and assets in the case of a liquidation. The question here is, should these funds and assets automatically be taken over by the Society until such time when a similar club is being formed or would it be an accepted option to transfer these to some other Society or Societies within the Dominion of New Zealand that have objectives similar to the objectives of the Club in that region.
2. The age after which children cease to be included with a family membership. We recommend the age of 20.

Please get back to me with your views.

I do hope you will enjoy this issue of your Helvetia. One article sprang to my attention. The article about Territet and it being the first place in CH to have that great invention - the telephone. The way we communicate has come a long way.

What happened to the good old letter? I asked one of my young staff members to give me her thoughts:

There is so much work around the letter-- getting a stamp, having the right fitting envelope, the walk to the next post office as well as being at the right time at the post office. The same applies to the person who is sending you a response. In the end you're waiting for an answer for a simple question probably way too long. Social media has replaced all this. We can share interesting newspapers articles or maybe a good recipe at the push of a button. We can post funny pictures or enjoy entertaining videos. Or simply kill some time if we lie in bed and our mind is keeping us awake. (M. Muenninghoff)

Food for thought. I hope you all enjoy this issue.

I wish you all well Anna (Vice president)