

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 85 (2019)
Heft: [1]

Vorwort: Word from vice president and editor
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Word from Vice President and Editor

Dear Readers,

I am just putting up my Christmas Tree, the date is 17/12/2018 and yet I write: Welcome to 2019.

I hope you all enjoyed a long holiday and are ready to see and experience what 2019 has to offer.

In this issue we have a wonderful article from Susie Wood who happily took on the task of interviewing Peter Deutsche, the designer of the Helvetia, but more importantly, until this year, our Honorary Consul in Auckland.

We also have an article on At Violinos, the musical farm which Richard and I came across unexpectedly while visiting friends in Ashburton in 2017. Ruth Hall is an accomplished musician who has just been invited to attend a music quartet school in Boston beginning of July 2019.

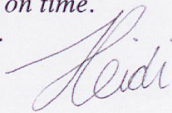
I am thrilled at the amount of articles we are getting from our readers and Swiss people throughout NZ. There are 2 already ready for April/May issue. Keep them coming. !!!

Cricket in Switzerland: who would have thought? Perhaps our White Ferns will one day play the Zurich Sapphires!

In case you are off to Switzerland in the coming Northern Summer we have an article on epic places that not even the Swiss know about, so put them on a list of "must see".

Back to the sentence I began with... it shows how far ahead The Helvetia Team has to plan to get your issues in your mail/email boxes on time. Now back to my tree...

Cheers and enjoy !!!



Dear members

It's a few days before Christmas 2018 and I was reminded to write a few words for the next Helvetia.

Did you enjoy the last edition? There were lots of new topics and some interesting overseas experiences. I thought it was a good read.

The two months leading up to Christmas were very busy in this household. We had a lot of catching up to do with family and friends but sprucing up the garden and going to Whitianga was high on the list too. In between all this, we had two of my nieces staying with us at different times and the second one came with husband and their four and a half year old twins. It was a wakeup call for us retired people and it really caught up on us by the time they left but we enjoyed the change.

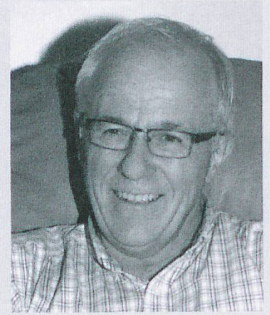
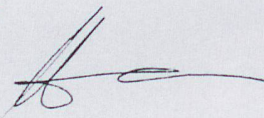
While all this went on, I actually had to do some work towards the 2020 CSA Oceania conference that we are hosting. We now have an organising committee, we have a venue and activities pencilled in and next year we will have to tackle this task in earnest. One of the key tasks will be the fundraising for this event and the Swiss Society will play a key role in this. We hope to get some support from the individual clubs too and we will try and get support from other corners.

As you can see there is a bit of work ahead for us and we will tackle this during 2019. I will update you on this project as we go along.

By the time you read this, I hope you all have had a great Christmas and a good holiday and I will let you know how our family holiday went next time. It's the first time we will have celebrated Christmas at the beach.

Enjoy the summer

Your President



The federal council as of 1 January 2019, l to r: Alain Berset, Ueli Maurer, Simonetta Sommaruga, Guy Parmelin, Ignazio Cassis, Viola Amherd and Karin Keller-Sutter