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**Autor:** Wehrle, Heidi / Vetsch, Hans

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## President and Editor Reports

Hello Readers,

Well the year is running away - we have our National Day just around the corner and I am sure many of you will be celebrating with your clubs and/or friends.

I am excited to report that I have my first article from a young Swiss descendant, Melissa, the daughter of our treasurer Sandrine Smith, very exciting. You can meet her on page 5.

Also in this issue there are some other exciting stories and articles from other Hamilton Swiss Club members: Belinda Cooper meets a "Swiss Cycling Grossi" whose adventures make me want to learn to ride a bike!!!!.... believe me this would be my last fear conquered: I have bungy jumped, parachuted, been helicoptered to an American hospital, inseminated cows etc but ride a bike...no way!!!

Then Anita Zuber tells us all about the Aaerschlucht a place she and Walter visited in 2018.

The Furka Steam Railway, Milking Shed to Security Ink are great reads as well.

John Webber the first known Swiss to set foot in New Zealand is waiting for you on page 9 right next to this year's Swiss Pro Patria Stamps.

A big welcome to the Christchurch Swiss Club with some news about 2018 celebrations and events still to come this year.

That's enough of my rambling...get a coffee..add some schnapps, helps keep away those winter bugs, and have a read through another great *Helvetia* issue.

Cheers,



### Apology to Joan Waldvogel

The group photo on page 8 of June/July issue should have been headed

**40th Anniversary of Swiss Immigrants to New Zealand 1979** - it identifies the people in it as the group who came just before World War 11.

## Dear members

Winter is upon us again and with it passes the third year of our caretaking of the Society affairs. We had our AGM at the recent Queen's Birthday weekend in Wellington and it certainly confirmed the arrival of the cold season.



I have to say, driving back on Monday was just fantastic. The central plateau presented itself in the best possible way with blue sky, an overall coating of snow and the odd cloud floating high in the sky.

Can I just thank the Wellington club for being great hosts of the event. At the AGM we finally approved an amendment to the Society constitution which will hopefully bring us closer to do, what it says in there, at club level. The AHV issue was raised again and some significant progress has been made at parliament level in New Zealand and I am sure you will read more about this in Peter Ehrler's report.

Fostering friendship among the Swiss communities is our aim and I think this year we made some significant progress. The Oceania connections and the upcoming Oceania conference next year opens up new friendship avenues across the ditch. Just recently we also managed to convince some of our friend from the Christchurch Swiss community to join the Society. I hope we can strengthen this relationship with open dialogue and maybe the odd visit at Swiss club functions up and down the country. Welcome to the Christchurch committee and all members down there. Great stuff all round and it is now up to us individuals to use these newly found opportunities.

As you may know, the annual interclub sports competition always takes place on this weekend and I am delighted to report that the Hamilton club took the trophy off Taranaki for the year. Thank you Taranaki for being great competitors. I have to mention their outstanding shooting results with 2 perfect scores of 80 out of 80. (That's 8 bulls eyes in a row from two competitors! Almost unheard of. But Hamilton won the cards, bowls and shot-put event and ran away as winners.)

Looking ahead, we will be busy with, firstly the magazine (Heidi's baby - and doesn't she look after it well. Thank you Heidi). We will also start organising the CSA Oceania conference and later in the year we will have to communicate with Taranaki members to plan a smooth transition of the Swiss Society "Baton" to Taranaki. There is never a dull moment around here. Thank you to all the hardworking committee members.

I hope you all have an enjoyable winter, maybe a trip to a warmer spot somewhere or just stay put and turn the heater up a little.

Good health and happiness to you all

