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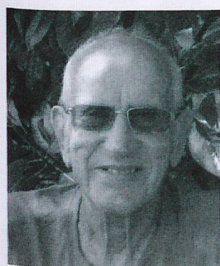
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Obituary



Franz Häslì

1 October 1939 – 19 February 2019

Franz was born and grew up with his older brother Fritz in the town of Winterthur, Switzerland. One of the highlights of his childhood was the Boy Scouts where he made lifelong friends. After his school years in the mid-1950s Franz started his apprenticeship as a carpenter in Ossingen, Zurich, and qualified three years later. It was hard work for a city Boy with heavy lifting and ten hour workdays. He felt himself lucky to have learned valuable methods of the trade of the era before power tools arrived. His boss had only a hand cart and no car. In 1961 Franz followed his brother Fritz to New Zealand. He worked in the Matamata Cheese Factory until 1968 when he started as a Boiler Man at the Waharoa Milkpowder Factory. In 1971 he met and married Maria Guentensperger also from Switzerland. Later the arrival of three children made his family complete. Monica was born in 1972, Astrid in 1974 and Martin in 1975. Even though Franz never worked in his profession in New Zealand he always had a project going like building his own house on Waiheke Island. A new venture in 1984 was moving his family to Waiheke Island to buy the Rocky Bay General Store. It was a steep learning curve and an unforgettable life experience. After running the store for eleven years, Franz worked for Placemakers on the Island until 2004 when he retired. After twenty-three years on the Island in 2007 it was back to Matamata where he lived for ten years before moving to New Plymouth in 2017 to be closer to his family. Tramping was a big passion of his and with four grandchildren (two in Switzerland) and a son in Perth, WA, Franz could enjoy numerous trips abroad. But in early 2018 a dark cloud on the horizon in the form of a serious illness and then a fall with complications claimed his life all too soon.

Loved and missed very much by Maria and family.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Maria and family on their sad loss.

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	David Vogelsanger, Ambassador
President	Hans Vetsch Ph 07 855-3294 or 021 658-733. Email: Hans.vetsch@swiss.org.nz
Secretary	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: Anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz
Vice President	Othmar Hebler Phone 06 278 6878. Email: Othmar.hebler@swiss.org.nz
Editor	Heidi Wehrle Phone 07 834 9286. Email: Editor@swiss.org.nz
Treasurer	Sandrine Smith Ph 021 418 695. Email: treasurer@swiss.org.nz
Riflemaster	Manuela Epp Phone 07 210 0982 or 0210 8483029. Email: Manuela.epp@swiss.org.nz

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

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 Herekietie St, Turangi 3334 Ph 07 386 7775. Email: canziap@gmail.com

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

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
Wellington	Trudi Fill-Weidmann, 36B Chamberlain Road, Karori, Wellington 6012 Ph 021 565617. Email: wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com
Christchurch contact	Matthias Damm. Email: mn.damm45@gmail.com

Swiss Government Representatives

Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Custom House Quay, Wellington 6140 Email: wellington@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington. Phone 04 472 1593
Consulate of Switzerland	Adrian Blaser, 157B Colwill Road, Massey, Auckland 0614 Ph 09 281 3272 or 021 232 79 98. Email: auckland@honrep.ch

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