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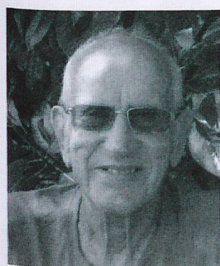
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Obituary



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.

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