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President and Editor Reports

Hello Readers,

In the last report I was delighted to talk about the article by Melissa, I hope you all enjoyed it.

In this issue we have an article from Amy a kiwi school student who was on a school exchange in Geneva. It is always interesting to read about the experiences of these young ones. The uniform/no uniform debate often is discussed here in NZ and Amy's "I was surprised to see such variety from casual lounge and sportswear to high end/branded clothes" was a sentence that stayed in my mind. Perhaps we uniform lovers, which includes me, have it wrong and the "brand" battle that I perceive would arise may be a fallacy. What do you the readers think?

Enclaves/exclaves? I think I spent the last 65 plus years under a rock, I found this very interesting, decided I wanted it published and reassure the readers that I have now googled, searched Wikipedia and gleaned a bit more information. Interesting to see that NZ has enclaves that are exclaves at the same time!!! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_enclaves_and_exclaves.

Our Hamilton 1st Aug was another successful day and to have the Ambassador there to show his appreciation to Hans Vetsch, presently Swiss Society of NZ President and Herbert Staheli Hamilton Swiss Club President, was appreciated. Ambassador Vogelsanger had the guests enthralled as he reflected on his time here in NZ, his experiences here and what his thoughts were regarding the future of CH and NZ. He most certainly brought the Swiss man in the street and the Swiss Embassy much closer and we hope this will continue with our incoming Ambassador. That's all from me, grab your café schnapps and delve into this issue.

Cheers,

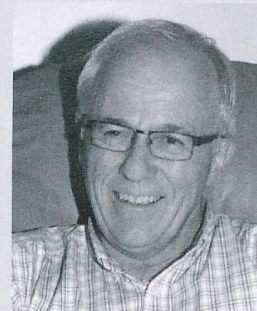


Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.

John F. Kennedy

Dear members

Another two months have passed and with it our AGM in Wellington. By the time you read this winter will be gone too, we hope. It was great to catch up with a lot of members down there in Wellington including some new faces. I am not sure whether you all are aware that this will be the last year for the Hamilton team to look after the running of the Swiss Society and the publishing of the Helvetia magazine. Othmar Hebler was appointed as the new Vice President of the society at the AGM. The actual handover will commence sometime next year.



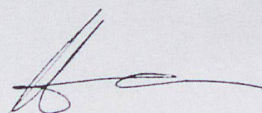
In July I attended the farewell party at the Taranaki Swiss Club for our Ambassador, David Vogelsanger. The weather was awful but the atmosphere was great, well done Taranaki team. Only 2 weeks later we had David here for a last visit for our 1. August and Swiss Jungbuerger Celebration After this David had plans to visit 3 Swiss communities in the South Island before leaving us. Talking about South Island, you would have seen the report from the Christchurch Swiss club in the last Helvetia. We have a handful of new Society members down there. A warm welcome to them all, from us all and we hope there will be some interactions at some time. We can look them up on Facebook or Google by simply punching in Christchurch Swiss Club.

On a different note, I would like to assure you that Peter Ehrler is working tirelessly for us on the AHV issues and some important progress has been made, just look it up in his reports.

We have also made some progress with the organisation of the Oceania Swiss Presidents Conference to be held in Auckland later on next year. The venue has been confirmed, some overseas guest speakers have been approached and other issues will be tackled soon.

Enjoy spring time although I didn't think winter was too bad, but then I had a week to recharge my battery in Samoa. A lovely place to visit, the people are so friendly and the pace of life is very sociable indeed.

Till next time
Keep well





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