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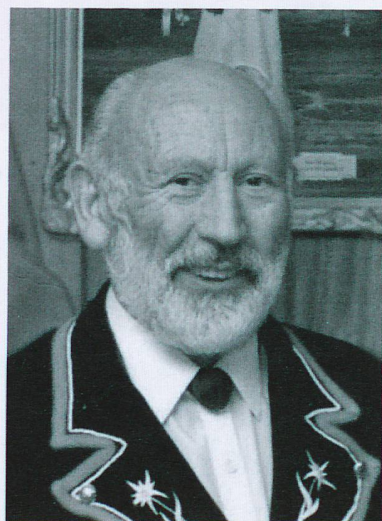
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Obituary



Ernst Denzler

1927 – 2018

Ernst Denzler was born in Rapperswil, Switzerland on the 19th June, 1927. He was the youngest of three children and did his apprenticeship as a blacksmith and was a (hufschmied) in the army.

At the age of 24, he was eager to see what the world had to offer and planned to emigrate to Sydney, Australia, with a friend, but before he left he met a young Swiss woman by the name of Barbara (Babette). He was quite taken with her, and she with him! They dated briefly & got to know each other a little better before Ernst left for Australia.

Ernst sailed to Australia in 1951, where he landed with 5 pounds in his pocket. By the end of the first week he had a job, somewhere to live and a community to belong to thanks to his sponsor family and life continued on.

A year later in 1952, a young woman named Barbara followed him to Australia, they became naturalised Aussies and they were married on the 25th October, 1952. Ernst always valued his Swiss roots and traditions and became active in the Swiss community becoming a member of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney, where he served as Vice President among many other roles over the years. Ernst spent the following years growing a family with Barbara having three children, Ernest, Chris & Jacqui.

Ernst & Barbara started their own business with a small milk run which soon exploded into something huge when the Sydney Markets were built as this became included in their run, so were very busy working hard in a lucrative business for many years. During these years they made many trips back to Switzerland to catch up with family and friends and also participating in Jodler Fests.

Ernst was a keen gardener and his backyard was full of beautiful flowering plants and bonsais

In 2007, they again decided to emigrate, to New Zealand with a bit more than 5 pounds in their pocket where their daughter Jacqui, husband Dani & daughter Maddy lived. Here at the age of 79 they built a new house and once again lived happily for 10 years.

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During this time Ernst enjoyed being a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club where he spent many a night having fun with all the Swissies there and keeping up traditions.

With his health failing, reluctantly the decision was made to sell the beautiful home overlooking Mount Taranaki & move into Jean Sandel Retirement Village in New Plymouth. He lived there together with Barbara for just over a year before he sadly passed away on 16th June, 2018. He is sadly missed by Barbara, and all his family.

Thank you to the Taranaki Swiss Club for your attendance and in particular to Othmar Hebler for playing the alphorn and Martin & Toni Hess for ushering Ernst into the funeral with the cowbells.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Ernst's family.