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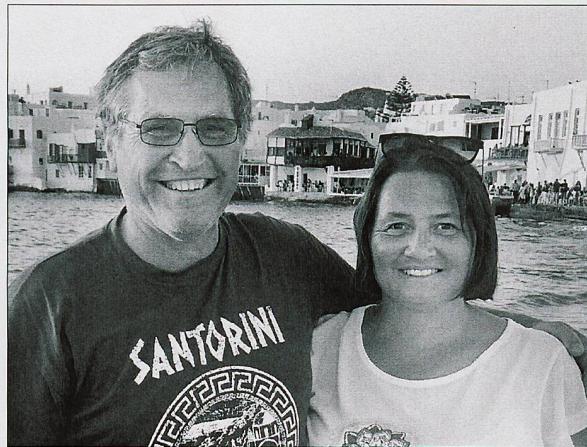
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## President's profile



Grüezi mitenand. I left my home town of Buttisholz, Lucerne and arrived in New Zealand 1979, 10 days after the Mt Erebus crash in Antarctica. I worked for Garry and Linda Hodel for a short time, before I got a job at Hotters Engineering in Eltham, where I worked for five years. After finishing at Hotters I decided to go farming.

It was here in 1987 I met Marlies, who comes from the village of Ebersecken, also in Lucerne, when she was visiting New Zealand on a farming holiday. Marlies helped me for three months on the farm and she is still here on her holiday!

We got married in the Stratford Catholic Church in 1988 and have a daughter and two sons. They are all grown up and we now have three grandchildren, which keeps us very busy.

We have both been involved in the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years, I as the president since 2005 and Marlies joined the committee in 2003.

*Othmar*



## Editor's note

Hello! My name is Terese Orchard, and I have the pleasure of becoming the new 'captain of the ship' (so to speak) for the next four years while Taranaki have their turn at producing the Helvetia magazine.

I have been a part of the Taranaki Swiss Club since I was a baby. My dad immigrated to New Zealand from Zug in 1975 and eventually settled in Hawera. Around Taranaki, Swiss immigrants seemed to find fellow Swiss immigrants and sooner or later found themselves at the Swiss Club catching up at the annual picnic or fondue evening. I loved these occasions as a child, and with so many other families with similar aged children we always had such a great time. Whether it was at the picnic and us girls (being tough like the boys) would put on the schwingen pants for a wrestle after the real competition, or running around the clubrooms (after eating so many sausages) till we were asleep on our feet. There are so many great memories.

Now days, my husband Damian and I get to bring our three children to these events, and the all the children I used to play with are now parents too, and so starts the next generation of Taranaki Swiss Club members and their memories!

Speaking of children, you will see in this issue we have brought back the kids page to help keep them engaged in the magazine as well. Along with this there are a few new additions in our Helvetia and we hope you will enjoy reading them as much as we enjoyed putting them together.

I'm very grateful to have a great bunch of people to help keep the ship sailing in the right direction. From those that were here last time around providing great insight, as well as many new helpers, we hope we can keep you well informed and entertained during our time.

One thing I know for sure is that the more articles I read from others holidays and overseas adventures, the longer my 'to do and see' list grows! Hopefully in the not too distant future, I will be able to cross some of them off!

I wish you all a happy Swiss National Day and I hope you all find time to celebrate in some way. Until next time...

*Terese*

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