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Introducing Taranaki's Helvetia committee

ADVERTISING / DESIGN / SUB-EDITING: Amanda Sherman

Hi. I am Amanda and I will be working with Taranaki's committee to bring you the Helvetia every two months.

I have been a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years, following in the footsteps of my parents, Kelly and Rosanna Sherman (von Hospenthal). Grandad was from Arth (Schwyz) and Gran's family were from Baar and Engelberg. We were raised to be keen Jass players and there's a family battle (that has been going for years) every Sunday.

Design and publishing have been my passion for many years – I started straight out of high school at the local newspaper/commercial printers and have been hooked ever since. I have my own design and print broking business which allows me the flexibility to work from home while wrangling three crazy kids.

TREASURER:

Marianne Drummond

Hello, my name is Marianne (daughter of Ruedi and Lisette Benkert) and I will be the Society's new treasurer.



Together with my husband Adrian, and our boys Daniel and Richard, we are actively involved in the Taranaki Swiss Club where I am the current secretary/treasurer. I am very grateful to Adrian and the boys for the support they give me, assisting at all events and functions.

We farm in Midhirst, grazing dairy heifers and raising Herefords, having given up milking cows two years ago. I enjoy participating in our Swiss singing and entertainment group with my accordion, and love playing tennis both competitively and socially.

We hope that you continue to enjoy reading the Helvetia magazine and look forward to bringing you some interesting and informative articles.

Cover image:

The Mary of the Snow Chapel is a landmark of Bettmeralp, in the Valais. The chapel was completed in 1697, however, prior to the beautiful holy building you see today, a chapel dedicated to Saint James once stood in the very same place. Only Christian weddings are allowed in the church, however, free wedding ceremonies are permitted on the meadow in front of the chapel.

Picturesquely located on a hill in the centre of the village, with the beautiful alps as its backdrop, it really does create a classical picture-postcard scene from Switzerland. Check it out next time you are there, you won't be disappointed!



Sonja Werder

Hi. I'm a dairy farmer and have an almost two year old son. Back in 2010 I spent a year in Switzerland working, travelling and getting to know all my relatives and the culture and absolutely loved it.

I have been a part of the Taranaki Swiss Club for as long as I can remember and recently took on a role in the committee.

Over the next four years I will be trying my hardest to have some good entertainment for the kids in every issue and helping out anywhere I'm needed.

Markus Kiser

I was born in Oberrueti, Canton Aargau. In 1962, my family immigrated to New Zealand when I was just 18 months old. My parents were farmers during their working life and in 1971 they bought their own dairy farm east of Eltham in South Taranaki.

From 1998, I was in partnership with my parents on another farm and worked there until 2011. In that same year, my parents and I moved to Hawera where we bought a wonderful home and property with a superb 180 degree view of Mt Taranaki.

It is now more than 20 years since I joined the committee of the Taranaki Swiss Club, as well as being the smallbore rifle master for the majority of that time. For a period of 10 years I was the Swiss Society Rifle Master for Taranaki and Wellington; so am more than happy to assist the Helvetia editorial team in that area for the next four years. My main jobs will be supplying the results from New Zealand's Swiss Club shooting events and distributing medals to all of the winners.

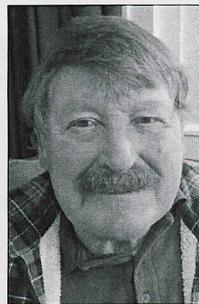


VICE PRESIDENT:

Zeno von Hospenthal

Hi. I'm Zeno.

I'm a retired pedigree Ayrshire dairy farmer (of 50+ years) and have been a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club all my life.



Nothing makes me happier than music and have played the accordion for the Taranaki Swiss Club for more years than I can count. I like to keep busy and have always enjoyed gardening.

Dear Society members:

The cost of printing and posting the Helvetia is continually on the rise. Changing to an electronic version of the Helvetia would reduce the cost to the Society greatly. If you are happy to change to an electronic version, please advise Marianne, email marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz

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Introducing Taranaki's Helvetia committee

Verena Kull

I was born in Switzerland many moons ago, in Brugg, Aargau. After high school, I went to teachers' training college.

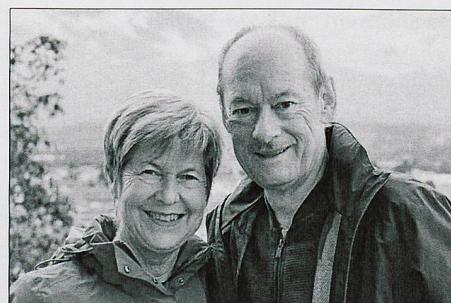


After nearly three years of teaching, my then boyfriend and I decided to go on an overseas adventure. This brought us to Auckland in December 1973. From there we travelled by plane to New Plymouth, and then by bus to Hawera to be met by Phyl and Ted Meier.

Initially we were only going to be in New Zealand for 2 years, but after 18 months we decided to stay. And as one says, the rest is history. We married and had two children, Rachel and Daniel.

In 1998 we moved to Australia because of farming commitments. The move was supposed to be for five years, which turned into 13. While over the ditch, we firstly went dairy farming, then had a go at rearing youngstock for the export market. In 2006 we had the chance of buying a B&B in Cobden, which had always been my dream.

In 2011 we returned to New Zealand, mainly to be closer to our two children and grandchildren, and now we are retired and live in New Plymouth. We still go Australia twice a year and every few years we travel back to our homeland to visit friends and family. Generally we just enjoy life! We enjoy the trips with the Taranaki Swiss Club and hope that even Covid-19 cannot put a stop to these.



Richard and Lynley Wagner

Richard left Switzerland in early 1974 and settled down in Hamilton. For five years he worked as an aircraft mechanic at NZ Aerospace Industries, where he built up flying hours as a commercial pilot and went on to become a flying instructor. While living there he met Lynley, a Kiwi from Auckland, who also worked at Aerospace, as secretary for the marketing manager.

Richard then worked as a full-time pilot for The Kingdom of Tonga, and then Fiji where they frequently visited the outer islands.

Richard and Lynley married in Auckland in 1983 and in 1987 we decided to settle back in NZ and moved to Wellington, where their son Marcus was born.

After many years of working in the Pacific Islands, they decided to leave the palm trees and move to Switzerland to be with Richard's family.

Lynley learned High German and Swiss German (Bärndütsch) and several years later worked as an exam administrator at the Cambridge Examinations Centre, where she developed many skills on the computer.

After 25 years of living in beautiful Switzerland and visiting many places in Europe, they decided to retire in NZ.



John and Margaret Bishop

John's Swiss heritage comes from his mother's side of the family – she was an Engelberger, and her mother a Sattler. As a child John spent a lot of time at his Granny and Pop Engelberger's, starting his interest and involvement in all things Swiss.

For the last 40 years or so he has been a Taranaki Swiss Club committee member and is currently responsible for the maintenance of the club grounds. He enjoys the singing group, keglen, shooting and recently began trying his hand at Jassen with varying success!

Margaret has also been a long time member with no Swiss connections; her Dad being born in Northern Ireland. She has also helped out on many occasions and together they have made some wonderful friendships within the Club. They are the proud parents of two daughters and a son and have three lovely granddaughters.

Johnny is to be part of the mailing team and Margie will be proof reading.



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