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Autor: Orchard, Terese

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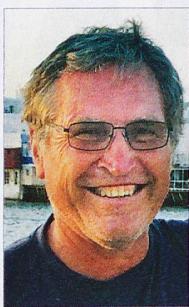
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From the President



Greetings to you all.

As president, I would like to give you my perspective over the next few issues, as to why I am so happy to be part of this great organisation. The New Zealand Swiss Clubs are social clubs, where as many other Swiss Clubs around the world are business clubs.

When I joined the Taranaki Swiss Club in 1980, the world was still a big place. You could still send telegrams at your local post office, a phone call to Switzerland had to be pre-booked and cost \$8 a minute. So many of us sent Aerogramme letters (that fine blue paper) and it took a minimum of 28 days to get an answer if the other person replied straight away. The television turned off at 10pm and Goodnight Kiwi put us to bed.

When you went to a social gathering, you bought a ticket that included all your drinks and supper for the evening (sometimes they almost mopped up more beer from the floor than was drunk!).

We listened to the Swiss Radio at 10.30pm for 30 minutes; in my case I set the radio halfway up the wall in the corner of the lounge, just to hear a snippet of news from Switzerland, and a few lines of Swiss music. You waited for visitors from back home, as travelling wasn't as popular then as now, (before COVID-19 arrived of course) and much more expensive.

Due to my limited knowledge of English, the Swiss Club was my main social focal point, and the Swiss music, trachtentanz, fine food and good friends all combined to make an easier start for me in my adoptive country. So, as you can see, the Swiss Club, for me, has always been very important and I aim to foster the Swiss culture and traditions and promote them to our future generations.

Bis zum nächsten Mal

Othmar

Editor's note



As I sit here reading through the articles for this issue, feeling like the last issue only just left my computer, I can't believe we are nearly in October. Where have the last two months gone? In fact, where has the year gone!?

Each month feels like it goes by faster and faster. One minute we are celebrating the beginning of the new year and the next we're putting gifts under the Christmas tree again.

But life is super busy for a lot of people these days, with work and family life, making days and weeks blend into each other at times.

Even thinking about my own day with three young children (and one old one) sometimes seems a bit mad, but I wouldn't have it any other way! The daily bottle feeding lambs, packing lunches, dropping kids at school, groceries, doing accounts, writing articles, shifting cows, picking up kids, sorting dinner, and finally story time, makes the long awaited peace and quiet, feet up with a cuppa (or a wine) time that much more enjoyable!

As I read through Othmar's report and the story of the Kuriger family and the simpler times they remember, I wondered, did time go by just as fast for them all those years ago? It must have, but perhaps just in a different way. I mean, I cannot begin to imagine the school rush every morning if I had to get up, light a coal range, fetch the eggs and milk a cow to have breakfast and a cup of coffee!

With those thoughts in mind, I urge you to take a moment out of your busy day, make a drink, put your feet up and enjoy the fantastic reads in this issue!

Until next time,

Terese

SWISS SOCIETY OF NZ INC

Patron | Michael Winzap, Ambassador

President | Othmar Hebler

P 06 278 6878

E Othmar.hebler@swiss.org.nz

Secretary | Marlies Hebler

P 06 278 6878

E secretary@swiss.org.nz

Vice President | Zeno von Hespenthal

P 06 764 6515

Treasurer | Marianne Drummond

P 06 762 8757

E Marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz

Riflemaster | Markus Kiser

P 06 278 6266

E secretary@swiss.org.nz

Editor | Terese Orchard

P 027 365 5795

E editor@swiss.org.nz

Advertising/Design | Amanda Sherman

E printreadynz@gmail.com

DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

Delegate | Peter Ehrler

46 Wesley Ave, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310

P 06 753 3441

E peter.ehrler@swissonline.ch

Deputy Delegate | Peter Canziani

30 Herekiekie St, Turangi 3334

P 07 386 7775

E canziape@gmail.com

SWISS GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Embassy of Switzerland

Level 12, Maritime Towers,

10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington 6140

E wellington@eda.admin.ch

W www.eda.admin.ch/wellington

P 04 472 1593

Consulate of Switzerland

157B Colwill Rd, Massey, Auckland 0614

P 09 281 3272 or 021 232 7998

E auckland@honrep.ch

SWISS CLUB SECRETARIES

Auckland | Lisa Tobler

113A Glendhu Rd, Bayview, Auckland 0629

P 021 421 980

E lisa.tobler@swiss.org.nz

Hamilton | Anita Zuber

Po Box 24061, Hamilton 3253

P 027 498 5170

E anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz

Taranaki | Marianne Drummond

508 Salisbury Rd, RD24, Stratford 4394

P 06 762 8757

E Marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz

Wellington | Trudi Fill-Weidmann

36B Chamberlain Rd, Karori, Wellington 6012

P 021 565 617

E wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com

Christchurch | Matthias Damm

E mn.damm45@gmail.com

www.swiss.org.nz