

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 59 (1993)
Heft: [6]

Vorwort: Editorial
Autor: Sigerist, Henry

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 14.03.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

EDITORIAL

For children to go to school and being taught in a different language from the one they speak at home seems to have become a big issue in New Zealand. The problem has existed for a long time with Maori and other Polynesian children starting off in Primary School without knowing a word of English.

Lately, the focus has been on Asian children who arrive here with their parents and who have no knowledge of English either when entering the New Zealand schooling system.

The problem does not lie with the

children themselves, but mainly with the general attitude of the average New Zealander and of the education system in particular. For them English is the only language they will ever know and therefore, in their view, the only language they will ever accept and consider as worthwhile and necessary to get through life. By deduction, anyone who does not know English must therefore be inferior, suspect and kept at a certain distance. No doubt, many of you Swiss people who have emigrated to New Zealand either as children, or as adults for that matter, have gone through this experience at one stage or the other of your lives.

For the Swiss, to see children being brought up bi- or even tri-lingual is nothing exceptional because it has happened so often over so many generations that the matter hardly ever makes headline news anymore. In this respect, like in so many other areas, New Zealand has still a lot of growing up to do. The New Zealand schooling system is still based on the idea that everyone only speaks English at the onset. Foreign languages are what they are: foreign, and therefore they should only be taught at a later stage (when it is much harder to absorb them) and only to those students who really want to learn them. Children are such fast learners that the original handicap of not knowing English when entering school will not last for very long. Instead of considering children who are being brought up bi-lingually by their parents as a bit weird, inferior and non-conformist, the New Zealand educational system should look at them as the fortunate ones, because they start life not with a handicap, but with an asset which they will appreciate and cherish more and more as they grow up.

It is a well known fact that people who can speak and think in several languages have in general a much better appreciation of the world around them and of other people's way of life and are therefore much more tolerant towards their fellow humans.

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: Dr. Michael von Schenck, Ambassador of Switzerland (in retirement)

PRESIDENT: Hans Fitzli, 12 Darwin Lane, Auckland, Phone: 524-8899

VICE-PRESIDENT: Peter Schüpbach, 30 Penfold Place, Auckland, Phone: 836-0493

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Carmen Gordon, 122A Waipuna Rd. East, Mt. Wellington, Auckland, Phone: 527-6249

DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

DELEGATE: Jürg Stuckli, 46 The Crescent, Roseneath, Wellington

DEPUTY DELEGATE: Marie-Therese Melville-Schöpfer, P.O. Box 69-123, Glendene, Auckland, Phone 836-1488

EDITOR: Henry Sigerist, Travelair, P.O. Box 37-335, Parnell, Auckland, Phone: 377-3285 (bus.) or 473-9011 (home), FAX 302-1099 (bus.)

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

AUCKLAND

PRESIDENT: Chris Hochuli, 30 Mawney Rd, Henderson, Phone: 838-9894

VICE-PRESIDENT: Edi Brändli, P.O. Box 40-152, Glenfield, Phone: 444-3020

SECRETARY: Annegret Wolf, 14 Ruarangi Road, Mt. Albert, Phone: 846-0736

TREASURER: Marie-Therese Melville-Schöpfer, P.O. Box 69-123, Glendene, Phone: 836-1488

CHRISTCHURCH

PRESIDENT: Walter Püntener, 47 Waiau St. Christchurch 2, Phone: 338-3371

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mattias Damm, 45 Ramahana Rd. Christchurch, Phone: 663-667

SECRETARY: Jürg Hoenger, 58 Hackthorn Rd. Christchurch 2, Phone: 332-6211

TREASURER: Werner Schibli, 72 Hawford St. Christchurch 2, Phone: 332-5525

HAMILTON

PRESIDENT: Herbert Stäheli, P.O. Box 5253, Frankton, Phone: 847-8335

VICE-PRESIDENT: Doris Worth, c/- P. E. Rust, R.D.3, Te Awamutu, Phone: 872-2636

SECRETARY: Erica Clarkin, R.D.4, Eureka, Hamilton, Phone: 824-1870

TREASURER: Beatrice Leuenberger, 44 Montgomery Cres., Hamilton, Phone: 843-7971

TARANAKI

PRESIDENT: Ruedi Dudli, Eltham Rd. R.D.29, Kaponga, Phone: 06/274-5624

VICE-PRESIDENT: Walter Seifert, Maata Rd. R.D.18, Eltham, Phone: 764-8701

SECRETARY: Doreen Schuler, Palmer Rd. P.O. Box 33, Kaponga, Phone: 764-6533

TREASURER: Ruedi Kull, Little Oeo Rd. R.D.28, Manaia, Phone: 06/274-5703

WELLINGTON

PRESIDENT: Walter Hartmann, 131 Dimock St. Titahi Bay, Phone: 236-6754

VICE-PRESIDENT: Monika Sörensen, 10 Stephen Street, Johnsonville, Phone 478-5649

SECRETARY: Christine Alderdice, 9 St. Edmunds Cres., Redwood, Tawa, Phone 232-6139

TREASURER: Ruth Messmer, 15 Fortification Rd., Seatoun, Phone: 388-6249

RIFLEMASTERS

SWISS SOCIETY: H. Scherrer, Whitemans Valley Rd. Upper Hutt, Phone: 527-9180

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB: Roy Spillman, 40 Ellis Ave. Mt. Roskill, Auckland, Phone: 626-5147 (home) or 634-4600 (bus.)

Auckland Shooting Section Secretary: Virginia Amstutz, Phone: 631-5243

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB: W. Zuber, P.O. Box 11-026, Hamilton, Phone: 856-2414

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB: Karabiner: R. Dudli, R.D.29. Kaponga, Phone: 06/274-5624

Smallbore: W. Seifert, Maata Rd. R.D.18. Eltham, Phone: 764-8701

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB: John Jordan, P.O. Box 40-999, Upper Hutt, Phone 528-8679



SERVICE

wird bei uns GROSSgeschrieben, vielleicht gerade weil wir klein (aber fein!) sind. Mit Vertrauen dürfen Sie Ihre Freunde, Verwandten und Bekannten an uns für **günstige Flugtickets** nach Neuseeland verweisen!

Zürich – Auckland – Zürich

schon ab

Fr.2160.-

Frankfurt – Auckland – Frankfurt

schon ab

Fr. 2080.-

Wichtig: Wir verfügen über fest reservierte Flugplätze auch während der Hochsaison-Monate Dezember – März! 6759

Der Spezialist für Fernreisen mit der sprichwörtlichen persönlichen Beratung!



die richtige entscheidung

Ozeania Reisen AG Badenerstrasse 12
5442 **Fislisbach**
Inh. Bruno Böckli ☎ **056 84 01 65**