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President's Report

Well, I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year, and that those of you who went on holiday had a great time. Although the weather on Christmas Day was absolutely awful (well here in Taranaki anyway), the following two weeks have been wonderful, and I am sure that a great many hay bales have been made, holidays enjoyed and suntans achieved.

One of our astute packing team members came up with the idea that perhaps we not staple the Helvetia magazine in future. Many magazines, brochures and pamphlets are now not stapled, and we thought that this would be a great idea...save time, save money, and the magazine would still be the same. What do you think? Should we not have many objections, we may try this for the March issue and see what you, our readers, think.

In December, Mum and I always do our Christmas baking together, making all the little Swiss Christmas cookies that is such a different tradition to Christmas cake in New Zealand. We make many various recipes, some old favourites and every now and then we try something new...some turn out wonderful, and are made yearly thereafter, and others...well don't turn out as anticipated. Several years ago there was a recipe in the Helvetia for little chocolate balls rolled in icing sugar...thanks to Doris and Trudy, these cookies are made yearly and are favourites of many of our friends!!! We both have husbands who have a sweet tooth, and if we don't bake them as soon as possible, several gaps are noticeable on the trays!!! Mind you they do enjoy them baked as well!!! Mum learned her lesson a good few years ago when she did her Christmas baking early...and had to start all over again to have some cookies for Christmas!!! Should anyone have any favourite Christmas cookie recipes that they would like to share, please send them to us and we will print them in the December issue of the Helvetia next year...oops, sorry, this year.

Regards
Marianne

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Obituary

Dominik Hiestand
1917 - 2002



Patron of the Taranaki Swiss Club

Dominik was born in Bach in to a big family. His father was a fisherman on the Lake of Zurich. After leaving school he took up an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker. Due to the Depression and the low wages in his trade, he looked around for something else. In 1939 Louis Ehrlar and Mrs Kaiser were on holiday in Switzerland and they were looking for new immigrants to New Zealand. Don put his name forward and in June 1939 an entire group of twenty-three new immigrants arrived in Wellington. They were then spread out to different farms in Taranaki. Don worked on several farms in Taranaki, and even went back to his trade and worked for Hardings Furniture.

In 1943 he married Laura and together they brought up a family of six. They share milked on various farms in Taranaki until 1958 when they bought their own farm in Awatuna, where he also retired.

A very loyal member of the Taranaki Swiss Club for fifty years, he served many years on the executive. During the building of our clubhouse he was a leading hand. He gave many, many hours of voluntary labour on that big project.

To all the family, our deepest sympathy. May he Rest in Peace.

RD

FACTS OF LIFE

- The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. It's speaking English that kills you!!!

Contributed by Trudi Bruhlmann

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