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Isn't it a bit weird: It is not even the middle of November, and here is the Helvetia for December and January. It doesn't feel like the end of the year yet; I haven't written my Christmas Cards yet – (ah, by the way: Don't forget to send your home-made Christmas Cards for our exhibition at the next AGM in June!) – and here I am, reflecting on 2007 as if it were over!

Well, it is always the right time to say thank you:

- Heidi, for your expertise and your flair and your hard work!
- Roland, for your words of wisdom!
- Petra, for the address labels and all the up-dating!
- Craig, for your contributions!
- Carolyn, for those pages from Bodensee!
- Sandie, for your children's pages!
- Theres, for your selection of poems!
- Paul, for your articles from Switzerland!
- Club secretaries, for all your news from the regions!

Let's hope we can keep the enthusiasm up for the next four and a half years.

A lot of 'my' Christmas articles come, almost word for word, from library books: thank you, Patrick Harding and Roger Highfield, for the books.

I tried Heidi's Christmas Stollen recipe and I am happy with the result. If you let me know when you drop in for a cup of coffee you might get a slice of it: there will be several editions of the Stollen. As to the second Christmas recipe: I haven't tried it and am not likely to try it. If you do, please let me know!

One good friend enquired about the state of my garden. Well, the weeds have become a haystack that would see a goat through winter, and I have found all the steps up onto my little hide-away place and am eagerly waiting for the

*Merry Christmas and a very
Happy New Year to you all!*

Trudi



My dear compatriots, it's the time of the year when we clean the barbecues and invite mates and friends around for an evening meal, valiantly braving the spring chill, pretending not to notice the goose bumps as we look ahead to the lazy, hazy days of summer in Wellington.

Making time for our family and friends is the best investment we can make. These are the people

who share our deepest thoughts, dreams and insecurities.

Sometimes being a friend means we have to put ourselves out.

As Marlene Dietrich was fond of saying: "It's the friends you can call at 4am that matter".

With this in mind:

I wish you all
a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

"Vergässit de Läbchueche nid"

Uf Wiederluege

Roland



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