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From the Editor

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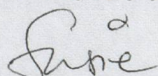
Spring is now definitely in the air. For us Auckland (and other) urbanites, it often takes a trip to the countryside to be really convinced - lets face it, spring is not spring without the many calves and lambs that dot the countryside, and the green hue that starts to spread over trees and shrubs. I hope that for the farmers among you, this spring has been successful and the weather not too inclement for calving and lambing.

Well, we are into our second Helvetia issue and I must say it's already a bit easier - not in the least part due to the excellent articles the Helvetia team has contributed. I am so pleased about their creativity and penmanship, and of course hugely grateful.

The Three Lakes Region is our key topic for this issue - and there is simply not enough space to give it all the credit it deserves! For me personally, it brings back memories of a "shipwreck" - that is, capsizing in a sailing boat on Lake Biel one late and very stormy afternoon just off the Island of St Peter, losing all our valuable possessions including wallets in the process - only to be rescued by a fancy boat with cocktail party on board. Talking about the bedraggled among the glitzy!

62 among you have taken the opportunity to participate in the Helvetia survey - thank you all very much. This is really valuable information which we will consider in adjusting the content of the Helvetia.

Have you ever wondered why the British National Anthem sounds vaguely familiar? Our Ambassador Marion Weichelt sheds some light on to this conundrum (page 6). Now I am very curious about the alternative anthem! Wishing you a very enjoyable spring.



Mim Bueb sin Hosesack

*En alti Chäp slipischtöle
es Portmenee, natürlich leer
En Bleischtift und es Stückli Chole
Es Naastuech, wo gärn suber weer,
Es gröönelig-grüens Stuck Kandiszucker,
En Chlee, vierblettrig und verblüet
En Hegel und e Hampfle Chlüüre
Es Loos, wo sicher nüme ziet,
Zündhölzli und es Niele-Zwiigli
Es Bileet uf de Münscherturm,
E Lupe-n und es Muulörgeli
und z'underscht nu en Rägewurm*

*Was sonen Chnopf – s isch fascht es Wunder nöd alles mit sich umeträit!
En Sack voll Gnuusch, Dräck und Plunder?
En Sack voll Buebe-Seligkäit!*

Walter-Verlag Meilen

Contributed by Edith Hess

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	H. E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski
President/	Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg, 45 Kinross Street, Blockhouse Bay,
Secretary	Auckland 0600. Ph 09 627 8777. E-mail: latham@zurbruegg.co.nz
Vice President	Marcel Rüedi, 25 Beverley Crescent, RD 1 Whangarei 0179 Ph 02 7490 1836. E-mail: ruedi@orcon.net.nz
Editor	Susie Wood, PO Box 65206 Mairangi Bay Auckland 0745. Ph 09 4736098. E-mail: susie.wood@ebg.co.nz
Treasurer	Carmen Fitz-Gordon, 2 Coldham Crescent, St. Johns, Auckland 1072. Ph 09 528 0903. E-mail: c_and_ian@xtra.co.nz
Riflemaster	Ernst Lanz, 23 Hawaiian Parade, Arkles Bay, Whangaparaoa 0932. Ph 09 428 5687. Email: lanzfamily@slingshot.co.nz

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Othmar Hebler, 9 Larlin Heights, RD 15, Hawera. Ph 06 278 6878
Deputy Delegate	Emanuel Zust, 41 Cheltenham Drive, Kapiti Village, Paraparaumu Ph 04 905 0017

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Heidi Wilson, 53 Rothesay Bay Road, Rothesay Bay, Auckland. Ph 094789751. E-mail: heidi.wilson@hotmail.com
Hamilton	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253. Mob 027 498 5170. E-mail: zuber@xtra.co.nz
Taranaki	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford. Ph 06 7628 757. E-mail: littleacres@xtra.co.nz
Wellington	Odile Stotzer, 24 Fitzherbert Street, Alicetown, Lower Hutt 5010. Ph 04 586 3095. E mail: odilestotzer@gmx.net

Swiss Government Representatives

Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Custom House Quay, Wellington 6140. E-mail: wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutsche, 3 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011. Ph 09 366 0403. E-mail: auckland@honrep.ch