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Taranaki: Volunteer commended for her work

Marianne honoured with Citizens' Award

We Swiss are known to work hard, be it for ourselves or in our job, but quite a few also apply this hard work ethic into their community.

At the Stratford District Council's 2020 Citizens' Awards ceremony (held in September), Mayor Neil Volzke recognised the efforts of Taranaki Swiss Club member, Marianne Drummond, for her hard work and dedication to community organisations in the Stratford area.

Marianne has been the Taranaki Swiss Club treasurer for 26 years, as well as secretary for 10. Eighteen years ago she was president of the Swiss Society for five years, and is now the treasurer for the next four years. Marianne has played the accordion since she was 11 years old, and is part of Taranaki's Swiss entertainment group.

As well as the tremendous job she has done and is doing for Taranaki's club and the Swiss Society, she has at the same time put the same effort into many other community organisations – as the treasurer/secretary for the Midhirst Tennis Club for 33 years, secretary for Midhirst Combined Sports Club for 12 years, as well as organiser of night tennis for the past 18 years.

She is of course also actively enjoying playing both tennis as well as squash, and



has life membership at the Stratford Squash Club. A highlight has been organising their 'Cockies' Farmers' Annual Tournament for the past 15 years.

Marianne is very thankful for her family's support. Marianne and Adrian's two boys attended Midhirst Primary and now Stratford High School, and both schools managed to get her onto their PTAs for nine years – she is still on the high school PTA.

Adding to this 10 years of volunteer work for meals on wheels, I think Marianne has more days in a week than the rest of us.

We are so very proud of Marianne. Anyone

who knows her will know that she is so deserving of this award. Congratulations Marianne and thank you for all you do, on behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

Marlies Hebler

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Silvesterchläusen *A tradition as old as time*

The Alter Silvester celebration is a tradition first mentioned in 1663, when church authorities objected to such noisy behaviour and according to some 18th century records, taking part in the 'Chläusen' tradition was punished with a heavy fine of five thalers.

However, these days the tradition is greatly commemorated. I had great delight in being there a few years ago to witness this fantastic celebration with family from Urnasch, but unless you have seen it with your own eyes, it is hard to explain. In fact, I now find it easier to show friends YouTube videos rather than try to explain! I have recounted my fantastic trip down memory lane on pages 10-11.