

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 63 (1997)  
**Heft:** [5]

**Artikel:** Corruption in Switzerland? Surely not!  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945345>

### **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:** 29.01.2025

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

will be sold by committee members who will contact all financial members. In an effort to get a better attendance, this evening has been changed to the 1st of August as opposed to the following weekend. Please support us in this entertainment-filled evening. Supper will be provided.

### SWISS SOCIETY COMPETITIONS

These competitions were held on May 4 in beautiful conditions: true Taranaki sunshine! We were truly happy with the number of participants - a record number for many years. In an endeavour to get greater participation from our younger members, we put them in a separate group... Wow... This really showed up some talent! Lucky I got out of Michael Zimmermann's way when he threw the shotput! Well done Michael, probably gaining a triple medal. I think many adults will be envious!

Congratulations to all the children who participated with great sportsmanship, as well as all the adults who also supported this day. Two of our keenest jassers, who regularly play to 2.00am at our functions, were lucky (or was it skill?) to get first and second. Congratulations Myrtha and Josie.

Also our kegeln expert, Johnny, showed all his class in achieving the highest score of 56!! Wow.. blitzed the field, Johnny!!! Well done. The best shot-puter was Ross Muggeridge. I guess you've got plenty of weight, or is it strength (?) to throw the stone that far! We had three excellent achievers at the shooting competition. Congratulations to Lou Nolly, Lou Butler and Paul Kuriger who only got 78 and 79 out of 80!!! Some of us were lucky to get half!

Many thanks to all of you for your support, some even travelling up from Palmerston North to compete. Great effort Fred and Noeline.

MB



**AVAILABLE NOW!**

**New Zealand's finest  
Delicatessen  
Meats**



Continental Frying/Boiling  
Sausages · Specialty Meats  
Meat Loaves · Smoked Meats  
Cold Cuts            Salamis

2 7 4 4 4 5 5

FAX: 2 7 4 1 2 0 3

## WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

### COMING EVENTS

**Saturday June 21, 1997. 7.30pm.** Fondue evening at the Clubhouse. BYO fondue-caquelon. BYO wine. Members: \$16.00, non-members \$19.00 per person.

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 18 WITH CHRISTINE HUGHES. Phone 232 3078.**

There will be a Dutch-auction with attractive prices!

**Sunday June 29, 1997. Family walk.**

Contact Mr. Franz Schneider for further details. Phone 476 7805.

**Saturday July 26, 1997 at 7.30pm.** National Day Celebration at the Clubhouse. Children are very welcome!

**Friday August 1, 1997. 1st August Bonfire on the beach of Petone.** Hot drinks and sausages provided. Don't miss it. Dress warmly and bring all the children you can find - they will love it.

The new Swiss Club calendar showing the annual events programme is ready now. It can be collected at the next event or at the Embassy of Switzerland, 22 Panama Street, Wellington during office hours (Monday-Friday 0830-1200am)

### CORRUPTION IN SWITZERLAND? SURELY NOT!

For many generations, Switzerland considered itself as a country where corruption, bribery and profiteering simply did not exist among its government officials, a country where government and local authorities staff were completely honest and, above all, totally incorruptible.

Today this is unfortunately no longer so. Following several public scandals involving profiteering by local government employees, the Swiss Federal Councillor, Arnold Koller, appointed in 1995 a commission to investigate the matter and to report back on means how to combat this obviously rising trend.

The commission did not come up with clear answers since the problem is quite a thorny one.

At what level does corruption and bribery really start? There is nothing wrong for instance in becoming friends with government officials and, as friends, to invite them to a nice dinner party or to give the wives some flowers or a box of chocolate occasionally. But what happens if the dinner party in due course becomes a weekend cruise or a week's holiday in Italy and if the flowers

for the little wife turn into a small car? At what stage do these little attentions turn into bribery?

The commission considered it to be bribery when the value of an invitation or a gift is out of proportion with normal business practices.

One way of reducing corruption would be to make it illegal for government officials to accept any gifts over the value of 100 Francs, the commission suggested. Another deterrent would be to prosecute not only the receiver of the gift but the donor as well.

The problem is obviously not an easy one to solve and it is further compounded by the fact that if these measures were implemented to the letter, it would make it impossible for instance for Swiss Federal Councillors to accept invitations to go to foreign countries on state visits. To be wined, dined, accommodated, taken on excursions and sight-seeing tours for several days and finally being presented with some personal gifts by the host country and its leaders could easily be construed as being a form of bribery. So where do we go from here? Arnold Koller's commission's findings are not going to be easy to put into practice....

### FUNNY ADVERTISEMENTS

That many people cannot express themselves clearly in written form is not a new phenomenon. This problem has existed ever since the written languages were invented.

The funny thing is that the writers are usually quite clear in their own mind what they mean, but once they start putting their thoughts down on paper it often comes out all screwed-up.

Here are a few examples from the past, sent to us by Emil Flepp.

- Köchin und Stubenmädchen mit längeren Zeugnissen werden zu Leuten ohne Wäsche aufgenommen.

- Wanzen werden aus Wohnungen sammt Möbeln radical vertilgt.

- Achtung! Eine gute Damenexistenz mit anstossender Wohnung billig zu verkaufen.

- Masseurin mit Geld zur Vergrößerung gesucht. Unter "Diplomat".

- Fräulein wird auf ein Zimmer gesucht, welches den ganzen Tag nicht zu Hause ist.

- Kostenfrei wird männliches u. weibliches Dienstpersonal mittelst Postkarte ins Haus geschickt. Institut "Zur Biene".

- Anständiges älteres Dienstmädchen bittet zu kleiner Familie oder einer Dame für Alles unterzukommen.

- Junge Dame, sehr hübsch, gut situiert, jedoch Stotterin, sucht zunächst anregenden Briefwechsel mit ebenfalls stotterdem Herr, unter "Geteiltes Leid, halbes Leid".