

President's message

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while we in New Zealand and in Switzerland encounter more and more difficulties in relationships between individuals.

- Hopefully lots of Swiss were able to say or sing the following words on the recent 'Bettag':

I thank my God each time I think of you and when I pray for you I pray with joy.

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Obituary



Death of Federal councillor Delamuraz
Swiss Politicians and media have been paying tribute to the former Swiss President Delamuraz who died on Sunday 5th October 1998 at the age of 62.

Mr. Delamuraz was a cabinet minister for 14 years and was suffering from liver cancer.

According to a spokesperson, Mr. Delamuraz was one of the most popular cabinet ministers ever in Switzerland, especially in the French speaking part. He served as Swiss President twice during his 14 years in the federal Government. The current President Mr. Flavio Cotti said of his colleague that he loved life as much as politics. Apparently he loved the Swiss people as much as he loved Switzerland as a country and he loved Europe. In 1995 he underwent open heart-surgery, but last year he was admitted with liver cancer. Due to the resulting ill-health he left the Government in March this year.

Mr. Delamuraz leaves a Wife and two children.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two months have passed since our last issue - and although Winter actually seems to have passed us by this year, it's still nice to be heading towards the warm, summer months.

I'd like to thank the many Society members who have sent us their 1998 subscriptions - however, there are still a number outstanding.

I was really pleased to receive many positive comments, both about the *Helvetia* and the Society, accompanying the payments, and wish to say a special thank you for some very useful suggestions received from a few people. Several of these ideas are currently being looked at, and I'm sure will prove beneficial for all Society members. Of course, any further comments will always be gratefully appreciated.

Unfortunately though, two of our members from the South Island felt that they were not involved enough with a local Club to belong to the Society - a situation which concerns me, as I'd like to see the Society, and the *Helvetia*, to be here for the benefit of all members, no matter where they live, or their Club affiliation I am hoping though, that these people may yet reconsider.

And finally, we have some members whom we must farewell from New Zealand over the coming months. Jean-Luc Bulliard, of Dunedin, will permanently be heading home to Switzerland shortly, as will Werner and Vreni Stebler, of Waiheke Island. Christine Thompson, of Auckland, will also soon be leaving to travel overseas for an extended period. To all of you I send my very best wishes - both for the future, and for safe and happy travelling. We look forward to hearing from all of you again sometime, whenever you return to New Zealand.

My greetings to everyone, Beatrice.

Are you celebrating a special event or occasion - maybe a birthday, or an anniversary?

Has there been a recent wedding, or a birth, in your family ?

Perhaps you know of someone who deserves a special mention?

If so, **let us know** - include a few details, maybe even a photo, and send it to us (President or Editor) and we'll announce it!

SCHWING- AND ÄLPERFEST

Werner Vitali, who was placed 4th at the 1997 Eidg. Schwingfest, will shortly be accompanying an organised group-tour of about 25 Swiss visitors to New Zealand.

Following their arrival on 9 November, they will be visiting a variety of locations in and around Auckland, including a Deer Farm, a local Brewery, and the central city.

The tour then proceeds to the Coromandel area and Mt. Maunganui; as well as through the Waikato and on to Rotorua, where a traditional Hangi is also on the menu. After sightseeing around these wonderful regions, they will head towards Taupo and continue through Tongariro National Park as far as Hawera, with a visit to a local dairy factory on Saturday, 14 November. Here, the group will spend two days in real "farm-stay" style at the homes of several members of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

On **Sunday, 15 November**, the Taranaki Club will host a Schwing- and Älperfest, with the renowned Werner Vitali as a special guest. (See Club News for further details...) Following this exclusive weekend of "Schwingen" demonstrations and friendly competition, travel continues south to Wellington, across Cook Strait, and on to Nelson, with a visits to a local vineyard and through the beautiful native forests to Farewell Spit on the agenda. After taking in such enchanting scenery, and to conclude the tour, the group will continue on to Christchurch, where they will spend their last night in New Zealand before travelling back to Switzerland, together with the many unforgettable memories they will have of our lovely country.

The planning and organising of this tour already began early this year, with thanks to the Taranaki Swiss Club Committee and Members; our Swiss Abroad Delegate, Heinz Leuenberger, aided by the Sekretariat in Berne; and Dolphin Travel who, when preparing the group's travel itinerary, made every effort to support and involve a number of Swiss businesses, and the Swiss community, wherever possible.