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President's Report

Hello once again,

My, how quickly we are getting to the end of the year again ... where the time goes I just don't know!!! And they tell me time goes quicker with age ... I guess it will speed by even faster in a decade!!! Just a quick reminder that this magazine is a double issue for December / January, and secretaries will need their items for the next issue to be in by January 15. We appreciate any Club News and items of general interest for publication in the Helvetia, so if anyone has anything to contribute please send it to me ... we would love to hear from you!!!

Well, as you will all be aware the Rugby World Cup is being staged in Australia at the current time. Many teams are competing for this coveted trophy. Having watched part of some of the games on the television news, I can't help but think that the competition would be better run in two divisions. Generally the weaker teams have had great games against opposition of their own calibre, so creating two divisions would ensure that rugby is enjoyed and competitive by all teams. Many of the winning margins have sounded more like cricket scores than rugby scores!!! I am sure that the thrashings do nothing for the losing teams, and certainly don't prepare the winning teams to do battle against stronger opposition later. Many of the teams fielded in the preliminary games are second string teams, and surely these meaningless games don't help the profile of rugby and the enthusiasm that the World Cup wants to generate. For many keen supporters and fans the World Cup is only really starting now ... at the quarterfinals stage!!! Let's hope that these last games bring some startling and inspiring rugby, together with enthusiasm and motivation for the fans. I am sure that we are all hoping that the "All Blacks" bring home the trophy, and celebrations will commence!!!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. I have ended this report with a poem, which I thought was beautiful. I hope that you, too, will enjoy reading it.

Regards, Marianne

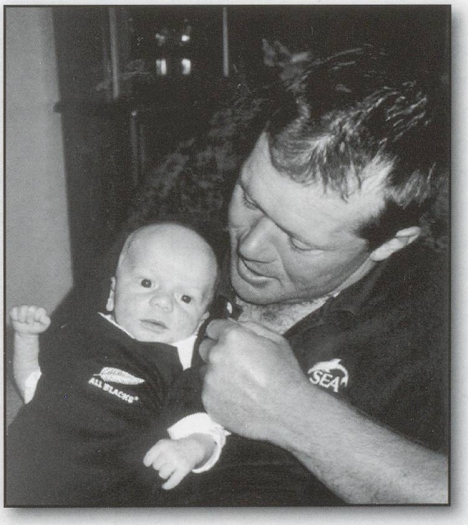
Spruch des Monats

A Friend Is One of Life's Most Beautiful Gifts

A friend is a person you can trust,
who won't turn away from you;
a friend will be there
when you really need someone,
and will come to you when they
need help.
A friend will listen to you even
when they don't understand
or agree with your feelings;
a friend will never try to change you,
but appreciates you for who you are.
A friend doesn't expect too much
or give too little;
a friend is someone you can share
dreams, hopes, and feelings with.
A friend is a person you can think of
and suddenly smile;
a friend doesn't have to be told
that they are special,
because they know you feel
that way.

A friend will accept your attitudes,
ideas, and emotions,
even when their own are different,
and will hold your hand
when you're scared.
A friend will be honest with you
even when it might hurt, and will
forgive you for the mistakes
you make.
A friend can never disappoint you,
and will support you and share
in your glory.
A friend shares responsibility
when you have doubts.
A friend always remembers
the little things you've done,
the times you've shared,
and the talks you've had.
A friend will bend over backwards
to help pick up the pieces
when your world falls apart.
A friend is one of life's
most beautiful gifts.

Luann Auciello
Contributed by Walter Seifert



My husband Adrian, proud with his son in 'All Black' regalia, ready to watch the quarterfinal against the Springboks.

How to Find Happiness Through the Year

Everybody, everywhere
seeks happiness, it's true,
But finding it and keeping it
seems difficult to do,
Difficult because we think
that happiness is found
Only in the places where
wealth and fame abound–
And so we go on searching
in 'palaces of pleasure'
Seeking recognition
and monetary treasure,
Unaware that happiness
is just a 'state of mind'
Within the reach of everyone
who takes time to be kind–
For in making OTHERS HAPPY
we will be happy too,
For the happiness you give away
returns to 'shine on you'.

Helen Steiner-Rice

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