

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 71 (2005)  
**Heft:** [5]

**Vorwort:** Editorial  
**Autor:** Amstalden, Paul

### **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:** 30.01.2025

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

# Editorial

Well ..., I say!!! Talk about the hound (the Governments' own legislation) turning around and biting its' master in the ---, backside!!!

So, that staunch pillar of the Labour Party and one of its' longest serving MP's up to the end of last year, when he was appointed New Zealand High Commissioner in London, Jonathan Hunt, is reported to have inquired with British Social Services about a small British pension he may be entitled to while living in Britain. He is reported to be on an annual salary of \$125,000.00 to \$162,000.00. On top of that he gets \$77,000.00 per year out of the parliamentary super fund, which is, I believe 2/3rds taxpayer funded. These parliamentary super payments are for the whole life of the

recipient, but would vary greatly as they depend on the length of service as an MP. When Mr Hunt returns to live in New Zealand he will also qualify for New Zealand National Super, but not, apparently, while living overseas, even though he's working for the New Zealand Government and presumably, paying income tax to our government, not Britain. And herein lies the crux of the matter as I see it.

My first reaction to this news about Mr Hunt was the same as everyone else, "what a greedy so-and-so", I thought!!! Until I read another more detailed article in the 'paper a couple of days later. Hey, wait a minute! Mr Hunt does not get New Zealand National Super payments while he is living overseas? Even though he is working for our

Government and thus, I assume, for all of us? I could not believe my eyes at first! I always thought everyone is entitled to New Zealand Super on reaching 65 years of age, and working for a New Zealand employer, inside or outside New Zealand, as long as they are New Zealand citizens and pay income tax to the New Zealand Government. Apparently I was very wrong!!! Apparently there exists a reciprocal agreement between the New Zealand and British governments regarding super payments to each others' superannuitants while living in each others' country, similar to the agreement with Australia and maybe one or two other countries as well, but not Switzerland, as far as I'm aware of at present.

So why all the hue and cry against Mr Hunt, primarily out of the Beehive!!! After all, he was only looking into what was legally due to him by the laws of both Nations! I have yet to hear of even one MP who does not take every dollar of their fat salaries, fat allowances, and when they leave, (after six years) generous taxpayer subsidised and tax-free parliamentary superannuation for life, as well as the taxed New Zealand super, which is all most of us get, this last-mentioned one!!!

So, one can see how hugely generous all our MP's are to themselves!!! "But we don't decide our own salaries, That's done by the Parliamentary Salaries Commission," they all protest loudly. Oh yeh, and who appoints these Commissioners, who are likewise on a good salary? Not us voters out there.

To quote a famous Englishman : "Yes, I'm certain all that hot air huffing out of the Beehive had little to do with Jonathan Hunts' perceived indiscretion in London! It was all about all opposition parties getting every last metre of political milage out of this Labour-led governments' very obvious discomfort over this whole affair!!! And who can blame them, from their point of view, with a general election almost on our doorstep!!!

Well, we'll try to get this issue to you before the AGM in Hamilton, so, see you all there!!!

Cheerio from Paul

## SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

**PATRON:** Mrs Sylvie Matteucci-Keller Ambassador of Switzerland

**PRESIDENT:** Marianne Drummond, Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford.

Phone 06 762 8757. Fax 06 762 8753.

Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz

**VICE PRESIDENT/TREASURER:** Walter Seifert, Denbigh Road, RD 24,

Stratford. Phone 06 762 8559.

Fax 06 762 8590.

Email: walterseifert@xtra.co.nz

**SECRETARY:** Silvia Schuler, 536 Ahipaipa Road, RD11, Hawera.

Phone 06 272 6707. Fax 06 272 6706.

Email: frank.silvia@xtra.co.nz

**RIFLEMASTER:** Mark Kiser, 140 Pukengahu Rd, RD 23, Stratford

Ph 06 762 2922.

### DELEGATES TO THE SWISS ABROAD CONFERENCE IN SWITZERLAND

**DELEGATE:** Heinz Leuenberger, 33 Russell Terrace, Putaruru.

Phone/Fax (07) 883 8537, Email heileun@xtra.co.nz

**DEPUTY DELEGATES:** Beno Noetzli, State Highway 50, RD1, Hastings.

Phone 06 874 9677.

Roland Schutz, 35 East St, Petone, Wellington.

Phone 04 568 6772.

**EDITOR:** Paul Amstalden, 421 Wortley Rd, RD 9, Inglewood

Phone 06 756 7064.

### CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

#### Auckland

**Secretary:** Heidi Wilson, 53 Rothesay Bay Road, Rothesay Bay, Auckland.

Phone/Fax (09) 478 9751, Email heidi\_wilson@xtra.co.nz

#### Hamilton

**Secretary:** Anita Zuber, PO Box 11-026, Hamilton. Phone (07) 856 2414.

Email: zuber@xtra.co.nz

#### Taranaki

**Secretary:** Paul Amstalden, Wortley Rd, RD 9, Inglewood. Phone 06 756 7064.

#### Wellington

**Secretary:** G Bruhlmann, 401 Marine Drive, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, Wellington.

Phone 04 562 8019.

**Embassy of Switzerland:** Panama House, 22 Panama St, PO Box 25004, Wellington.

Phone (04) 472 1593 or (04) 472 1594 • Fax (04) 499 6302.

**Honorary Consul:** Peter Deutsche, PO Box 90-209, Auckland Mail Centre.

Phone/Fax (09) 366 0403. Email deutsche@clear.net.nz