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Editorial

Well, it's that time of the year again, on the eve of winter, when most of our dairy farmers are drying off their cows and looking forward to a few weeks of easier tempo on their farms, and when those of us Kiwis who are taking a holiday to the further reaches of the northern Hemisphere are busily packing our bags or have already departed for warmer climes, and your Editor is scratching the thinning hair on his head trying to think of something sensible to write!!!

Yep, we Humans might be able to build dykes to reclaim pieces of land from the might of Mother Nature's oceans, Levees to stop mighty, flooded rivers from covering huge tracts of land, usually for at least several days, and in the mountains, strong snow barriers to try to prevent avalanches as much as possible where they may threaten villages below. And of course there are literally millions of fantastic other examples all over Planet Earth of human ingenuity to build great things to make life a little easier for all Humankind, even if it meant to circumvent Mother Nature a little bit sometimes!

Just look at the highways and railroads and the thousands of enormous bridges and

viaducts on both, all over the world, marvels of engineering to say the least, and I'm not counting small bridges!!! Yes, I'm sure we can all agree, Mankind has made enormous progress in its quality and convenience of life, mostly during the last two Centuries. And through all this progress Mother Nature has been largely fairly tolerant and benign towards us, up to now! Oh, yes, she has rapped us over the knuckles many times as if to say, "be careful, Hu-man, take care of my other living things". And probably to also remind us occasionally of her awesome power!!!

And there is one mighty power Mother Nature has kept all to herself, of which she has never surrendered one iota to Man or any other living thing and that is the power over the four Seasons! Which is just as well, as we Humans would almost certainly make an awful mess of things if we ever got our hands on the controls of the four Seasons!!!!

So I think Mother Nature knows best on this point. All living things on Planet Earth need our regular Seasons, Spring for a reawakening and rebirth, Summer to enjoy life in the warm Season, Autumn to busily harvest and store winter supplies, Winter the season of slowing down and getting some extra sleep and rest?!!!

Ah yes, Winter, brings me back to my first paragraph. I wanted to just point out, in spite of Mans' ingenuity; we can not control Mother Nature very much. The Seasons come and go, regular as a top quality Swiss Watch! And here we are, already into the first days of our Southern Winter and planning all sorts of social gatherings to fill the much longer winter nights! This too, is part of Mankind's learning to live with the Seasons.

So all our Swiss Clubs in New Zealand are very busy with one event after another to keep our own unique Swiss Culture alive amongst ourselves and our New Zealand born Swiss kiwi children and grandchildren!

And of course, undoubtedly the most important event of the year is the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, hosted by a different club each year, and, as it is Taranaki's turn this year, I hope to see a huge number of members from other districts as well at this important Event in beautiful Taranaki!!!

Cheerio for now, see you on Queen's Birthday weekend!

Paul

Letter to the Editor

Dear Paul,

Referring to your Editorial, December 2005-January 2006, I just wanted to tell you that I have registered as a Voter in Switzerland during the last year, and I find this new link to my old Home-country most interesting and enjoyable. Interesting and enjoyable is also 'Helvetia', thank you all for the great work you do!

Marianna Groth-Schubach, Paihia.

Thank you very much for your letter, Marianna. I'm pleased to know I may have influenced at least one other SwissKiwi to register as a voter in the old Homeland!

Editor.

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PATRON:	Mr Beat Nobs 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@clear.net.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 24-061, Hamilton. Phone (07) 856 2414.
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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.

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