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By the time you read my editorial, Labour Weekend is over. With a little bit of luck the weather improved, and we could spend it in the garden, planting those tomatoes that traditionally have to be planted on Labour Weekend. Friends told me that in their childhood, Labour Weekend was the beginning of the swimming season; however, I can't see me go for a swim any time soon.

Something else will start soon, though: the visitors' season. My first visitors will come in early November, the next ones in mid November, the third confirmed visitors in January - and in between probably some who were not quite sure yet and some I don't even know of. Of course I look forward to see old friends; old in this context does not necessarily mean that the friends are old; it's rather the age of the friendship. It feels so good to catch up with old friends. We keep in touch by phone and by email and by old-fashioned letters, but going for a bushwalk together or having a picnic on the beach or a cup of coffee in the garden and having long evenings together is still the best way to keep our friendships alive.

There are other visitors, too: former neighbours' cousins' daughters' friends' sons for example, people you never met in Switzerland and don't particularly want to meet now, but they have your address, and you cannot say no, and sometimes you are not even asked. To be fair: Most of these strangers turn out to be pleasant enough; they come, you have a day or two together, and they go. They might send you a postcard or a few photos when they are back in their own country, thanking you again - and that's it. But every now and again one of these cousin's neighbours' daughter's son's friend strikes a chord, and you find a precious new friend. No, you don't 'find' a new friend; this new friendship is an unexpected, exhilarating wonder. Some wonders really do happen - if we let them.

Trudi

## Gratisbücher!

*Bö: So simmer!*  
*Nico: Wer lacht, hat mehr vom Lesen*  
*Traugott Vogel: De Baschi bin Soldate*  
*Dr. med. Wilhelm zur Linden: Das gesunde Kind (1963)*  
*Das kranke Kind (1963)*  
*Minnie Randell: Erziehung zur Geburt (1949)*  
*Katzensinne - was sie fühlen, denken, lieben, kommentiert von Kater Francis*  
*Ferdinand Brunner: Wie sag ich's meiner Katze?*  
*Antony Alpers: Delphine, Wunderkinder des Meeres*  
*Joy Adamson: Die Löwin Elsa und ihre Jungen*

*Kreative Schweiz; Grosser Fotopreis der Schweiz (1978)*  
*Rudolf Pörtner: Bevor die Römer kamen*  
*Friedrich Salzmänn: Bürger für die Gesetze (1949)*  
*Walt Disney: Die Wüste lebt*  
*Loren Eiseley: Von der Entstehung des Lebens und der Naturgeschichte des Menschen*  
*Isaac Asimov: Geschichte der Biologie*  
*Alvin Toffler: Der Zukunftsschock*

Da muss doch einfach etwas darunter sein, was man lesen möchte! Wem darf ich ein Päckli schicken? Phone, write or email me with your request.

Trudi Brühlmann

### Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	Ambassador Dr Beat Nobs
President	Roland Schütz, 35 East Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012 Ph h 04 568 6772, w 04 568 5737. Email: moehau2@iconz.co.nz
Vice President	Max Fuhrer, 8 Curacao Place, Grenada Village, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037. Ph 04 478 0003.
Secretary/Editor	Trudi Brühlmann, 401 Marine Drive, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013. Ph 04 562 8019. Email: bruhlmann@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Heidi Amelung, 32 Hinau Street, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013 Ph 04 562 7568. Email: gravure@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	Othmar Hebler, 9 Larlin Height, RD 15, Hawera. Ph 06 278 6878
Deputy Delegate	Emanuel Züst, 43 Cheltenham Drive, Kapiti Village, Paraparaumu

### Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Heidi Wilson, 53 Rothesay Bay Road, Rothesay Bay, Auckland. Ph 09 478 9751. Email: heidi.wilson@hotmail.com
Hamilton	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Ph 07 856 2414, mob ph 027 498 5170. Email: zuber@xtra.co.nz
Taranaki	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD 24, Stratford. Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@xtra.co.nz
Wellington	Isabelle Richter, 121B Brougham Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington. Ph h 04 384 7373. Email: partymonster@gmx.net
Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington 6140. PO Box 25004, Wellington 6146. Ph 04 472 1593, Fax 04 499 6302. Email: wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutschle, PO Box 302239, North Harbour, North Shore City 0751. Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honorarvertretung.ch