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When you read this editorial, at the beginning of December, you might be in the Christmas mood, but as I have to write it in November, I'm not, and although Christmas decorations are in the shops, I don't feel particularly Christmasy yet. As I was wondering about how to write something for Christmas on a windy, cool Wellington day, it just happened, and I'm going to tell you what happened.

I went shopping this afternoon - nothing exciting, only a punnet of strawberries, flour, some cat food; just something one has to do, whether you like it or not. My bus goes to Petone via Lower Hutt. As it was early afternoon, the bus wasn't very full. In Lower Hutt some people got off, others got on. Then came two bus drivers from other buses - with a beautiful bouquet! One of them addressed all the bus passengers; she said it was our bus driver's birthday, and we'd all have to sing Happy Birthday to our bus driver. And so we did, and our bus driver, surprised and blushing, turned round and said thank you. The other bus drivers went back to their buses; the whole incident had only taken a couple of minutes. The passenger who got out at the next station wished her Happy Birthday again, and so did the next one, and so did I when it was my time to get out. And on the way to the supermarket I thought about it and became aware that my mood had changed. I felt strangely happy and elated; it was an unexpected case of non-religious and unexpected, but none the less intense 'Joy to the World'.

I wish you many such spontaneous instances of Joy to the World - not only at Christmas, but through the whole new year. It takes some imagination to create joy, but let's try and do it, the way our bus driver's colleagues did.

*Merry Christmas and
a Very Happy New Year!*

Inde



Mini liebe Mitglieder

d'Zit geit wieder mau einisch ganz schnäu der Wiehnacht entgä; das heisst bi mir, es chunnt eim aus Mögliche z'Sinn wo me nid söu vergässe. Aber z Wichtigschte isch ja de schlussändlich, dass me sich de cha Zit näh für d Familie und aui liebe aaghörige Lüt, u Zit cha gmeinsam gnesse.

I wünsche aune liebe Mitglieder e gmüetlechi Wiehnachtsfiir mit viu Liebi u Zfrideheit.

My dear Compatriots it's the time of year when we take note of all the months and days past in this year and how quickly the Christmas and New Year season is in front of us. The Swiss Clubs will start organising and preparing the Children's Christmas Party and the function for the members and their family and hopefully we don't forget the ones who may have some transport problems. I know a lot of time and effort goes into it and hopefully you all can participate in these activities.

This year I had the opportunity to spend a few weeks in Switzerland with my family, and I had the pleasure to visit the various places of historic family interest, and it's this occasion that brings us closer together.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and
a very Happy New Year.

Roland

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