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From the editor

Dear Helvetia Readers

Winter has been truly biting these last few weeks and I hope, at which ever corner of New Zealand you live, you managed to escape the worst. And yet, this June has been reported as the warmest ever in New Zealand: Change. Of course, I am only reporting the weather second hand, as I managed to escape to Europe for a few weeks, leaving the Helvetia team in the lurch! I hope I will be forgiven.

However, what perhaps struck me most on my travels was change everywhere. It started with being able to print my boarding pass on my mobile phone! The digital future is well and truly here. Practical in many ways yes, but a bit odd. Going through a number of airports on my travels also highlighted just what

an international and mobile place the world has become. Switzerland is no exception to this. People move around with almost no limit. An old primary school mate of mine lives in Obwalden, works in Innsbruck and carries out his research in the Pacific. He even has a daughter in Auckland! I guess we should not be surprised, as we are very much part of this mobile world. As is Switzerland and its people, especially in the urban areas. As a result, it is becoming more difficult to find places where the essence of Switzerland is still to be found.

But there are good news stories as well. There are corners of Switzerland where heritage and human and natural values are high on the agenda: Another kind of change! The remarkable story of the Entlebuch in this issue is testament to this. I myself

found such corners, such as the old part of Scuol in the Engadin or the Seealp in the Appenzell. It was bliss. Then there's family and friends who never seem to change and whose company warms the heart. Passion abounded in Europe with the soccer world championship underway. Although the (very international!) Swiss team did not make it quite as far as we hoped, I noted how well respected and loved the outgoing coach Othmar Hitzfeld is throughout the soccer world.

Our President on page 3 has done a lovely job in reporting on the AGM and the various Taranaki events and festivities! I join her in extending a heartfelt thank you to our Taranaki friends who made us feel so very welcome. Sali zäme,

Susie

Freunde

Freunde die man nie vergisst
Freunde die man oft vermisst
Sind in mancher einsam Stund
Balsam süß dem Herze wund

Viele Jahre sind es her
Da ich entschloss zu wandern mehr
Die Welt so meine Heimat wurde
Zu vieler Freud und mancher Burde

Quer durch manche fremde Lande
Über Meere ferne Strände
Immer wo der Regenbogen
Seine Farben lockten zogen

Gedanken Welten überbrücken
In die Vergangenheit sie rücken
Um mit Freunden hoch wie einst zu leben
Als hat es kein Adieu gegeben

Wenn Freud und Glück den Puls erregen
Wenn Gram und Schmerz das Herz
bewegen
Dann raunt ein Stimmchen zart und fein
Wie werden meine Freunde sein

So wünsch ich euch fürs weitere Leben
Gesundheit, Glück und Gottes Segen
Mag nichts und niemand es vermeiden
Dass wir uns immer Freunde bleiben.

Written by Fred Neuburger

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