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## From the editor

### Dear Helvetia Readers

I am excited to be part of such a wonderful team that brings you this Christmas/New Year edition of Helvetia. The Valais is on show this time and the articles contained herein contain a delightful mixture of history, fact and amusement. I hope you enjoy, what we have had great pleasure compiling for you.

Our past editor Susie, suggested I spend a bit of time telling readers a little about myself. So here we go...

My husband and I immigrated to New Zealand a little over a year ago after spending the last few years living in a small town outside of Langenthal, BE. Interestingly, we met each other on the island of Koh Rong, a then 2hr boat ride off the south western coast of Cambodia, while on an extended working holiday. I am an avid scuba diver, hiker, gardener and lover of all food containing cabbage. My favourite memory of Christmas in Switzerland was making snow angels in the garden with my mum on Christmas morning, squealing and promising ourselves that next year, we will pause and put shoes on before jumping in the snow.

I am hopeful that this year Mother Nature will bring us beach-worthy weather on Christmas Day. And whether you celebrate Christmas with a traditional roast dinner or with a round of beach-cricket, I wish you a wonderful time with your loved ones.

The start of the New Year brings the promise of new beginnings and as I am beginning to find my feet in the shoes left behind by Susie, I trust you will bear with me during the adjustment period.

On behalf of the whole Helvetia team, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Victoria



In different parts of Switzerland windows are decorated as advent calendars. (photo from Luzern)

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