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From the editor

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the summer! Tobi and I have been lucky enough to have a couple of friends from Switzerland visit us over the festive season. It is always great to see old friends and to share our new lives in New Zealand with them. To our delight, our friends arrived bringing goodies... a little chocolate (Cailler Branche) for Tobi and some cheese (Gruyere surchoix) for me. Mmmh fein. When they left, their bags laden with the goodies they had bought on their trip, I was reminded of what a great place New Zealand is.... To our astonishment even the Swiss bring chocolate and cheese home with them! The chocolate was Whitakers dark almond and L&P flavoured while the cheese was Kapati blue. I hope you and your families were able to enjoy some of the good things New Zealand has to offer over the festive season and school holidays just passed.

As a member of the Auckland club, I have been lucky enough to participate in a number of recent club events. The club walk at Fairy Falls was a particular highlight for me. It was a beautiful, sunny day and I enjoy few things more than walking in the woods with friends. I hope you enjoy reminiscing over past events in the club news pages (see page 14). I know I did. A special shout out and a giant THANK YOU to all the club secretaries, presidents, committee members and volunteers who assist in the running of these events. The organising, baking, mending and cleaning up is truly valued by all who attend. As always, thank you for your efforts.

In this edition of *Helvetia*, on page 12 and 13, there is a very special story depicting the journey Irene Knowles and her family took as they travelled to New Zealand by ship in 1969. I have heard that her story may resonate with a number of *Helvetia* readers and I want to thank her very much for sharing with us. It is much appreciated. If you have a special story you would also like to share with *Helvetia* readers please don't hesitate to contact me.

This edition highlights a number of things to see and do in the Verzasca Valley.

Travel "bucket lists" are becoming more and more popular these days and I have been told that this region has now made its way onto a number of buckets lists from members of the *Helvetia* team. The region fascinates us and we hope you enjoy reading the articles we have put together for you. If the Verzasca valley suddenly ends up on your travel bucket list, then know you are in good company.

Warm Regards,

Victoria

Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Patron	David Vogelsanger, Ambassador
President	Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg, 45 Kinross Street, Blockhouse Bay Auckland 0600. Ph 09 627 8777. Email: tanja.latham@swiss.org.nz
Secretary	Nelly Steinemann, 8 St.Ives Terrace, Mairangi Bay, Auckland 0630 Ph. 09 479 4038. Email: nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz
Vice President	Marcel Rüedi, PO Box 1026, Whangarei 0140 Ph 02 7490 1836. Email: marcel.ruedi@swiss.org.nz
Editor	Victoria Egli, PO Box 110104, Grafton, Auckland 1148 Ph 0210 405 459. Email: editor@swiss.org.nz
Treasurer	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon, 2 Coldham Crescent, St. Johns Auckland 1072 Ph 09 528 0903. Email: carmen.fitzi-gordon@swiss.org.nz
Riflemaster	Ernst Lanz, 23 Hawaiian Parade, Arkles Bay, Whangaparaoa 0932 Ph 09 428 5687. Email: ernst.lanz@swiss.org.nz

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Switzerland

Delegate	Peter Ehrler, 46 Wesley Ave, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310 Ph 06 753 3441. Email: pehrler@clear.net.nz
Deputy Delegate	Peter Canziani, 30 Herekiele St, Turangi 3334 Ph 07 386 7775. Email: canziapex@xnet.co.nz

Secretaries of the Swiss Clubs

Auckland	Sabine Wyss, c/o ASC 157B Colwill Rd, Massey, Auckland 0614 Ph 027 930 1392. Email: sabine.wyss@swiss.org.nz
Hamilton	Anita Zuber, PO Box 24061, Hamilton 3253 Mobile 027 498 5170. Email: zuber@extra.co.nz
Taranaki	Marianne Drummond, 508 Salisbury Road, RD24, Stratford 4394 Ph 06 7628 757. Email: littleacres@extra.co.nz
Wellington	Nathalie Leamy, 6 Shrimpton Way, Newlands, Wellington 6037 Ph 04 461 6541. Email: wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com

Swiss Government Representatives

Embassy of Switzerland	Level 12, Maritime Towers, 10 Custom House Quay, Wellington 6140 Email: wel.vertretung@eda.admin.ch Website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington. Phone 04 472 1593
Consulate of Switzerland	Peter Deutschle, 3 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011 Ph 09 366 0403. Email: auckland@honrep.ch