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Invitation to the Swiss Society AGM in Hamilton

The Hamilton Club would like to extend an invitation to all members of the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand and to non-affiliated members of the Swiss Society, to the Swiss Society Annual General Meeting to be held in Hamilton on 30th and 31st May (Queen's birthday weekend). Club secretaries will be sent further information in a few weeks' time so please register with and make payment to your local club secretary. Non-affiliated members, please contact Anita Zuber.

Program:

- **Saturday 30 May**
6pm - Informal dinner, social evening and cards at the Matangi Hall
- **Sunday 31 May**
10am - Final of the Cowbell Competition - bowling, shotput and cards

12.30pm - Lunch

1.30pm - Annual General Meeting followed by afternoon tea

6.30pm - Happy Hour and Fondue Evening

The Ambassador, Mr Beat Nobs will be flying from Wellington for the functions on Sunday. All the functions will be held at the Matangi Hall, which is about 10 minutes' drive south-east of Hamilton. For further information please contact Anita Zuber (07) 856-2414, 0274985170 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz

Florina

Have you grown up with Alois Carigiet's charming children's books, "Schellen-Ursli" and "Florina und das Wildvöglein"? Have you given these books to your children or grandchildren and felt a bit sad that their German wasn't good enough to read the books themselves?

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Swiss Abroad Delegates Selection

The present term of office for delegates to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) ends this year. Traditionally election day for New Zealand is the Swiss Society AGM held over Queen's Birthday weekend. At last year's AGM I mentioned that I would not seek nomination again and would stand down, after holding the position for 13 years. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.

As spelled out in a recent "Swiss Revue", the position of delegate / deputy delegate is open to ALL Swiss nationals, regardless of whether they hold a Club/Society membership or not.

The position would suit persons who travel to Switzerland on a fairly regular basis and who are interested in representing New Zealand at one (or both!) of the two annual Council Meetings. These meetings take place in March (generally in Bern) and in August in combination with the Swiss Abroad Congress held at a different venue every year.

The March Council Meeting is held on a Saturday. Most attendees are able to get there and back on the same day. The midday meal is offered by OSA, which leaves the delegate with travel costs only.

The Congress in August is attended by some 500 - 600 compatriots from all over the globe. Congress costs (full card) amount to about CHF 350.00 per person. The voting delegate gets his cost reimbursed by the Swiss Society if he/she is a member. The Council Meeting takes place on Friday, followed by the Congress on Saturday - Sunday till late afternoon. Accommodation and travel is at the delegate's expense.

For the last two years both deputy positions have remained vacant. It would be a sad day if the delegate's position too would remain vacant. OSA Director Dr. Rudolf Wyder is fully aware that New Zealand is a long way from Switzerland. However, there is little hope that finances might become available any time soon to make it easier to accept a nomination. I hope this message will bring about some discussion at your respective Club AGM's.

Following the query at last year's AGM by Ambassador Dr. Beat Nobs regarding the possibility of ad hoc representation, I contacted Dr. Wyder. His reply was that an ad hoc representation was not for him to decide. At the next Council Meeting he will submit a change to the regulations that would contain the wording: "Council members attend Swiss Abroad Council Meetings in person. In justified cases and with the agreement of the elective body (in this instance members of the NZ Swiss Society present at the Society's AGM) a person from their region can act as representative. He/She would be accorded speaking, but not voting rights." Such a change can only be made by the Council. A pity I'll not be able to speak to it!

Heinz Leuenberger,
Delegate to the OSA Council