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## Swiss club news

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A warm welcome to Vivien Roduit and Barbara Fuhrer, as well as Tobias and Victoria Egli. We wish you a happy time in Godzone and with the Auckland Swiss Club.

### OTHER NEWS:

Heidi Wilson has been our secretary for 9 (NINE) full years, and has done a fantastic job keeping everything in order and communicating with all the club members. Her people skills are great; she just knows what to say in all situations.

Lately her grandmother duties and other commitments have been competing with the Swiss Club, and she has decided to give it a break. Heidi is now looking forward to "just being a member", after having been thrown in at the deep end all these years ago, when she was promoted to secretary as soon as she joined the club. Thank you so much Heidi for all you have done. You have been particularly generous also, sponsoring the helpers on our National Day celebration, and much more. We look forward to seeing you at Jass and all the other events Heidi!

... And of course you will still be offered a towel to dry the dishes!

At the same time we welcome our new secretary, Sabine Wyss. Sabine kindly offered to take over. You will know her or at least her name from our earlier editions – Sabine has been looking after our website and our Facebook page. Just check them out again, you may even find a photo of yourself there!

Sabine has an interesting background – born in Lausanne, and grew up in Canada and the USA mainly. Sabine moved to New Zealand last year, and is enjoying Auckland very much.

Welcome again Sabine, we look forward to working with you! It's exciting to have another French speaking Swiss in our club, looks like you have attracted others already. Your personality, and your computer and photography skills are greatly appreciated.

### With the change of secretary, the Auckland Swiss Club has a new address:

Auckland Swiss Club, 157B Colwill Rd, Massey, Auckland 0614

By Nelly Steinemann

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## Swiss news

### Switzerland tops field in competitiveness

*Switzerland has again been named the most competitive country in the world in an annual survey released on Wednesday by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum. Singapore ranked second, Finland third, Germany fourth and the US fifth.*

Switzerland's strengths lie in its innovation, its system of education, and its research institutions, as well as its superb infrastructure, transparent administration and functioning finance and job markets, WEF said.

There is room for improvement in several areas, according to the study. Swiss youths should have greater access to universities and women

should have greater access to the business world. The study also criticised the protectionism in the Swiss agricultural market.

"It is important that Switzerland shy away from overregulation and protectionism and focus on its competitive advantages," said the study's authors. WEF praised the financial and banking sectors for quickly adapting to new realities.

The study urged countries with lower rankings – such as Spain (ranked 35), Italy (49), Portugal (51) and Greece (91) – to improve access to innovation in order to address the inefficiencies and flexibility of their markets.

[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss\\_news/Switzerland\\_tops\\_field\\_in\\_competitiveness\\_.html?cid=36815206](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss_news/Switzerland_tops_field_in_competitiveness_.html?cid=36815206)

### Swiss gelotology study underway

Gelotology: What a mouthful! It's the science of the impact of laughing, both mental and physical. Laughing has been found to reduce the three stress hormones adrenalin, cortisol and dopac significantly. Laughing therapy, believe it or not, is increasingly used to combat stress, low immunity and depression. Based on the convincing results of gelotological research, some hospitals in the US and Europe have introduced Clown-Doctors who help patients heal with a dose of humour.

Under the Motto "Humour is, when no Swiss laughs", the Psychological Institute of the University of Zurich has embarked on a study to explore what makes us Swiss laugh.

Wait and see!

<http://www.psychologie.uzh.ch/fachrichtungen/perspsy/forschung/versuchsteilnahme/online-untersuchungen/schweizerhumor.html>