

Swiss snippets

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of life in Switzerland through continued subscription to the "Tagesanzeiger". Her working life included working as a secretary, first in Canada and then at Auckland University.

While exploring her spirituality Heidi met Yoshi Sakurai from Japan, and they initiated a project that was in line with her ideals of environmental sustainability and respect for the land at Kaiwaka, north of Auckland. She invested a lot of time and energy into this project, and eventually built, in her own inimitable way, a small cottage for herself which she called her 'hermitage'. A lot of time was spent there in the last two years, and she derived much pleasure from the wild beauty of the place, preferring to let nature grow rather than meddle.

Music, especially classical music and a love of opera were life-long sources of pleasure and nourishment. Heidi seized every opportunity to connect with the Swiss community, especially when it was an event that had a cultural content, like movies or concerts. Heidi lived independently within a good circle of friends, took part in various language and cultural societies and studied the stars, music, anthroposophy, history, spirituality and several different languages. She was a private person who enjoyed time of solitude. Right up to the end she was determined to manage her own affairs in her own way and did just that.

Being an Oma to Aleksander and Nikolas was a delight in her later years and she got to know the boys as she and Helen exchanged visits between Auckland and Australia. Stephen and his mother have shared much in common and supported each other through their respective times of ease and ache, a real connection of spirit and being present to each other.


The Auckland Swiss club has lost a very inspirational member; our condolences go out to her family.

By Trudi Fill-Weidmann, adapted from her family's writing

Would you like to know how the Swiss in New Zealand celebrated Swiss National day 60 years ago? Then we have got just the article for you from 1954. Apart from the fact that we may seem a tiny little less patriotic about our country's birthday nowadays (maybe because we are way more connected with our home country these days due to technology) not much has changed really. However if you read the article about cars at the end of the page – everything has changed! Just imagine you would have told them about an SUV in 1954 – they would have thought you've gone coo coo...!

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GROUP NEW ZEALAND OF THE NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY

18th YEAR.
AUGUST, 1954.
AUCKLAND.

FIRST OF AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday, the 1st of August, our Consul, Mr. Blanchard, entertained the Wellington Colony at his home, where a very enjoyable evening was spent by all present. Due to the versatility of Mr. Hermann Schlatter, excellent piano accompaniment was provided for both yodelling and dancing, and some hitherto unknown talent came to light.

Mr. Ittensohn added a lot of life to the party with his accordion and his original idea of the Polonaise, and Mrs. Trachsel was very much admired in her attractive Swiss costume.

Arranged by the Swiss Social Club of Taranaki, the "Bundesfeier" was fittingly celebrated in Kaponga.

Approximately 300 guests attended and the evening opened with a dinner, followed by patriotic speeches and lively dancing until the early hours in the morning. The President of the Club, Mr. John Steiner, gave the visitors a hearty welcome. Some friends came from as far afield as Christchurch, Hamilton and Palmerston North. Special greetings were extended to our Consul in New Zealand, Mr. Henri Blanchard.

The Mayor of Kaponga, Mr. E. L. Abbott, expressed a warm acknowledgement of the important part the Swiss farmers performed in the development of the district. Almost without exception the old settlers, as well as the many younger men and women, proved to be hard workers, keen to succeed.

The speech which followed, delivered by Mr. W. Risi, Patron of the Club, was also much enjoyed and appreciated by the gathering.

The Consul, Mr. Blanchard, reminded the listeners that they were celebrating the very important happening in 1291 when Switzerland's independence was gained through the courage and determination of a handful of men. "If you return now to Switzerland," he said, "you would find the country more industrialised and modernised but the soul of the people still the same." The Kaponga Swiss people had been wise to settle in such a beautiful district, in a country where freedom was found and they were at home. He saw in them the same qualities their ancestors had. "I am very proud of you," said Mr. Blanchard. He had received a message from the President of the Confederation of Switzerland, Monsieur Rubattel, extending greetings to all Swiss abroad. Mr. Blanchard suggested that the gathering send a cable conveying its patriotic greetings to the President. The following telegram was despatched to Bern: "Anlaesslich Bundesfeier 300 Schweizer sind im Bezirk Taranaki vereint und ersuchen mich ihre Vaterlaendischen Gruesse dem Herrn Bundespraesident darzubieten."

During the evening the winners of the "Points Prize" over the series of "Yass evenings," conducted by the club, were announced. The winners were:—

Mr. F. Suter	9979 points
Mr. J. Kaiser	8571 points
Mr. J. Dettling	8716 points
Mr. J. A. Kaiser	8571 points
Mrs. J. Kaiser	8435 points
Miss J. Bernold	8396 points
Mr. J. Sidler	8371 points

The celebration was a decided success throughout and special thanks are due to the active organisers of the event.

A. SCHICKER.

Small Cars Becoming Rule

About two-thirds of the motor-cars on Swiss roads are vehicles of less than 11 horse-power, according to a recent survey by the Government. This confirms the trend noted in recent years to small cars.

More than a quarter of the cars on Swiss roads are made in Germany. Other suppliers, in order of importance, are the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France and Italy.

As for trucks, rather more than one-third are made in Switzerland, the rest coming mostly from the United States and Germany.

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