

Obituaries : Wilhelm Michael Stevanon

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Obituaries



Wilhelm Michael Stevanon

2 March 1948 – 6 November 2017

Willy was born 2. March 1948 in Flawil, Switzerland. He was the only child of Ruth and Wilhelm Stevanon.

Willy's parents split up early and a tough childhood started for Willy living with different families as a foster child and ending up with a farming family where he was exposed to very hard work. Willy formed some very good friendships during this time that kept him going through these difficult times.

Willy's dream was to be a pilot but he realised that he would never be able to follow that dream living in Switzerland. He ended up completing a dairy diploma in 1970. In between, he fulfilled his army duty with the heavy artillery division, a time he enjoyed immensely, often talking about how he would get a second helping at dinner because he worked so hard and was reminded that he would be no good at the front due to his heavy snoring!

Very early in his life, while staying with an uncle when he was just 4 years old, he pulled an atlas off the bookshelf, it fell on him, and the page that had opened was a map of New Zealand. Much to the amusement of the others he said; "I will live there one day!"

His dream began in 1972 when he packed his bag, boarded a ship and arrived 3 months later in New Zealand with no knowledge of the English language at all.

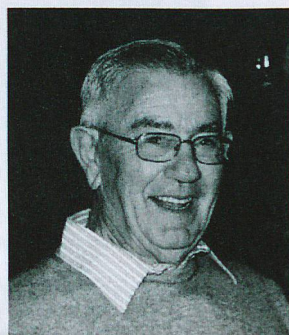
Bacon and Eggs was his first and most important words followed by some less desirable words he apparently used frequently and didn't know what they really meant! Willy searched for work and ended up in the cheese factory in Matamata, from there he moved to Kinleith in Tokoroa where he worked as a saw doctor, before moving to Rotorua where he pursued his dream of flying. In 1975 he sat his pilot license for fixed wing planes and helicopters and he ended up working in the aviation industry flying various aircraft. During this time he got to know Julie and in 1977 they got married in Tokoroa but soon moved to Te Awamutu. 1979 they had their first child and due to their concerns for the safety of Willy in the air, they decided that he would change jobs. He soon found one at the dairy factory in Te Awamutu and ended up working for the now Fonterra for 35 years.

Willy loved his connection with the Swiss club, he was a keen fisherman and was passionate about helping others with health massages and herbal medicine, but most of all he was a family man and his 4 grand children were his greatest gift he ever had, according to him. Melanoma sadly forced him to retire early. Willy enjoyed the short time he had left with family and friends and he was a very positive patient to the final day.

Thank you to Astrid and Adrian for giving me information for this Obituary.

I knew Willy well and we have lost another honest and well meaning friend.

The Hamilton Swiss Club and Swiss Society extend their deepest sympathy to the Stevanon family.
Hans Vetsch



Alfons Charles Kalin

27th April 1930 – 20th October 2017

Alf was born on the 27th of April 1930 to Alfons and Albertine Kalin. His father was born in Switzerland and his mother was born in France but they met here in New Zealand. Alf was the oldest of nine, seven sisters and one brother.

He spent his first three years living at Auroa and then the family moved to Austin Road for the next twenty-one years. Alf started school at Fraser Road School and at the age of seven attended Hawera Convent School until the age of thirteen when he left school to work on the family farm.

After a little stay in Hawera hospital he met a lovely wee nurse called Marion Hay from Rahotu. They were married in 1954 and stayed on the Austin Road farm where they reared pigs and milked cows for another two years. They then went to Auroa Road and farmed there for four years before moving to Kearn Road where they share milked for seven years before buying the farm next door and across the road from his parents. It was while share milking that Alf began contracting to supplement the family income. The contracting has just been bought by the third generation.

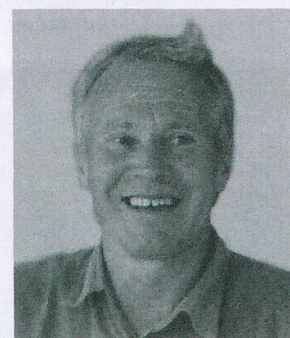
Alf and Marion were the proud parents of Paul, Brian, Christine, Mark and Maree and loved grandparents of thirteen. There are also twelve great-grandchildren. They had a wonderful fifty years of marriage before sadly Marion passed away in 2004. They had moved off the farm and into Hawera where they car-

avanned and motor-homed for many years, as well as enjoying many overseas trips, mostly to Switzerland, France and America where they visited family. They loved going to caravan rallies; Alf was getting ready to go to a rally when he sadly passed away on the 20th of October 2017.

Thank you to the Taranaki Swiss Club for their attendance and guard of honour, and to Othmar for the Swiss music.

Paul Kalin

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to the Kalin family.



Brian Dominik Hiestand

30 March 1944 – 9 December 2017

Brian was born in Hawera on the 30th March 1944, to Laura and Dominik Hiestand. He was the eldest of seven children, four boys and three girls. Brian remembered having a good and very happy childhood. He was a very capable child, soon helping with little jobs about the cowshed and farm, like holding the horses reins while the milk cans were rolled onto the wagon, for taking to the Factory, or driving the horses through one of those Taranaki wire gates, that only his Dad could open and close. He went to Opunake High School for one and half years, then Hawea Tech to the end of the 5th Form, because the Family moved to a small farm near Hawera for three seasons, before shifting onto their own farm on Auroa Road, Awatuna in 1961.

Brian met Vivienne, and they were married in 1967. They have been married for 50 years, and had a wonderful life together, raising three sons. Paul was born in 1968, Christopher in 1970, and James in 1971. As the years went by Brian increased the initial 150 acres to its present 500 acres milking 530 cows. He took great pride in the fact that after many years of consistent weed control, the farm is weed free. Much of the farm has been contoured, concrete races, and riparian planting have been undertaken.

Brian had a deep abiding love for the land, and his animals, and was a truly dedicated farmer.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Viv and family, and the Hiestand family, on the loss of Brian.