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Annual Reports from President and Editor

Dear Society Members,

It is with pleasure that I present my third annual Editors report.

As we head towards our final year of tenureship of The Helvetia I wonder where the time has gone.

This year The President, Secretary and Editor were at the same time on holiday in various parts of Europe and some of our Helvetia's final articles, proofreading and finally publishing and delivering were handled from afar. With some pre departure planning we were able, thanks to today's internet technology, to finalise the issue from afar. Sighs of relieve from all once THAT issue hit the mailboxes.

At this point I would like to thank all the Swiss Society Committee Members for their contributions in providing articles, proofreading, keeping our accounts in pristine up to date mode, handling the logistics of printing and delivering. I believe we are blessed in having a committee that communicates well and the knowledge that others in the Hamilton Swiss Club are willing to help when others are not available.

Of course Peter Deutsche, once again, has been very generous with his time and expertise and I thank him for this.

This year like the others has run relatively smoothly with only administration, such as the differing reds used in issues causing vexation: We ask ourselves "Why does it look different from one month to the next?" Many of you may not even have noticed but this slight change also affects the photo page.

How many have noticed the Logo change on the front page? This was created by one of our colleagues across the ditch – Roland Isler.

In conclusion I would like to say that we are proud of all our issues especially the personal stories that we have managed to collect and publish. Thanks to the families from NZ's Swiss Community who have contributed to this. We have one more year to go and I hope to have a personal story or experience from NZ's Swiss Community in each of these future issues.
This ends my report.



Dear members

Another year is coming to an end for the Swiss Society and it is number three for us Hamiltonians. One more year and we hand the Society batons on to Taranaki.

Looking back at the year, it has been another busy one for our team. Getting the Helvetia magazine filled and out on time calls for a special thank you to the whole team. The challenge was constantly there to keep costs under control and deliver quality. Thank you to the editor, the story providers and proof readers and the admin team. Thank you to all the advertisers, it is greatly appreciated and it makes it possible to publish the Helvetia without putting up the subs.

Last September I attended my second Oceania Presidents conference in Sydney, together with representatives from most New Zealand Swiss Clubs. One of the key benefits, apart from information exchange between Swiss club representatives and our Oceania delegates to the OSA (Organisation of Swiss Abroad) is the greatly improved personal camaraderie between the New Zealand and Australian Swiss community members. For example: one of our Hamilton members stumbled on to a Swiss card event in Queensland, took part in it and now we may see this event coming to Hamilton in 2021. Just another opportunity to make friends and this is not that easy for some of us. One of the better examples of closer communication between the two countries Swiss Communities is the assistance we get from the Australian delegates to the OSA (Organisation of Swiss Abroad) which then flows down to clubs and hopefully to individuals.

To continue fostering this relationship New Zealand Swiss Club and Society representatives offered to host the 2020 Oceania Presidents Conference in Auckland to be held 17th of October 2020.

The Society has made the decision to host this event and has committed some funds to run it. At the upcoming AGM you will be asked to approve further funds to pay for special events during the conference. This will make the financial burden for attendees a bit lighter and will increase the numbers participating.

Another totally different issue that has been on the radar for over two years is the revision of the Society Constitution. The main aim here is to ensure we actually do as it says in the Constitution or change it to say what we do. Here again, I count on your support to approve these changes. The revised document can be read on our website (www.swiss.org.nz - then click on links) or your club will have access to a copy. Please make sure you are informed before the meeting.

You may or may not know that our ambassador, David Vogelsanger as well as Juerg Bono and other friends at the embassy are leaving us this year and I would like to thank David and his team for all the positive contributions they have made during their time with us in NZ. It has been a fantastic time and a lot of Swiss citizens benefited from their generosity.

On this note I will close my report and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM in Wellington.

A sincere "Thank you" to the Embassy team, the Society Committee Members and all those who have contributed to another positive year for the Society.

I hope to see you there


