

Farewell message to the retiring Auckland committee

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We are sure all the Swiss in New Zealand will express with us our sincere thanks to the old Committee for their wonderful achievement. On our part we will do our best to carry on in the same spirit, and hope to strengthen the bond of friendship in our community.

Max Brulisauer, President.
E. A. Cattin, Vice President.
Herman Schlatter, Secretary.
Tony Komminoth, Treasurer.

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FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE RETIRING AUCKLAND COMMITTEE.

Since the foundation of the Swiss Benevolent Society, 6 years ago, the original foundation committee at Auckland have been in harness ever since. With a lot of goodwill, patience and efficiency they have done a great job. The membership of the Society went up from 49 in 1935 to 152 in October 1941, (not counting the 15-odd members, who unfortunately had to be dropped, because of non-payment of their annual dues), and the net assets have reached by now a figure not very far from £200. It will now be up to the newly elected committee at Wellington to prove of what stuff they are made. The Swiss Benevolent Society, though, should consider themselves very lucky that the services of a group of such good men and compatriots as those who have been willing to form a new committee, could be secured, and I have no doubt whatsoever that under their leadership the Society will make further progress. It will, however, require a good deal of effort to match the efficiency of the past President and Secretary, Messrs. Merz and Ungemuth, and their popularity among all members. Papa Ungemuth on account of his particularly close friendship with so many of our fellow-countrymen all over New Zealand, has assumed, so to speak, the position of a Swiss people's tribune in New Zealand. The other past members of the Committee at Auckland, in recent times, Messrs. Steyer and Roth, must not be overlooked either, in our tribute. Less conspicuously to the eyes of the members of the Society, they have pitched in their time and toil. The time has now come to honour the good services, which these friends and compatriots have rendered our Swiss Benevolent Society, with a hearty "Vergaell't's Gott". We are very appreciative too, that they have assured us of their willingness of further co-operation as district members.

DR. WALTER SCHMID.

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ANNUAL REPORT & BALANCE SHEET.

Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Balance-sheet for the year ending September 30th, 1941.

Satisfactory progress has been made again, and our bank funds increased, in spite of somewhat higher expenses, by £45. This is all the more remarkable as approximately £275 has been donated separately by our generous compatriots, for the Swiss Soldiers' Fund.

The chief purpose of your Society, (as all of you know well, but is repeated to refresh your memory), is to link together the Swiss so widely scattered over the country for the sake of friendship and common ties; to assist compatriots in real distress; to bring before you (as far as possible) news from home as well as happenings among Swiss residing in New Zealand; and to publish letters to the Editor. To achieve this object, however, we must have all members' whole-hearted support: the enrolment of new members should always be borne in mind; subscription fees should always be remitted in good time, and, as often requested, the Secretary should be informed of any happenings or news of interest for publication in the "Helvetia".

Today it is necessary more than ever, to foster mutual understanding and mutual help, so let us all remember the old Swiss proverb: "ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE".