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## President's Report

**Hello everyone,**

Isn't it hard to believe that Christmas is upon us once again ... seems I have hardly got over the last one!!! The way Mt Egmont looks at the moment, one would think we were going to have a white Christmas!!! The traditional New Zealand barbecue may not happen!!! In this issue I thought I would outline an attraction held in New Plymouth during the Christmas holiday break - the very popular "Festival of the Lights at Pukekura Park". If you are in the beautiful Taranaki area from 15th December to 10th February, be sure not to miss this fabulous display. The festival opens with the Christmas at the Bowl on 15th December at 8.30pm. The Festival of the Lights is open daily from 8.30pm to 10.45pm at Pukekura Park, and the circuit takes a popular route that includes the Fountain Lake, Hatchery Lawn, Main

Lake, Kiosk, Upper Lake area and Rhododendron Dell (unfortunately the Fernery is not included this season).

Music and/or entertainment activities are focused on two main areas - the Hatchery Lawn near the Fountain Lake and the Boatshed Lawn at the southern end of the main lake near the Rhododendron Dell. A wide variety of free music and entertainment is provided nightly throughout the Festival. Some entertainment will start earlier (around 7.00pm). The wooden clinker boats are available for that romantic row every night. Good car parking facilities are available.

A decision to postpone the Festival (due to inclement weather and/or unsafe conditions) is made between 6.00pm - 7.00pm. It is broadcast over the local radio stations.

Further information and a full programme

of events are available on the web at or call the New Plymouth District Information Centre on 06 759 6060.

Believe me it is a wonderful display of lights, and well worth seeing if you are in our province during the stated time.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. Should you be fortunate enough to have holidays, have a wonderful time, and I hope that you enjoy great weather.

Kindest regards

Marianne



## Christmas

There are special little miracles  
That come and go each day  
And perhaps we scarcely notice  
As they gently slip away.....

They're not the deep,  
mysterious things

That nobody can explain

They're as quiet as a friendly word  
That makes a warm heart known  
And as cheering as a tender touch  
That shows we're not alone

So, hope you have a happier  
Christmas

Than you've ever had before  
And the year ahead will bring you  
All the things you're wishing for.

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## Letters to the Editor

**Dear Madam,**

While translating the Fluhler family story last month, a tremendous thought hit me, five siblings emigrated from Switzerland, without their parents! This must be a record! But then suddenly, hang on a minute, I remembered my mother's family, the Zimmermanns of St. Jost Ennetburgen, of whom also five siblings emigrated to New Zealand between 1913 and 1939. Oh well, I thought, the Fluhler family will have to share this record. For try as hard as I could, scanning my memory banks back over 63 years of life in New Zealand, I could not recall any other family where five or more adult siblings came and settled in New Zealand. So to the main point of my letter. Is there someone out there, among your readers who knows of another family where five or more siblings emigrated from Switzerland to New Zealand? If so, I am sure many readers would be as interested as I am of hearing the details of such.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Amstalden.