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## President's Report

Our Societys' AGM is nearly upon us, and I can assure you that the Taranaki Swiss Club committee and members will do their utmost to ensure that everyone attending the weekend will have a good time. As this is a long weekend, please ensure that you book your accommodation as early as possible.

After reflecting on the discussions held over the last two AGMs, I realised that a HUGE part of the meeting was taken up with matters relating to the AHV versus NZ Super Annuation. Although I can understand that this matter is very dear to many of your hearts, I felt that we were going over the same issues time and time again. I know that many people are working very hard to try and make some inroads to resolve this problem, and we certainly appreciate your efforts. I would however like to suggest that the matter of AHV versus NZ Super Annuation not be brought up during discussions at this AGM unless someone has some NEW information to offer. I certainly don't want to offend anyone, but I hope that you all understand my mentioning this matter. I am sure that most of you enjoy shorter meetings!!!

We, in Taranaki, look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in June.

Regards  
Marianne

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## Spruch des Monats

It is, that little piece of paper, that you need, to write a note!!!

It's a little piece of paper, that, tells someone how you care!  
It can be a ray of sunshine!!, it can be a wish, or prayer!  
It can be a word of comfort, when somebody's heart is sad!!  
It can bring a smile or chuckle, making someone's heart feel glad!!  
It can keep folks close together, even though they're far apart!  
It can show someone, that you're thankful, from the bottom of your heart!  
It can travel any distance, in all kinds of weather, too!  
And it has that magic something!, that some big things, never do!  
Yes, it's just a piece of paper and it costs no big amount!  
But it proves that old, old saying!  
It's the little things that count!!!

Contributed by Walter Seifert.

## Message from the Embassy

### Swiss Passport 03 – US visa

In accordance with current US laws, the Swiss passport 03 with date of issue prior to 26 October 2006, allows you to travel to the USA **without a visa** until the passport expires. The **Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington recommends that you order your passport 03 as soon as possible**. In order to get the passport issued before 26 October 2006, you should apply for the passport already now but at the latest at the end of August 2006. The price is NZ\$ 155.- including postage (Sfr. 120.-)

### Swiss biometric passport (passport 06)

The Federal Council has decided that new biometric passports will be available from September 2006.

The new biometric passports can be obtained in 16 registration centres. The

registration centres are located across Switzerland in the cantons of Aargau, Berne, Basle City, Graubünden, St. Gallen, Ticino, Zürich and Vaud and cover all the country's language regions.

The following eight Swiss representations are designated centres for recording biometric data for Swiss citizens abroad: Paris, Frankfurt, London, New York, Toronto, Sao Paulo, Hong Kong and Sydney. More information will follow.

The biometric data required for the passport 06 can be registered at any of these centres irrespective of the applicant's place of residence. Swiss Abroad can therefore register their biometric data also at cantonal registration centres while visiting Switzerland.

The price is NZ\$ 300.- (Sfr. 250.-)

The Embassy strongly recommends you to visit the following website [www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch)

## Grüetzi Mitinand!

For warm, personal advice from an experienced, professional consultant, see Silvana Gottini

I have recently returned to NZ after 8 years in Latin America & Asia. With Swiss & Austrian parentage, I am fluent in German and Spanish and looking forward to helping with your business trips, visits to relatives or adventures into the unknown!

### Es würd mi freua von Euch z'ghöra

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