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Taranaki has spoiled us over the last five years with their Helvetia; it was always a pleasure to find the magazine in the letterbox. I don't know whether we should be thankful to our friends in Taranaki: They set such a high standard that it will be hard for us to follow their example. However, they have generously offered to help, and for that we are truly grateful. We have made a few phone calls already...

So here it is, the first Helvetia from Wellington. It might just take a little while to get used to the new set-up but we hope you like it.

Would you like to know who is behind the Helvetia in Wellington? Well, the new president of the Swiss Society is Roland Schütz. I don't think he needs much introduction. Roland has been the president of the Wellington Swiss Club for a few years now, and under his leadership we acquired our clubhouse. In his inimitable way he can motivate club members to contribute and go that extra mile. It is largely due to him that the atmosphere here is warm and friendly, and the Swiss club feels like a place where we all belong.

Roland is Bernese but, even worse, Emmentaler! This means giving up is not in his vocabulary - things aren't done in a hurry, but they are done to perfection and to last a hundred years at least.

The wizard behind the Helvetia is Heidi Amelung. Heidi has been a member of the Wellington Swiss Club for a few years. I cannot imagine how we could produce the Helvetia without her. Heidi finds articles and photos, does the layout, works on the concept and decides what should go where. Heidi also gets the whole Helvetia printed - very much a mystery to me - and negotiates the best deals. On top of this, she is the treasurer of the Swiss Society.

I've been made editor; I don't know exactly why - maybe because I talk a lot. My job is to make sure the pages are full. Obviously the easy way out would be to have fewer pages. Good people who have come to our rescue and generously offered contributions. Thanks to them we now have interviews, a children's page, Bodensee News, and poetry to enjoy - some of us might fondly (or not so fondly) remember that we had to learn poems by heart at school and then recite them in front of the class, and we'd go blank ... For those who grew up here and don't share these nightmares: Aren't you lucky!

We hope you like the mix and the new look.

Trudi Brühlmann, your editor



Let me introduce myself:
I am Roland Schütz, your new president.

I fange-n-a mit e chli
Bärndütsch, wie mer de Schnabu
gwachse-n-isch. Ufgwachse bin-i
im Härz vom Aemmitau,
z Ramsei, ir Chiuchgmein vom
Jeremias Gotthäuf. Im
Vieresächzgi bin-i uf Neuseeland
cho: es het mi tüecht, das sig
eifacher weder uf Züri.

For the wider community: I've always treasured my Swiss culture and the companionship of my Swiss compatriots. It will be a difficult task to step into Marianne's shoes and learn to walk, but I'll try my best and hope there is an open line to Marianne Drummond's little haven. Thank you, Marianne and your team, very much for your outstanding contribution to the Swiss Society over the last five years.

For me it was a great pleasure to see so many members from Taranaki, Hamilton and faraway Auckland attending the AGM and the celebration of the 50th Jubilee of the Wellington Swiss Club.

I hope to have lots of contact with many of you during my time. But now it is time to celebrate our National Day in our Swiss Clubs!!!

Uf Widerluage

Roland

Swiss Society of New Zealand

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