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Strange - it is mid September; the last editorial was written in mid July. So much has happened since then.

The Christchurch earthquake has shaken all New Zealand. Of course we knew, especially we in Wellington, that we are sitting on fault lines and that they are unpredictable, but somehow it was all in theory and not quite real. It has become painfully real all of a sudden. Have you checked your emergency kit and updated your emergency plan? Read the last pages in the Yellow Pages - and act on them!

As far as I know our compatriots in Christchurch have survived without too much damage. I rang a friend in Canterbury; her aquarium had shattered and flooded her living room, and the goldfish became earthquake victims, but she still thinks she got off lightly. - The Christchurch Swiss Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary; wouldn't it be nice if they belonged to the Swiss Society? I realise that it is a long way to the clubs in the North island - but actually, Christchurch is closer to Wellington than Wellington to Hamilton, let alone to Auckland! And there is always the option of becoming Society Only members of the Swiss Society...

News of the world: floods, fires, wars, riots, sports victories and defeats - you'll have read and seen them in the news.

On my private level: This year I did go for a holiday, a real overseas trip. Well, it was more 'overland': The flight to Sydney took not quite 4 hours; the connecting flight, from Sydney to Darwin, took almost 5 hours. Midwinter in Darwin was wonderful: blue sky, cool nights (well, 20°) and warm days, soft breezes all day long, a lukewarm sea, hardly any waves - why don't we all move to Darwin? I don't know about you, but I'll stay here and wait for our summer when I can go for swims in our admittedly rather cool sea - but at least there are no deadly jellyfish, and no crocodiles...

Trudi

The Swiss Society of New Zealand would like to welcome our new Ambassador

H.E. Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski

We hope she and her family enjoy their time in New Zealand, and they find time to meet many New Zealand Swiss.

We appreciate very much her introduction and the introduction to her family she wrote for this Helvetia; we shall do our best to answer her questions and make the whole family feel at home.

Roland Schütz
President of the Swiss Society

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