

Obituary : Ernst Rust

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Marie Ann Fluhler



10 October 1916 - 9 September 2011

Mary was born at Te Aroha. Her mother died when she was five, leaving five young children behind. Her father married a second time, and there were another eight born.

The family lived at various places where work was available, for times were tough. As a young girl Marie milked by hand and knew every cow. She was a fast runner and in Standard 2 she would beat the Standard 6 girls in a race. She went to dances in the Ngarua Hall, and her brother Joe took the family to church in a horse-drawn gig.

Mary met a young chap on a trip to Taranaki with her father, and when he sent her a Christmas card she had to ask for permission to send one back to him. A year later permission was given for her to marry Louis Schnuriger. They lived at Eastport Road Waihou for a few years before purchasing their own farm at Ohaupo.

Mary lost the love of her life when Louis died suddenly in 1963. Aged 47, she informed her older children she would get her driver's licence and not be dependent on them to take her to and fro.

In 1970 she got married a second time, to Werner Fluhler, taking on a family of five children, plus her own youngest; two were still at college.

She ventured further afield, taking a trip to Norfolk Island and to Switzerland. In 1988 Werner died. Again she got on with her life.

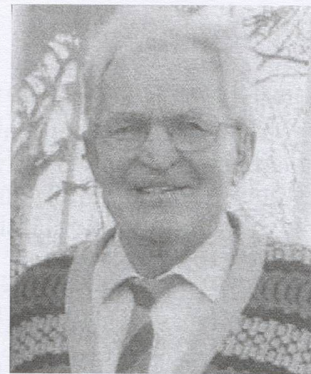
Mary was a hard worker, milked cows right up to the birth of her children. Her cupboards were full of preserves, cakes and biscuits. She always kept a vege garden, right up till she entered a rest home. She was a member of the Legion of Mary and the Catholic Women's League in her younger years. She learnt to play bowls and won many raffles. She loved cards, especially Swiss cards, and activities with the Swiss Club. Mary was never idle, not even in retirement: She knitted outfits for each new grandchild and great-grandchild. In later years she knitted hats and slippers, which she gave to anyone who wanted them or who she felt needed them.

Mary is survived by her seven children, 23 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandsons.

Colleen Schnuriger

The Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Mary's family.

Ernst Rust



Ernst was born on 6th February 1930 in Nesslau, Togggenburg, in Switzerland, to Leo and Cecile. They were farmers. Ernst was the oldest of five children. At 16 he left school to start an apprenticeship as blacksmith and general engineer. He was active in athletics, gymnastics and Swiss wrestling.

Aged 19, he did his military service, achieving the rank of corporal with an anti-aircraft unit. He was an excellent shot and generally enjoyed his military time as it enabled him to see other parts of Switzerland.

He was working for Saurer in Arbon when in 1953 he met his future wife Theresa. During their courtship, he changed employment to work for a chemical company in Uetikon am See, doing plant and machine maintenance. In 1956 Ernst and Theresa married and settled in Uetikon, where their first three children were born.

In 1964 the young family moved to New Zealand, joining Ernst's immediate family. In 1967 a fourth child was born. Moving to New Zealand fulfilled his wish to own his own home. A highlight of Ernst's life was planning and building a holiday home in Whangamata.

Ernst worked for Truscotts, later N.D.A., where he stayed until retirement in 1987. He started on the factory floor as a welder, finishing as production manager.

Ernst's passion for rabbit breeding was rekindled when it was legalised in New Zealand. After retiring, Ernst and Theresa moved to a lifestyle block. Although Ernst excelled in his trade, to go farming was a life-long wish. He was a successful breeder and judge both for rabbits and Limousin cattle.

Ernst was a member of the Hamilton Swiss Club, where he could indulge in his love for Swiss culture and dancing. He never lost his connection to Switzerland, travelling back a number of times.

After 15 years, he reluctantly gave up his farming career and moved to town, still busy with his rabbits and his garden.

Seven years ago things became difficult when he lost his leg, which nearly cost him his life. Nearly a year ago, with his health declining, a move to a smaller home was made, still with a few rabbits in tow.

Ernst was a loving, loyal husband, a family man and always interested in the well-being of his children, grandchildren and extended family. His life ended peacefully on 20th September, at home, surrounded by family.

The Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Ernst's family.