

# Word from the president

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## Word from the President

I was fortunate enough to visit the Taranaki Picnic this year in February – what a fantastic event they organised. It made me realise once again how patriotic we Swissies are abroad. We celebrate our culture and our roots and are ever so proud of our heritage – a phenomenon I think that is taken for granted when living back home. But I guess that's the way with many things in life - you never quite appreciate what you have until it's gone...

In a couple of months we are gathering again for our Swiss Society Annual AGM – this time in beautiful Taranaki. You will find the program, the AGM agenda as well as the minutes from last year further on in this Helvetia.



*Schwingen in progress at the Taranaki picnic*

One of the topics discussed at the last AGM was to reduce the term of the Swiss Society from five years to four or even three years. This caused a lively discussion amongst the Swiss Society members. We have taken the bull by the horns and discussed this topic in detail with all of the four Swiss Club committees. We feel that five years is a very long time to get consistent support and interest from club members both for the Society and the Helvetia magazine.

It is difficult to keep the magazine fresh over that length of time and we are sure that a more frequent change of teams will add to the liveliness and interest of our Helvetia.

I am very pleased to announce that the Hamilton Swiss Club has raised their hands and had a unanimous vote that they will take over the Swiss Society after four years, which is in 2016. This new proposal was discussed with the Taranaki, Wellington and Auckland Swiss clubs as well, and every committee agrees to a new four year term to host the Swiss Society from now on.

We feel very strongly that this new four-year-term will keep the Society more alive and innovative as an organisation, with new ideas coming through as the clubs pick up the job – something that is also needed to bring young members into the various clubs. Shorter time intervals will mean that it is less likely that knowledge of clubs on the tasks at hand will be lost when the baton comes round again. And furthermore it will keep the clubs more closely engaged with each other.

The actual length of the Swiss Society term is not mentioned in the Swiss Society Rules and therefore no amendments to the official rules are necessary. This change will be discussed during the upcoming AGM.

If you have any other issues that you would like to raise at the next Annual General Meeting please could you get in touch with me or our Secretary Nelly Steinemann no later than four weeks prior to the meeting. For any questions or queries please never hesitate to call or email me.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Taranaki!

Yours,

*Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg*

*President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand*

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