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President's report for Swiss Society AGM held on May 31st 2015

We have three exciting and busy years under our belt – now to the final 12 months and lucky us – only 5 ½ Helvetias to go !! But who's counting (other than me...)

First of all I would like to thank our Swiss Society committee members Nelly Steinemann our secretary, Carmen Fitz-Gorden our treasurer, Ernst Lanz our Rifle Master, Susie Wood and Marcel Ruedi very much for their contributions to the Swiss Society.

It's been an exciting year for the Embassy in Wellington since our new Ambassador has taken over his position. It's an honour to have Doctor David Vogelsanger accept our request to be the new Patron of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. Thank you very much!

We have figured out how one produces a 24 page magazine with all the mod cons and I think we're actually doing a rather fine job at it! Every second month we are producing a high standard magazine for the Swiss living in New Zealand and are proud of our achievement.

We have an amazing Helvetia team which consists of a dozen wonderful people contributing articles on a regular basis. I would like to acknowledge and thank Victoria Egli, Susie Wood, Alex Beskid-Jung, Trudi Fill-Weidmann, Nelly Steinemann, Adrian Blaser & Family, Edith Hess, Melissa Lanz, Ursula Nixon, Luzia Sauer, the Secretaries of all the Swiss clubs, the Embassy in Wellington and Peter Ehrler, Delegate of the Swiss Abroad who all regularly contribute articles and reports for our Helvetia. There are also a few others that I have not named who submit articles every now and then, which is much appreciated.

The Editor's role had a few changes during the last few months. After 2 ½ years of editing an amazing Helvetia, Susie Wood stepped down and Victoria Egli took over to do the last 3 issues. I would like thank both of them very much for their wonderful contributions and support.

The editor role is currently back to yours truly but Susie was kind enough to offer her help with co-editing a few issues and writing articles still on a regular basis. Thanks so much Susie, it is really making my life a lot easier having your support!

A rather important and also time consuming part is being played by our 6 proof readers. They take hours reading through the draft Helvetia with a fine tooth comb to eliminate those little mistakes, errors and typos before the final version goes off to the printers. Thank you proof readers!

The Helvetia wouldn't look as professional as it does without a great publisher like Peter Deutsche. He does the entire layout for us and supports the whole team in a great way. Thanks very much Peter – you always manage to calm me down when my blood pressure rises again...

January 2015 saw the launch of the OCEANIA – the regional news insert of the Swiss Revue. Up until now the New Zealand regional news had been included in the general "News from around the World" section and were mixed with information from Africa, Asia and parts of Europe.

Since January 2015 the regional news from Australia and New Zealand are combined in a new issue called "Oceania", which is located inside the printed version of the "Swiss Revue" and on a separate link in the

online version. It's great that we finally have our own page for our New Zealand news!

The swiss.org.nz website is still a success and a great tool for everyone to find out contact details, dates for functions, addresses for venues etc. It's a smart, clean and simple website that we're proud of. Thank you to the secretaries and everyone who updates it on a regular basis and of course a big thank you to David Latham who maintains and supports it.

Within the last year we launched our online database for our members' address lists. This new online solution allows all committee members of all the various clubs to view their member lists and allows secretaries to update their own club details. A big thank you to David Latham for his hard work on this project and Nelly Steinemann for the debugging and implementation of the new software. It's a great investment and will help us for years to come.

So as you can see, we have been a busy bunch the last 12 months...

I would like to thank all of you for the trust and support you've given me during the last year. I really enjoy supporting the Swiss community in New Zealand and I'm pleased to say that I recognize a whole lot more faces than I did a year or two ago! I always welcome comments, feedback and new ideas so please contact me if you have something you would like to discuss.

Thank you very much.

Your President,

Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

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