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Hans was known as a hard worker, highly respected for his trade knowledge and practice. A man of few words, he was often a reserved character. But throughout his life, we saw much thoughtfulness and a care for people, along with good wit and humour. In retirement he pursued interests of reading, languages, planting trees, wood turning, playing Jass and travelling with his Margrit; returning to Switzerland (their trips were often timed for peak cherrypicking season), visiting their daughters, and exploring new cities.

When Hans, now on his own, moved into Kapiti Village in 2003, he tended a compact garden plot, growing his own vegetables and writing his memoirs, Travels to Paradise. He often remarked, had he not ended up as a builder, he would have been a gardener. A year of new growth was 2010—Margaretha and Fethi became parents to Jayden Johannes and Hans became a very proud granddad. Hans' wish, and his priority in later years, was to stay in his own home in Paraparaumu. There he appreciated his well-lived life, and the good climate—in his own slice of paradise.

Members of the Wellington Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to the family.

If Tears Could Build A Stairway, And Memories A Lane, I'd Walk Right Up To Heaven And Bring You Home Again

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