

Obituaries : Johannes (Hans) Buess

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Obituaries



Frances June Hermann
1936 – 2016

Frances Hermann was born at Carterton in the Wairarapa on 16 August 1936. She spent her early years there until meeting Joe Hermann, a carpenter from Hawera, at a country dance in the early 1950s. Joe's mother and father had originally emigrated from Switzerland to reside in Taranaki. His mother Regina Styger arrived in Wellington on 17 March 1909 and his father Kaspar arrived on 28 August 1912. Joe and Frances were married on 30 June 1956 at Carterton after which they moved to live in Hawera. They had three children; Bruce, Josephine and Maurice.

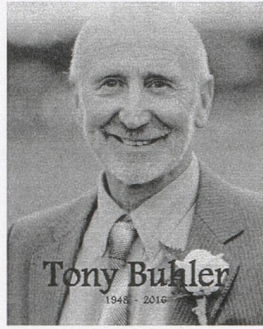
Frances soon joined the Taranaki Swiss Club of which Joe was already an active member and enjoyed many functions including the picnics, music, dancing and card events. She also had fond memories of the 1st August Swiss National Day celebrations which were held each year in the clubhouse at Kaponga. Frances enjoyed cooking for these events and we children enjoyed many a Swiss Cheese Tart on numerous occasions. I fondly remember the picnics that were held during the 1960s and 1970s at Te Ngutu O Te Many Reserve and later at Kaponga during February each year.

Frances and Joe had the opportunity to visit Switzerland for three months not long before Joe's death in 1992. They stayed with Joe's relatives at Fluelen who also took them on a tour of Switzerland.

Frances passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 15, 2016. She will be sadly missed by all the Hermann family and friends.

Bruce Hermann

Frances was a loyal member of the Taranaki Swiss Club who enjoyed many events, especially cards. We will miss her cheerful, friendly face. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand we extend our sincere sympathy to Frances' family.



Tony as he was known to us, was born on the 2nd of February 1948 in a farming village called Schwyz in Switzerland. He was the 2nd youngest from his family of 8 children.

At the age of 7 Tony and his family sold their farm in Switzerland and immigrated to New Zealand to explore the greater farming opportunities it had to offer. They settled in south Taranaki and began to adapt to a completely new way of farming, culture and living.

Tony left school at the age of 15, he always told us they couldn't teach him anymore by then.

After finishing school he farmed for his brothers for a while and then went on to work for Brian & Rosie Barkla in Whakamara before purchasing his first farm in Manutahi, South Taranaki in 1976. This year was the 40th year Tony has been on his farm. Tony loved farming it was his greatest passion. The fact you could generate an income from milking was just a bonus for him.

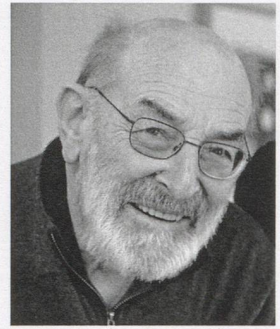
As well as running his farm, Tony also took on a works buying job. It was a great way to meet and talk to other farmers and it was during a routine works call where he happened to meet a local girl by the name of Teresa Keegan who he then married in 1985. Tony & Teresa went on to have 5 children; Mary, Greg, Cathie, Patrik and Anna and more recently became grandparents to Sophie (4 months) & Henry (3.5 months).

Tony lived his life with no regrets. He felt blessed for every day he was given and was always the most positive person. He was asked earlier this year if he had ticked anything off his bucket list to which he replied straight back "you know what I'm living it"

Tony will forever be in our hearts as the most treasured husband, father, grandfather, friend, brother, uncle, & Götti.

The Buhler family

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Teresa and family on the loss of Tony.



Johannes (Hans) Buess
14 January 1930 – 30 March 2016

The Wellington Swiss Club lost a long-standing member, when Hans Buess passed away at the end of March. Hans grew up with his parents, sister Rosmarie and brother Willi in Wenslingen, Baselland. After finishing school at age 15, he practiced his French, working for a farmer in Neuchatel. His parents wanted Hans to get a job with the Swiss railways, but instead he got himself a mason's apprenticeship and a few years later continued his studies at the building school in Aarau. Hans liked visiting new building projects and wanted experience in other building fields, so went to work for a civil engineering contractor.

In 1956 Hans read in the local paper that New Zealand was looking for building tradesmen, so he made enquiries. Finally in October 1957 he got passage to NZ, a six-week trip on the ship Captain Cook. Despite being a country boy at heart, he enjoyed Wellington city and socializing with the growing Swiss community. At the wedding of Luzia and Bruno Keller he met Margrit Hangartner. Originally from Altstaetten, SG, she worked with her brother Sepp at the Catholic Supplies candle factory in Wellington. Romance blossomed, and as Hans had already made plans to work in Ghana, their courtship continued across the seas. Eventually they met up in Amsterdam and drove back to Switzerland to meet one another's families.

Hans and Margrit married in Toggenburg, SG, returned to New Zealand in 1963 and promptly purchased a home in Ngaio. Three daughters—Margaretha, Christine and Katherine arrived soon after. Hans worked with a local contractor, while Margrit—a loving and devoted mum, and very proud housewife—looked after family and house. A steep section of land came up for sale in neighbouring Khandallah and Hans worked long hours to build an impressive home on four split levels, completed in 1974. This house was the first of three that he would eventually build.

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 cherry-picking 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 Paraparumu. 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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