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Obituaries



Otillia Paulina Walker (nee Engelberger)

26 January 1922 - 18 June 2017

Otillia, a name she was proud of, but she was affectionately known as Tilly (daughter of the late Arnold Josef and Anna Rosa Engelberger-Sattler). Aunty Tilly was very much a family person and this saw her and Uncle Tom return often, over the years, to Taranaki from the Bay of Plenty for birthdays, weddings and family visits. Family gatherings were always a great time as there was always plenty of Swiss music, cousins, chatter and laughter, often around our kitchen table, reminiscing and catching up. Aunty Tilly was very much a lady and a wonderful role model to her whole family. She held high morals and kept high standards, always beautifully dressed and well spoken. She had a great way of making you feel special, greeting you by name and giving you a big hug and kiss, taking interest in what you were doing and how you and the family were. Aunty Tilly was talented, always busy with sewing, knitting, painting and craftwork. She also played the piano and accompanied Pop on his schwyzerorgelli.

The Swiss Club and community held a very special place in her life and she enjoyed attending Swiss picnics and dances in Taranaki which always saw her and Uncle Tom on the dance floor. Together they enjoyed their travels to many parts of the world including a family trip we made with them to Switzerland. This trip was filled with many happy memories.

Aunty Tilly lived a long and full life, with Uncle Tom a good part of that at her side. They were not just husband and wife; they were best friends and a great team, always together. They have a beautiful family that now includes grandchildren and great-grandchildren, of whom they were immensely proud.

Our families loved her dearly and she will be sadly missed.

Therese Muggeridge (FitzGerald)

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



Bruno Stutz 26 April 1932 – 18 May 2017

Bruno was born in Zurich on the 26th of April 1932 the oldest of four children; he had two brothers and one sister. They endured difficult times during the depression in Zurich and when he was eight years old his parents bought a small farm in Winkel near Bulach, canton Zurich. He undertook an apprenticeship as an electrician for four years, biking to and from work every day, two hours each way! On top of that he worked ten hour days! When time allowed he still helped his parents on the farm.

In 1954 he married Maya Zumbuhl in Affoltern am Albis, canton Zurich, and they were blessed with three boys (Rolf, Bruno and Peter), all born at the same maternity hospital as their dad. In 1964 Bruno and Maya immigrated to New Zealand with their three young sons. Through a family connection and before embarking on the long voyage, they contacted Mrs Amstalden in Hawera, New Zealand. Bruno and Maya always lived in Hawera, where Bruno's first job was at the Hawera Hospital. They bought a small farmlet where they raised pigs and beef, and this, together with looking after the three boys, kept Maya busy. Bruno then worked for many years for Walkers (a Hawera freezing works) as well as doing many electrical jobs for people around the Hawera area. He particularly enjoyed working for people in the Swiss community where he always loved a chat with a coffee schnaps or two!!

Bruno and Maya travelled to Switzerland twelve times, and they always enjoyed travelling home ... whether it was to Switzerland, or coming back to New Zealand.

Bruno was an active member of the Taranaki Swiss Club, particularly enjoying games of jass, and was renowned for taking many a gamble in this Swiss sport!!! Bruno and Maya participated in many of our functions, and enjoyed several bus trips away to the other Swiss clubs. Bruno undertook the electrical work when we built our hall, and continued doing maintenance work afterwards.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Maya and family.