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Obituaries

Martha Wüthrich

17 August 1924 – 22 December 2018

Martha was born in Belp in the Bern-Mittelland, about 20 minutes from Switzerland's capital city of Bern. She grew up on a farm with her two sisters Trudi and Hanni (who both predeceased her). After finishing her schooling, her dream was to become a nurse but her father had other ideas and wanted his Martha to help on the family farm. Martha obliged and continued to help her father until she was about 30, when her father gave up farming allowing Martha the opportunity to commence her studies to become a nurse. At 35 she realised her dream and became a District Nurse in the Bern area for thirteen years until she had to give up her nursing career due to ongoing back problems.

In 1972 she met up with a childhood friend Hans (Hausi) Wuthrich who lived in New Zealand but was in Switzerland on holiday. A romance blossomed and in February 1973 Martha flew to New Zealand to be with her sweetheart. Only a few days after her arrival, the Taranaki Swiss Clubs' picnic was being held at Te Ngutu Park and Hausi proudly presented Martha to his many Swiss friends (who had all doubted him that his Swiss girlfriend was coming out!!!). Soon after they married and enjoyed a wonderful sixteen years together. Unfortunately during this time Hausi had become sick and Martha's gentle nursing skills were required again as she looked after him.

Martha joined the Taranaki Swiss Club upon her arrival, and participated in the Trachtengruppe in her Berner Gotthelftracht and also sang in the little singing group at the time. Both Hausi and Martha enjoyed playing Jass, participating in the Swiss Society competitions. Later they were unable to attend club functions due to ill-health, but continued their membership and were interested in the clubs' activities. They were always very grateful and appreciative to all their Swiss friends who regularly visited them.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society extend their sincere sympathy to Martha's family in Switzerland and her friends in New Zealand.

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The Patron of the Taranaki Swiss Club, Lou Butler

recently celebrated his 85th birthday in style!!!

His family and friends were invited to a potluck lunch at our club house, with Lou supplying the drinks. It was a wonderful afternoon with several members of the Swiss Club present to help Lou celebrate.

Lou has been a member of our club for many years, has been a dedicated and committed member throughout, and generously made financial contributions to various causes. Lou has been actively involved in the shooting activities at our club, donating many a round of ammunition. A lasting memory is the playground which he contributed to and which children happily play on. The bus trips away wouldn't be the same without Lou, who supplies many a kilo of delectable lollies!!!

Thank you, Lou, for your generosity and friendship over many years, and we look forward to your continued camaraderie for many more years.