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Obituary



Margaretha Agnes Dudli

20 July 1931 – 13 Dezember 2019

Margaretha (known to us as Margrit) Agnes Dudli was born in Alpnachstad, Obwalden, one of ten children. As was common in those days Margrit only had primary schooling education, and then attended a home economics school before working in various households throughout Switzerland as a housekeeper. In 1952 she married Ruedi Dudli and they had four children – Bernhard, Margrit, John and Esther.

Initially they had thought of immigrating to Canada as Margrit's Aunt lived there, but eventually decided not to, due to the very cold winters. In 1962 they finally decided to make the six week journey by boat to New Zealand. They had found work and living guarantees and left for this new adventure with their four children in tow. They started working on farms and in 1966 they purchased some land on Eltham Road where they milked cows and raised pigs, then built a new house. They found the biggest barrier to be a lack of knowledge of the English language; however they thoroughly enjoyed having a terrific friendship with their New Zealand neighbours. Unfortunately in 1977 their house burnt to the ground, and they subsequently built a new chalet-type house on the same site, appreciating the overwhelming support of the local community. On two acres of land Margrit created her beautiful begonia garden which was admired by many visitors, who also enjoyed listening to Swiss music in the background while meandering around the pristine garden. She toiled very hard in her beloved garden and created many magical spots. Margrit's garden featured in an edition of "Home and Garden" and was also pictured in a calendar. We always think of Margrit when we see Begonias.

Margrit spent many years on the Taranaki Swiss Club committee, working very hard and being a wonderful hostess. Together with Ruedi they enjoyed many years in the *Trachtengruppe* and Swiss Singing Group where Margrit loved to dance on her beautiful *Tracht* (Swiss costume) to go and entertain. Margrit made the Schwingen Kranz for more than twenty-four years; another way of showing her creative flair. Ruedi and Margrit enjoyed many bus trips to the other NZ Swiss Clubs, making many life-long friends on these trips. Margrit was a great fan of the Cowbell Competition

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as it ensured that members of the various Swiss Clubs met at least once a year to enjoy companionship and camaraderie among fellow Kiwi-Swiss. Margrit's great passion was Jassen which she enjoyed with many of her friends ... these games could last until the wee hours of the morning!!! Margrit also enjoyed being a member of Rural Women and playing indoor bowling; she took pottery and sewing lessons and loved the occasional flutter on the pokies!!!

Margrit's Catholic faith was a large part of her life, attending church and singing in the choir. She loved her family and was generous, fun and loving with her grandchildren. She was proud of their achievements and lavish in her praise.

Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Margrit's family, both in New Zealand and Switzerland. May she rest in peace.