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Introducing Taranaki's Helvetia committee

ADVERTISING / DESIGN / SUB-EDITING: Amanda Sherman

Hi. I am Amanda and I will be working with Taranaki's committee to bring you the Helvetia every two months.

I have been a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years, following in the footsteps of my parents, Kelly and Rosanna Sherman (von Hospenthal). Grandad was from Arth (Schwyz) and Gran's family were from Baar and Engelberg. We were raised to be keen Jass players and there's a family battle (that has been going for years) every Sunday.

Design and publishing have been my passion for many years – I started straight out of high school at the local newspaper/commercial printers and have been hooked ever since. I have my own design and print broking business which allows me the flexibility to work from home while wrangling three crazy kids.



TREASURER:

Marianne Drummond

Hello, my name is Marianne (daughter of Ruedi and Lisette Benkert) and I will be the Society's new treasurer.



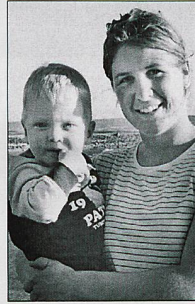
Together with my husband Adrian, and our boys Daniel and Richard, we are actively involved in the Taranaki Swiss Club where I am the current secretary/treasurer. I am very grateful to Adrian and the boys for the support they give me, assisting at all events and functions.

We farm in Midhirst, grazing dairy heifers and raising Herefords, having given up milking cows two years ago. I enjoy participating in our Swiss singing and entertainment group with my accordion, and love playing tennis both competitively and socially.

We hope that you continue to enjoy reading the Helvetia magazine and look forward to bringing you some interesting and informative articles.

Sonja Werder

Hi. I'm a dairy farmer and have an almost two year old son. Back in 2010 I spent a year in Switzerland working, travelling and getting to know all my relatives and the culture and absolutely loved it.

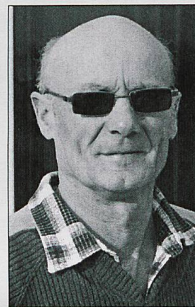


I have been a part of the Taranaki Swiss Club for as long as I can remember and recently took on a role in the committee.

Over the next four years I will be trying my hardest to have some good entertainment for the kids in every issue and helping out anywhere I'm needed.

Markus Kiser

I was born in Oberrueti, Canton Aargau. In 1962, my family immigrated to New Zealand when I was just 18 months old. My parents were farmers during their working life and in 1971 they bought their own dairy farm east of Eltham in South Taranaki.



From 1998, I was in partnership with my parents on another farm and worked there until 2011. In that same year, my parents and I moved to Hawera where we bought a wonderful home and property with a superb 180 degree view of Mt Taranaki.

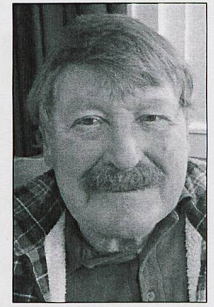
It is now more than 20 years since I joined the committee of the Taranaki Swiss Club, as well as being the smallbore rifle master for the majority of that time. For a period of 10 years I was the Swiss Society Rifle Master for Taranaki and Wellington; so am more than happy to assist the Helvetia editorial team in that area for the next four years. My main jobs will be supplying the results from New Zealand's Swiss Club shooting events and distributing medals to all of the winners.

VICE PRESIDENT:

Zeno von Hospenthal

Hi. I'm Zeno.

I'm a retired pedigree Ayrshire dairy farmer (of 50+ years) and have been a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club all my life.



Nothing makes me happier than music and have played the accordion for the Taranaki Swiss Club for more years than I can count. I like to keep busy and have always enjoyed gardening.

Dear Society members:

*The cost of printing and posting the Helvetia is continually on the rise. Changing to an electronic version of the Helvetia would reduce the cost to the Society greatly. If you are happy to change to an electronic version, please advise **Marianne**, email marianne.drummond@swiss.org.nz*

Cover image:

The Mary of the Snow Chapel is a landmark of Bettmeralp, in the Valais. The chapel was completed in 1697, however, prior to the beautiful holy building you see today, a chapel dedicated to Saint James once stood in the very same place. Only Christian weddings are allowed in the church, however, free wedding ceremonies are permitted on the meadow in front of the chapel.

Picturesquely located on a hill in the centre of the village, with the beautiful alps as its backdrop, it really does create a classical picture-postcard scene from Switzerland. Check it out next time you are there, you won't be disappointed!

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