

From the president

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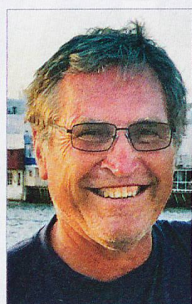
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From the President



Greetings to you all.

As president, I would like to give you my perspective over the next few issues, as to why I am so happy to be part of this great organisation. The New Zealand Swiss Clubs are social clubs, where as many other Swiss Clubs around the world are business clubs.

When I joined the Taranaki Swiss Club in 1980, the world was still a big place. You could still send telegrams at your local post office, a phone call to Switzerland had to be pre-booked and cost \$8 a minute. So many of us sent Aerogramme letters (that fine blue paper) and it took a minimum of 28 days to get an answer if the other person replied straight away. The television turned off at 10pm and Goodnight Kiwi put us to bed.

When you went to a social gathering, you bought a ticket that included all your drinks and supper for the evening (sometimes they almost mopped up more beer from the floor than was drunk!).

We listened to the Swiss Radio at 10.30pm for 30 minutes; in my case I set the radio halfway up the wall in the corner of the lounge, just to hear a snippet of news from Switzerland, and a few lines of Swiss music. You waited for visitors from back home, as travelling wasn't as popular then as now, (before COVID-19 arrived of course) and much more expensive.

Due to my limited knowledge of English, the Swiss Club was my main social focal point, and the Swiss music, trachtentanz, fine food and good friends all combined to make an easier start for me in my adoptive country. So, as you can see, the Swiss Club, for me, has always been very important and I aim to foster the Swiss culture and traditions and promote them to our future generations.

Bis zum nächsten Mal

Othmar

Editor's note



As I sit here reading through the articles for this issue, feeling like the last issue only just left my computer, I can't believe we are nearly in October. Where have the last two months gone? In fact, where has the year gone!?

Each month feels like it goes by faster and faster. One minute we are celebrating the beginning of the new year and the next we're putting gifts under the Christmas tree again. But life is super busy for a lot of people these days, with work and family life, making days and weeks blend into each other at times.

Even thinking about my own day with three young children (and one old one) sometimes seems a bit mad, but I wouldn't have it any other way! The daily bottle feeding lambs, packing lunches, dropping kids at school, groceries, doing accounts, writing articles, shifting cows, picking up kids, sorting dinner, and finally story time, makes the long awaited peace and quiet, feet up with a cuppa (or a wine) time that much more enjoyable!

As I read through Othmar's report and the story of the Kuriger family and the simpler times they remember, I wondered, did time go by just as fast for them all those years ago? It must have, but perhaps just in a different way. I mean, I cannot begin to imagine the school rush every morning if I had to get up, light a coal range, fetch the eggs and milk a cow to have breakfast and a cup of coffee!

With those thoughts in mind, I urge you to take a moment out of your busy day, make a drink, put your feet up and enjoy the fantastic reads in this issue!

Until next time,

Terese

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