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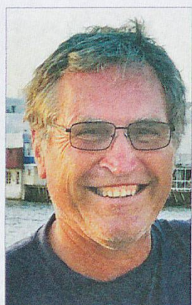
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## From the President



Grüetzi mitenand.

Carrying on from my report last issue, I would like to add to the many reasons why I am happy to be a part of this fantastic organisation.

Thanks to the Swiss Society inter-club competitions, we have met so many fellow Swiss and their families in New Zealand – mainly in the North Island of course. We have made lots of new friends that occasionally call in on us, or we visit them for a coffee schnapps, a good catch up or even a Jass or two.

Early in November we joined a group of Hamilton Swiss Club members for a weekend of walking, talking, singing, card playing and wonderful meals provided by the Hamilton organisers. There were also members from the Auckland club who took part – what a great weekend it was.

At home again, life is busy and it's hard to believe Advent is upon us already. Back home in Switzerland that means a serene and cold time as the start of winter leaves long nights and short days. Here it's a hustle and bustle of hay making, getting the gardens looking great and planning for the Christmas break.

On behalf of the Taranaki Helvetia team we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a good start to the New Year.

*Othmar*

## Editor's note



Hello Helvetia readers!

Well, the countdown is on!

There is not long to go now until there is a flurry of morning cooking, drinking champagne – toasting Merry Christmas and an array of brightly, beautifully wrapped gifts uncovered in great haste, while watching delighted smiles spread from ear to ear.

Followed by a day playing with new toys and games, eating the delicious Christmas lunch and pudding, then enjoying the 'compulsory' power nap on the couch in the sun (fingers crossed), having eaten far too much ham and pavlova to finish off the afternoon. Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year!

I hope you all enjoy this Christmas/New Year issue of the Helvetia. Many thanks to those who have given us some wonderful feedback on our first two issues, it really means a lot to know you are enjoying it and we hope you continue to do so. The kids' page seems to be a big hit so I have included a little extra for Christmas for you.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, may it be filled with lots of good food, laughter and great memories with loved ones. Also a toast to the New Year, may 2021 be 'boring' in comparison to 2020! See you all in the New Year.

*Terese*

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