

Dear members of the Swiss Society of QLD.

What a year it has been.

My first year of being the club's president has seen me meeting with consular officials and other Swiss club presidents from around Australia and New Zealand.

Very recently I represented our club in Sydney at the bi annual Swiss club Presidents meeting. During the year I have been present at members birthdays, have met up with the members of the Gold Coast club and was present at all of our own club's functions.

However, meeting and talking to our members and friends of the club at our various functions throughout the year, stays on top of my list and is very important to me. It has given me enormous pleasure to talk to you and I have gained an understanding what our club is all about, and what you expect from us here in the committee. Above all I want to keep our members happy, make our club more attractive to invite more new members, and I want to concentrate to get to know our members better.

The year has not only made an impression on me but also to the rest of the committee whom all have been new to their role.

I remember our first meeting after last years AGM, and I think it is fair to say that we all left somewhat deflated because we realised the workload that was involved to give the club it's best. However, this feeling has passed quickly, and I am looking forward to many more inspirational meetings.

In our first year as the committee of the Swiss Society, we have worked towards seeing more families at functions. We achieved that by introducing a set price for member Families attending the functions, which was a success. We also had record numbers of members and families attending the Raclette and Fondue events, and also at the national day celebration.

We have worked on revamping the website which is now easier to navigate. We have also changed over to a new website host, which has seen the hosting fees go down remarkable. For another means of income, we are going to ask businesses to advertise on the website.

Furthermore, we have done surveys to find out what our members want regarding functions. The result concluded that most of our members are happy the way the functions are conducted and the club is run, with a few members who would like to see more of a variety for next year's events calendar.

The year hasn't gone by without obstacles. In the middle of the year we have received the sad news that Peter Zuend couldn't continue with the bushwalking group due to his health. All of us here want to wish Peter all the best for his road to recovery.

Then there was the uncertainty of getting the cheese for the fondue and the raclette because it was held back by the customs. It was only a few days before the event when we received the good news that the cheese had arrived, and we were able to move forward with the event.

Last but not least, I want to take this chance to thank you all for giving me the opportunity and trust to lead the Swiss club. I also want to thank my committee colleagues, as well as Gabriel, Alice and René for their countless hours of contribution to the club.

Also: Peter, I don't tell you this enough, but you do an amazing job! Peter is working for the club's books on a daily basis, allocating members and other payments, paying bills, calculating and paying the tax, ringing up members and finding out about where occasional 'mystery membership' payments came from. These are only a few things to mention of what you do for our club, so Thank you.

