



Dear Goethe Society Wellington members and Friends of the Society,

Firstly, apologies that there has not been a GSW newsletter since August. This has been entirely due to my workload and health issues – not due to a lack of activity! ☺ We have, nevertheless, been rather busy and involved in a number of events throughout the period.

In August the GSW public lecture celebrated Luther, Professor Nils Oermann's presentation on *Martin Luther's teaching of the two regiments (Zwei-Reiche-Lehre) & its significance for contemporary politics*. The Hauskonzert in August included Kaffee & Kuchen followed by a cello concert with Aaron Minsky.

The annual German Oral Competition (August) and Prize giving (September) were again highly successful – see the brief review below. Thanks to all the members and friends who volunteered as judges and ushers on the day, and many thanks again to Dr Margaret Sutherland for her amazing logistical organisation in conjunction with Philippa Watson!

We had another Filmabend mid-November with documentarist, Frauke Sandig's deeply sensitive, moving, and edifying documentary on the burning issue of "refugees in Germany", *Friedland*. Friedland's claim to fame goes back to 1945, when the British military occupation administration established a camp for internally displaced persons and war returnees in this idyllic town in Lower Saxony. Today it is a reception camp for asylum seekers mainly from Syria, Eritrea und Afghanistan. In this film Sandig lets former German inmates narrate their experiences of fleeing and of life in the immediate post-War era, and she confronts their memories with the experiences of today's refugees.

Many thanks to Jacqui, Helen and Mary for organising these evenings and the delicious refreshments, including the now 'world famous in GSW circles' homemade sausage rolls!

We concluded a very busy 2017 with the annual Christmas Dinner, which was again held at the Brooklyn Deli and was a very lively and enjoyable event. See also brief review below.

We encourage you to attend our events and become a member of the GSW. We do not charge for any of our events or activities and your subscriptions enable us to provide these opportunities for the German-speaking communities in Wellington and those interested in all things German. They also enable us to offer secondary school students learning German in the Wellington area the opportunity to participate in the annual Oral Competition, for instance.

Details of our events are posted on our Facebook group page – which you can find by searching for **Goethe Society Wellington** on Facebook or on our website www.welly-goethe.org.nz. As members you will receive both these newsletters and invitations to all events.

As I am sending this out to you all on Christmas Day (before I go away for three weeks), a few thoughts re the festive season:

**Was soll man schenken zur Weihnachtszeit –
So fragen viele Menschen zur Zeit, Besinnlichkeit und Geborgenheit, Herzenswaerme und Freundlichkeit, Eine liebevolle Umarmung und Dankbarkeit –
Das sind wertvolle Geschenke nicht nur Zur Weihnachtszeit.**

Von Herzen wuensche ich Ihnen froehliche Weihnachten und ein rundum erholsames Fest im Kreise der Lieben, fern ab von Stress und dem Alltagsdasein!



Kristina McGuinness-King

Goethe Society Wellington: www.welly-goethe.org.nz

Or find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/385398775978/>

- **Goethe Oral Competition & Prize-giving – a brief review**
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Goethe Oral Competition & Prize-giving – a brief review:

84 students from 7 secondary schools participated in this year's German Oral Competition across 5 levels, including separate categories for native speakers, on 12 August. A very successful prize giving event was held on 6 September, at His Excellency Herr Gerhard Thiedemann, Ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany to New Zealand spoke about his first year in New Zealand and the importance of languages.

2017 Dr Jacoby Prize winners, Samantha Romijn and Renee Patete, both from Wellington Girls' College, read the excerpts they had read from in the competition. Then Simon McSweeny-Harte and Josieh Greig gave presentations about their experiences as exchange students on the New Zealand/German Student Exchange in December 2016/January 2017.



I would like to thank all the judges, ushers, GSW committee members and teachers for all their assistance in organising this competition. It is a great tradition here in Wellington and we are proud to be able to continue this very important way of promoting and enhancing the German language in New Zealand. Thanks must also go to the two embassies of German-speaking countries - Germany and Switzerland - as well as the Goethe-Institut for their massive support and generous donation of the prizes.



I would also like to acknowledge the huge efforts of Dr Margaret Sutherland and Philippa Watson who organised and facilitated the whole competition. It is a complex logistical task and both have done an amazing job to give the students this opportunity.

*Organised by the **Goethe Society** in cooperation with the **Goethe-Institut New Zealand***





2017 Christmas Dinner – a brief review:

Held on 30 November, the annual GSW Christmas Dinner also celebrated Dr Margaret Sutherland with many of her former students attending. It was a great evening with lively discussions and great food prepared by the Brooklyn Deli.

The menu included Fruehlingsalat, Rindfleischsalat and Beef Consomme with Griessnockerl as some of the starters on the menu; the old favourite Wiener Schnitzel and Potato salad, Pork belly with warm cabbage salad, and Spinatknoedel as some of the mains; followed by Kaiserschmarrn, Marillenpalatschinken or Buchtein mit Vanillesauce for the brave who ordered dessert!

Thank you to all that attended and made this such a special evening to end the year of GSW events and activities.



Date to put in your diaries: 2018 AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held on 21 March 2018. Please put this date in your diary and join us for a potluck dinner (to be held at Helen Fawthorpe's again), followed by the AGM. More details to follow.

It will be very important to elect a new President in 2018 as I will no longer be available to hold this position. (I will ensure a handover and assist from the background in the transition period.)

Ideas for 2018 Events or Activities?

The GSW Committee would like to hear what you would like to have/see as events and activities in 2018. While we have some standard (annual) events, we always want this to be a relevant organisation, so we would love to hear your ideas. Please email the Committee at goethe.society.wgtn@gmail.com with any thoughts or bring your ideas to the AGM in March.

Goethe-Institut New Zealand Events:

Keep up to date with the activities, German films (at the Film Societies), music, artist talks, exhibitions, etc. that the Goethe-Institut New Zealand organises and or facilitates at:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/nz/en/wel/ver.cfm>

Stammtisch:

Der Stammtisch soll die Gelegenheit zum ungezwungenen Deutsch sprechen, plaudern, schwatzen, quatschen bieten. Es kann jeder kommen, der Deutsch sprechen möchte. Der Stammtisch findet **am letzten Donnerstag des Monats jeweils um 17:30 Uhr** im Muenchen Hofbrauhaus (<http://munchen.co.nz/>), 6 Queens Wharf, Wellington statt. Um auf die Verteilerliste zu kommen, bitte eine E-mail an goethe.society.wgtn@gmail.com schicken.

The Stammtisch provides the opportunity to speak German in an informal setting. Anyone who would like to speak German is invited. The Stammtisch takes place **on the last Thursday of each month at 5.30pm** in the Muenchen Hofbrauhaus (<http://munchen.co.nz/>), 6 Queens Wharf, Wellington. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send an email to goethe.society.wgtn@gmail.com