

# 1st August celebrations, Auckland

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **7 (1941-1942)**

Heft 11

PDF erstellt am: **28.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942953>

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guard the interests of our countrymen as far as possible. The Swiss Colony in Greece, which suffered severely, has received all possible help from the official representatives of our country, who have softened the plight of our countrymen and their families through representations made to foreign and domestic authorities and by arranging their transport for leaving Greece.

The requests received by the Swiss Foreign Office for assistance to obtain visas for travelling from, to or through foreign countries have been very numerous. It has proved to be more and more difficult to obtain such visas for persons who had to travel from Switzerland on account of military precautionary measures taken in every country. Visas can only be obtained for trips which are in the interest of the country's economic situation and are no longer obtainable for ordinary travelling. Nearly all requests received from countrymen who had fled from occupied France - very often separated from their families - wanting to return to their former residence, were mostly refused. Direct postal communications between occupied France and Switzerland were suspended during the whole year."

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1st AUGUST CELEBRATIONS, AUCKLAND.

Over 60 members and friends celebrated the Swiss National Day in Auckland at the Overseas League Rooms. We had the privilege and pleasure of the attendance of our esteemed Consul and Mrs. Schmid. The whole Auckland Colony desires to express the appreciation of the special effort made by Dr. Schmid to be in Auckland for the occasion. We also want to thank him for his fine address, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The atmosphere during the evening was one of utmost goodwill and patriotic feeling. Everyone was pleased to again meet old and new friends, and although some members were prevented to attend due to illness or lack of transport facilities, the gathering was a very representative one. Just as last year, so again this year, has the Auckland community proved to be loyal to their Homeland. The unshakable allegiance to Switzerland can never be denied by a true Swiss.

The programme was greatly enjoyed by everyone, and of particular interest were the Lantern slides, depicting Swiss scenery and customs. The Committee wishes to thank all those who so kindly contributed items towards the programme, and also wishes to express appreciation for the ladies serving such a fine supper.

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1st AUGUST CELEBRATIONS IN WELLINGTON.

The invitations for the 1st of August celebration in Wellington had to be sent out on a very short notice due to the difficulties of obtaining a suitable locality, and it was therefore a pleasure to see that 30 members and friends turned up. We may say that it was a very successful evening, although we missed the presence of our Consul and Mrs. Schmid, whose company was enjoyed by our Auckland friends.

The rooms of the Lyceum Club were gaily decorated with lampions and coat-of-arms representing all the Swiss cantons.

The President of the Swiss Benevolent Society opened the evening with a short address. Soon a cheerful atmosphere was established, singing our Swiss songs and dancing continued up to 12.30 when our gay party was so suddenly interrupted by the second earthquake experienced in Wellington within a month. Everybody, of course, felt very uneasy, and soon our gathering was broken up as everybody wanted to leave which was not surprising, as a six storey brick building in the middle of the town was certainly not a safe place during an earthquake.

We wish to thank here all those who made the arrangements and helped to make our celebration of the 65th Anniversary of our Homeland a success.

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