

News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

The Taranaki Swiss Club held its Annual Picnic on Sunday, February 12th, at the Te Ngutu Domain, Okaiawa. Once again we were favoured with a beautiful fine day which brought a large crowd of adults and children, including visitors from the Waikato.

Swiss flags representing each Canton of Switzerland were strung out across the ground, the effect of which was very striking to those arriving.

Children's races for all ages were held and prize-winners during the day were.—

Steintossen: E. Wuthrich 1, J. Kuriger 2, A. Muller 3, B. Muller 4. Kegelbahn: Men, J. Wuthrich 1, J. M. Wyss 2; Ladies, Mrs R. Ehrler 1, Mrs T. Napflin 2. Children's Skittles: A. Dettling 1, M. Buhler 2. Nail Driving: Men, J. Kuriger 1, A. Hermann 2; Ladies, Mrs F. Gwerder 1, Mrs J. Dettling 2. Competition for Framed Picture: J. A. Kaiser.

Races: Single Ladies, Agnes Suter 1, Pauline Zimmeran 2; Single Men, M. Steiner 1, F. Steiner 2; Married Men, M. Steiner 1, J. Kuriger 2.

—M.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club will be held on Saturday, April 15th, at the Professional Club, commencing at 8 p.m. sharp. Besides the Annual Report given by the President and the election of officers, etc., included in the evening's programme will be the presentation of prizes to winners of the various sections of the Auckland Schutzenfest, and also for the Swiss Society of New Zealand shooting competition.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Hamilton Swiss Club Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with our Club Evening in the Riverlea on April 9th (second Sunday in April, the first Sunday being Easter Sunday). As we have no other business besides the election of the Committee and General, we expect the meeting to last only about 30 minutes. Therefore, we have everything as usual: the Dutch Orchestra, a tasty Supper, etc., so don't miss this evening. Bring your dancing partners and friends.

A Card Evening, the first of three, will be held in the Tauwhare Hall on Saturday, April 22nd. A special prize will be given this year for the highest aggregate points for the three card evenings as well as generous prizes for each evening.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

March 28th: Big "Chilbi" under the direction of Fritz Wangler, with rifle shooting, darts, ball games, etc. There will be lots of lovely prizes to be won. Proceeds of the evening will go to the funds of the Christchurch Swiss Club.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

"A Home Away From Home"

A recent article appearing in the "Swiss Observer," London, has prompted me to write the following article about the Auslandschweizer Home. I would venture to say that very little is known in New Zealand about this Home for Swiss nationals from abroad, and as I had the opportunity while in Switzerland to stay some days with this wonderful group of people who run the "Home," I wish to tell others about the facilities available.

SITUATED at Durrenaesch (Canton Aargau) between the Wynen and Lake Valleys (Hallwilersee) the "Home" is set in ideal surroundings, and is within easy reach of Zurich, Basel, Lucerne and Berne. Open to all Swiss nationals from abroad and their descendants, the "Home" provides something new in the way of a holiday, i.e. a holiday in a Swiss village.

My visit to the "Home" coincided with the Easter holiday break, and on my arrival at Hallwil station I was met with a warm welcome by Miss Spahr, a member of the "Home" committee. The next day being Easter day everyone gathered in the dining room and joined in the traditional breaking of real Easter eggs, having the night before gathered small amounts of flowers and grasses and wrapped these around the eggs and then boiled them. Later on we all sat down to a lovely meal and each guest was given a small basket of chocolate Easter eggs.

At this time of the year there were not many guests, and so I was able to make a full tour of inspection of the "Home" and the surrounding countryside.

Functioning as a complete self-contained unit, the "Home" has its own farm (known as the Bampf) and it is here that most of the food is produced. All the bedrooms at the "Home" are provided with hand basins, hot and cold water, and are kept spotlessly clean. There is a writing room, a large lounge with television, music room with piano, and even facilities for games, etc., for the youngsters. Outside one of the main buildings is a small rockery with a spring fountain, and this is always greatly admired by the guests, besides adding to the already attractive gardens of the "Home."