

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 28 (1965)
Heft: [12]

Rubrik: News of the colony

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Christmas Greetings

My dear Compatriots,

Upon the approach of the Festive Season, I take the opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, of extending to you and your families the Compliments of the Season.

I am thinking of the many members I have had the pleasure to meet and of those I have not yet met.

In the ageless, friendly custom handed down from long ago this cheery greeting is sent your way: the very best at Christmas time.

To ail I have at heart I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, which is extended also in grateful appreciation to our compatriots at home in the "Schweiz."

John Steiner, President.

For the occasion of the retirement of Federal Councillor Wahlen, Dr J. P. Weber, Embassy of Switzerland, forwarded the following Telegram:

"=ETAT PRIORITE=" POLITIQUE POUR CHEF DE-
PARTEMENT

BERNE

COLONIE SUISSE DE NOUVELLE ZELANDE SE JOINT AU
PERSONNEL D'AMBASSADE POUR VOUS EXPRIMER
RECONNAISSANCE EMINENTS SERVICES RENDUS A
LA SUISSE ET HORS DE SES FRONTIERES ET POUR
ADRESSER A VOUS-MEME ET MADAME WAHLEN VOEUX
CHALEUREUX POUR RETRAITE FECONDE ET
HEUREUSE.

WEBER

AMBASUISSE

J. P. Weber, Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland,
G.P.O. 386, Wellington.

News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

On Saturday afternoon, 6th November, a party of 22 left Auckland in six cars for a tramping excursion up to "Castle Rock" in the Coromandel Ranges. The trip along the Thames

Coast and across the Coromandel Ranges was quite an experience for some people who had never travelled along this particular route before. The beauty of the countryside was admired by everyone and cameras were used frequently.

At approximately 5.30 p.m. everyone finally arrived at Whangapoua Beach which was our camp site for the night. In no time tents appeared on the deserted camping grounds. The camp fire was prepared and the hurriedly made grill was put on the fire for our Bratwurst. A pleasant evening was spent around the camp fire singing to the accompaniment of a guitar.

At 4.30 the next morning a certain member of the party enjoyed declaring "Tagwach" by using a stick on an empty 4-gallon tin. The camp became alive once more. Tents disappeared, tea and coffee was made for breakfast and at 6 o'clock everyone was ready to leave and make their way towards "Castle Rock."

The cars were left by the road and members of the party were driven further into the bush by landrover. From there we started walking. Several streams were crossed and although one member of the party had the misfortune to slip and fall into the water, the rest of the climb was uneventful. At the end of the three-hour trek the women members stopped and had lunch while the men went on to climb to the summit.

Two hours later they returned, had lunch and once more we were under way. Although we crossed some rough terrain the going was much easier downhill.

The cars were reached and everyone went to Holzgang's for afternoon tea, which was greatly appreciated. From Te Rerenga we travelled through Kuaotunu and Whitianga to Coroglen where we stopped once more for a snack, this time at Imhof's farm. The last lap we travelled via Tapu Hill and the Thames Coast through heavy rain.

Our thanks go to the President who organised the trip and made such a wonderful weekend possible. Everyone who went on this trip we feel sure, will look forward to the next tramping excursion.

—V. & E.B.

COLOUR SLIDES AND "PREISJASS" EVENING

On the evening of 20th November, 1965, we had a nice "sit-together" in the Edendale School Hall. Everybody seemed to enjoy the wide range of slides shown from all over the world. The ones from the "Expo" and the last year's trip home to Switzerland gained the highest appreciation. But we succeeded also in showing New Zealand in colour — isn't it a beautiful island we live in?

After two hours, at 10 p.m., a delicious supper was served that gave us more courage to enter the "Jass" competition. Mean-

while, a vivacious play took place between the different members and guests, and at last Mr Simi Hartmann was the winner! Results: 1st prize (large Salami), Mr Simi Hartmann with 934 points. 2nd prize (large Salami), Mr Hans Bryner with 868 points. 3rd prize (large Salami), Mrs Meienberg with 856 points.

After another drink from the bar, lively discussion and listening to Swiss records followed until, one after the other, members decided to go home—it was very late, which meant Sunday dawn was not far away! —M.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Once again, our members had the opportunity to enjoy a Swiss film, spoken in "Schwyzerduetsch" and preserving a section of the typical Swiss way of life. The story, "Oberstadtgass," was filmed according to a most popular serial of Radio "Berömuenster." A good attendance proved that such items are always very appreciated by our members.

To bring the evening to a happy end, Mr and Mrs Fluhler were so kind to open their "Swiss Chalet" to us and the homely tavern was full to capacity of members who met there for a short "Hock," enjoying an excellent cup of coffee and "Äpfelwähe" before going home, "Ganz wie dihei!" —H.O.

Wellington Swiss Club

Father Christmas visited the very numerous children of the Wellington Swiss Club on Sunday, 5th December, in the afternoon at the Brooklyn Hall. He pretended to have come all the way from Switzerland and brought a nice present for every child, as well as a "Chlaussäckli" and a "Gritibänz." But the children too had to contribute something. Mr Tresch's three sons organised a lovely puppet show, a group of about 15 children sang two songs, first, one in English, then, one in German. Some others said short poems.

The adults enjoyed these things quite as much as the children. There were drinks and biscuits for every child and for the parents too. A real Christmas atmosphere was created by the very nicely decorated hall and the Christmas tree which brought us the smell of the forest.

After all, it was a very pleasant get-together and many were chattering for a moment whilst the children tried out their new toys. —"Schmutzli."

The Committee of the Wellington Swiss Club wishes to all members of the Club and all the Swiss in New Zealand a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.