

News of the colony

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the ideals of Switzerland's federalistic structure. The Federal Council was going to set up guiding lines for governmental policy in the new year. This effort would have to be made, although there were limits in a country where the citizen and not Parliament had the last word.

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Sunday, 3rd March 1968 — a really remarkable sunny day in the history of the Auckland Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand!

As far as Whangarei, Coromandel, Waikato and Wellington our Swiss friends came to celebrate with us "10 years Auckland Swiss Club" with the grand opening of our fabulous "Alphurette" on our property at Wainui. We had special pleasure in welcoming to our "Aelplerfest" Mr Erb, the Swiss Charge d'Affaires from Wellington with his wife, and once again Mrs and Mrs Villiger from the Hamilton Swiss Club.

Already at six o'clock in the morning an ox was cooking over a fire on a spit prepared by the cooks, Mr Max Bachmann and Mr Paul Wuethrich — to be ready at lunchtime. Many thanks to these two friends — this meal was a real treat and delicious!

During the day the atmosphere was unbeatable, in the true Swiss tradition. We really enjoyed the extremely good yodelling, Talerschwingen and Fahnenschwingen of the Jodel-group of Hamilton and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking them on behalf of us all.

We listened to the sounds of an alphorn and, of course, "Laendler" music was played nearly the whole day by our well-known accordionists.

Our president Mr Tony Sidler has much pleasure to announce during the afternoon the winners of the following competitions.—

Shooting: Hans Fitzi, Auckland.

Kegeln: W. Unternaehrer, Hamilton.

Steinstossen: Ernst Giger, Auckland.

Ham Raffle: Alf Meier, Auckland.

Our congratulations to these winners.

In the late afternoon people slowly departed. However, a lot of our friends stood with us around our "Alphurette" far after the beautiful sunset.

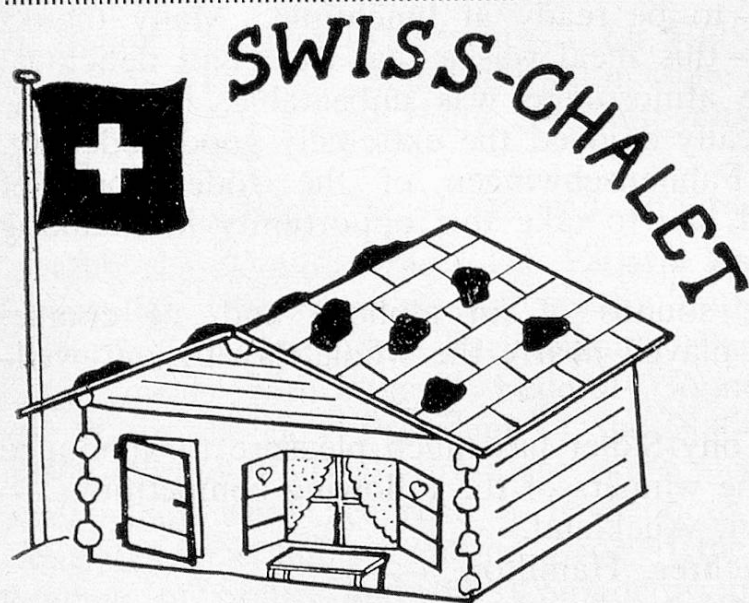
The sincere thanks of the Club go to all those who helped in any way to make this special day such a success. —B.B.

A MEMORABLE DAY FOR THE AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

A clear blue sky — well deserved by the Club — was on hand for the opening of the new “Huette” in Wainui on Sunday, 3rd March. A large and happy crowd was gathered all round as I arrived rather late. A big chunk of the ox was gone but it was still quite a sight to see the huge beast on the spit. First I got a delicious “bite” and all my compliments to the cooks, who had their hands full and were dripping almost as much as the ox!

My heartfelt compliments to all who helped to build this fine hut, solid and nice, and with the possibility for expansion later — they will certainly need it! It looked especially nice and colourful from the “Schiestand” on the other side of the hill. It was a real Alpfest, as announced. The Schiesstand was built to Swiss standards. I was told that the Police Inspector of Auckland said that the Swiss knew more about it than themselves. I think it will be a question of honour for the Auckland Swiss to come out as “Meisterschuetzen” forever.

The “Kegelbahn” was quite an attraction to all and it was a pleasure to see the young generation roll the ball with Schuss. How nice for them to grow up with so many traditions of the far-away homeland. The Stimmung was excellent, Handoergele,



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Joedele, Fannenschwingen und Singen and the sounds of the Alphorn — nothing was missing. The delegation from Hamilton gave some very good contributions too. The ladies did a wonderful job and were very busy to keep the "Alpwirtschaft" going. Their baking was just delicious and highly appreciated.

It would be impossible to mention all the names, but the President Mr T. Siedler and all his helpers certainly deserve a big hand! Full of enthusiasm and plans — and I would say excellent ones — they can look forward to a bright future and I can wish all many, many happy days up there!

I left when the sun was setting and by the sounds of the Alphorn over the hills with a 1st of August feeling in Switzerland. It was a wonderful day which I will always remember.

—An Admirer [E.L., all the way from Wellington]

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

The Jodel and Dance group of the Hamilton Swiss Club took part, with groups from other countries, at the International Evening of the Huntly Centennial Celebrations on 17th February. The yodelling, Talerschwingen, Alphornblasen and folkdance items were very much appreciated by the large audience.

As a special attraction during supper, members of our group demonstrated the art of making fondue. Many people who had their first taste of fondue were very enthusiastic about it and the demonstrators were kept very busy answering questions about the recipe.

The evening was a great success.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Thanks to a perfect day a big crowd of grown-ups and lots and lots of children once again enjoyed the annual picnic at Mr & Mrs Risi's residence at Ngaruawahia on Sunday, March 10th.

We were honoured by the presence of visitors from Wellington, Mr Erb, Vice-Consul, Swiss Embassy, and Mrs Erb; Mr Frick, President, Wellington Swiss Club, and Mrs Frick; Mr Tony Sidler, President, Auckland Swiss Club; Mr M. Steiner, Past-president, Taranaki Swiss Social Club, and Mrs Steiner; Mr John Steiner, Past-President, Swiss Society, and Mrs Steiner, from New Plymouth, plus other old faithful friends from Taranaki and Auckland.

The numerous items by the Hamilton Jodel-choerli and the Fahnenschwingen by Joe Egger and the Swiss music contributed greatly to the cordial and gay atmosphere. Busy Committee members looked after the needs of the hungry and thirsty, the

children's races and lolly scrambles, the kegelbahn and shooting sides which were continuously occupied until sundown commanded a halt.

Competition Winners

Keggeln: Mervyn Pratt 21, Willi Rudolf 21, Thomas Amman 20, Walter Unternahrer 20.

Steinstossen: E. Wuetrich 58.1, O. Risi 56.4, J. Arnold jnr. 50.6.

Shooting: M. Pratt 60 points, W. Rudolf 60, H. Meister 59, W. Unternahrer 58, P. Reinhard 57, O. Reichmuth 57, J. Boesch 55, E. Fluhler 55, F. Arnold 54, J. Preisig 53, J. Frischknecht 52, P. Arnold 52, K. Waldvogel 48, H. Mettler 47, Mrs J. Studer 46, F. Schuler 46, W. Mueller 46, V. Elmiger 46, E. Studer 45, E. Rust 45, H. Schuermann 45, Miss M. Reinhard 44, Miss B. Reinhard 43, P. Weber 42, J. Staehelin 41, J. Arnold 40.

LOST & FOUND at the picnic at Ngaruawahia: One navy blue gentleman's coat; one car-key medallion, Swiss emblem on one side, St. Christopher on the other. Please ring 8476 Ngaruawahia.

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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

So there we were, ready to go off for a weekend of camping. It took us ages before we knew what to take and what to leave behind.

The most important part of course was the weather — all we needed was some sunshine and a warm night, and we got both once we hit Masterton.

Mr and Mrs Zoelly have been very kind in letting us stay on their farm. They prepared everything to the last 't' and everybody felt it could not have been better on the best of camping grounds. We even had a bar at our disposal, including beer, kindly sponsored by Family Zoelly.

Tents were put up left, right and centre and one could soon pick out the Swiss-made ones from the others. What fantastic creations! One had the feeling one was tenting with William the Conqueror, who used to be famous for his elaborate tenting equipment. As the afternoon wore on it got hotter and hotter so the next best thing was to cool off in the swimming pool with the children.

In the early evening carloads of more people arrived from Wellington and Masterton in time for the roasted pig kindly prepared by Mr Flueller for this special occasion. Once on the fire, it smelled delicious and made everybody really hungry. I think it is not necessary to tell you that it was delicious but, as a fact, the 55 lb pig vanished within 30 minutes, except for the bones of course. Once that ritual was over we made ourselves comfortable around the campfire. Songs were drifting slowly into the evening air and we even had a recital of Mexican songs rendered by Family Katz. By midnight everybody was in bed and, thank goodness, the 40-odd children were asleep.

On Sunday morning everybody was up at the crack of dawn ready to face another day of excitement. It proved to be a bit of a disappointment however, as the place we chose for our lunch was not as nice as the Zoelly Farm. All the same, for me it was a most relaxing weekend and I enjoyed it very much.

—Camping Enthusiast

SHOOTING COMPETITION

Results of the Wellington Swiss Club's Shooting Competition, held on Sunday, March 10th 1968, were as follows.—

Men: J. Hangartner 56 points, W. Aallemann 54, H. Tresch 52, M. Jaeggi 52, H. Kunz 51, F. Wehrli 51, W. Gaehwiler 51, H. Ruedi 47, H. Iten 46, E. Zuest 43, F. Fluehler 42, K. Eschmann 39, E. Homberger 38, T. Tresch 26, G. Westermayer 24.

Ladies: Mrs Heidi Eschmann 46 points, Mrs Ursi Wolf 44.

Juniors: P. Wehrli 42 points, G. Tresch 41, H. Tresch 40, R. Fluehler 21.