

Letter to the editor

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out on the same ship. Mrs Kaiser recalled fifty years ago working in the Waimate Hotel, and related a few amusing incidents. Two of the party who came out on the same ship were unable to be present. They are Mrs Schumacher and Mr J. von Holzen.—L.C.

Christchurch Swiss Club

Our social dance was held on Saturday, 28th August. The evening was cold and rainy, but once inside the hall, the atmosphere was very warm. The hall was gaily decorated with balloons, lanterns and coloured lights. Dancing started with many different varieties of one basic dance. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely whether dancing or not.

Supper was served and it was delicious — hot and cold savouries, sandwiches of all kinds, plain and cream cakes and coffee or tea. The dancing resumed in earnest with a balloon dance which was won by Tony and Heather Lemmens. Foot-sore and weary we left at 2.30 a.m.

The Committee wishes to thank all those who helped after the dance.

Birth: Congratulations to Noeline and Othmar Kenel on the birth of their daughter, Manuela, born on August 18th. —J.F.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

AFFILIATED CLUBS

Sir,—With regard to the letter under the pseudonym “Taranaki Swiss Social Club” in last month’s issue, if space permits my reply is as follows.—

To whom it may concern: Your reaction to my statement has created an opportunity to get down to a few hard facts which, I believe, have given me every right to make the statement. Facts which you either have chosen not to include in your letter or those of which you may not have any knowledge.

Your letter is signed “Taranaki Swiss Social Club”; although I have my doubts, it has to be assumed that the content of the letter has been approved by a majority of your members. With this assumption in mind, this letter is directed to you as a Club.

May I quote from your letter: “We have given considerable thought over the years to affiliating to the Swiss Society whose aims and objects as a benevolent society we heartily endorse, and feel that there is a real need for the Swiss Society as such”. A very nice thought indeed and in the right direction, but thinking and acting are two different things, in your case quite contradictory. You have given definite assurance that you heartily endorse the aims and objects of the Society so you also must

accept the rules of the Society. I quote from section 2, "Objects", paragraph f:

To encourage the formation of provincial branches and affiliations who would organise their local functions independently of the parent body. A branch elects its own Committee and looks after its own affairs **within** the rules of the parent Society. . . . **Any member of the provincial branches must be a member of the Society.**

If you have chosen to ignore these rules then all benefits which are to be enjoyed by affiliated Clubs could and should be denied to you. Under strict application of the rules you would have **NO RIGHT:**

- a) To use the name 'Swiss' as a Club.
- b) To be listed in the "Helvetia" as a Society member.
- c) To use the "Helvetia" as a news media free of charge.
- d) To be represented at any function of the Society.

— just to name a few.

Why should your Club be allowed these benefits if you do not want to make the very reasonable contribution.

Why should the other Swiss Clubs recognise your very existence if you want to be different and non-co-operative.

It was from those parts of Switzerland where many of your members are citizens that the oath originated in which it says: "Let us be a unified folk of brothers".

Your system of life-membership, although I personally find it somewhat peculiar, is your own affair but it is totally irrelative as far as your affiliation is concerned. The fact is that membership to the Society is not only compulsory by rule but should also be by conviction something which some of your members obviously lost. This may well be the reason of your claim that if your affiliation would take place your membership would drop to less than 100. However, at this stage I fail to see this happening as you have all been made members for life. If you are as keen as you claim you are to support the Society then there can only be one way, by accepting the rules and by affiliation; it is the responsibility of your Committee to do so. There is no one in New Zealand who could not afford to pay less than 4 cents a week towards a benevolent Society whose aims and objects you so heartily endorse, in your case even more so as you have no other subscriptions to pay.

Your statement that your individual subscriptions compare favourably with those of affiliated Clubs is of course utter nonsense. In dollars yes, but it is the percentage which counts and there can only be 100 per cent. If you would have 150 couples as members then you should pay the amount of 300 dollars. You as probably the largest and oldest Swiss community in this country should be a leading example. Think about it again and **ACT!**

A. MOSER.