

News from the clubs

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The Editor and the Committee of the Swiss Society wish all members and friends
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

AUCKLAND

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

December 31, 7.30 pm: Silvester Party with the German Club at Parnell Reception Lounge.

February 9, 10.00 am: Club Picnic, Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa.

HAMILTON

FONDUE EVENING

Our Fondue Evening was again well patronised with members and friends of all ages. The Jay Es Band made sure everyone had a good time dancing or just listening to the music. To our Fondue cooks, Walter and Anita, and for Heidi's home-made 'bread, a special thanks for a big job well done. We all enjoyed the home baked goodies and Mr Fasslers Aufschnitt.

Due to the overwhelming support of our members on the picnic and card evenings, we were able to present many medals. All medal winners had reason to go home with an extra smile. Peter Arnold surprised us at the end of the evening with two jodel tunes. Thank you Peter for your captivating performance. To all who helped in any way to make the evening such a great success, the committee extends their heart-felt thanks.

ERICA RUFER.

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TARANAKI

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 31: New Year's Eve Social. All welcome. Members and friends cover charge \$5.00 and a plate please. Swiss style tombola.

February 9: Annual Picnic Day at the clubgrounds from 10.30 am.

NEWS

The President R. Dudli welcomed a crowd of about 240 people in the Kaponga War Memorial Hall. A special welcome went to the Swiss Ambassador, the dignitaries from Switzerland, the Aldermusic and the Auckland Yodellers.

The Auckland Yodellers opened the evening with two songs and soon had the audience in their grip. Then followed the speeches and greetings from Switzerland. But soon music took over again. And for more than two hours we were entertained to a musical delicacy. They sang, yodelled, swang the bells, rolled the coins, blew the Alphorn, played the Hackbrett and told jokes. But with the song from the 'Schacherseppli' they won the heart of the audience. Thank you very much, Aldermusic and Yodellers for a most enjoyable musical evening. And a special thanks must go to young Simone and Pasquoale from Auckland with their violins.

During the break, raffle tickets were sold and at the end of the evening all the lucky winners were drawn. And now we are waiting to see if any of us won the big prize.

V. K.

The Swiss Club from Taranaki wishes all the members and readers of the Helvetia a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

WELLINGTON

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January 26: Society Shooting competition.

February 1: Practice Kegeln and Jassen

February 2: Society Shooting competition.

February 8-9: Cowbell competition, Taranaki.

February 29: Society competitions Steinstossen and Kegeln. Evening Barbecue.

March 14: Society Jassen competition.

SWITZERLAND 700 YEAR ANNIVERSARY - SUPER TOMBOLA

The three big prizes are drawn ... and the lucky numbers are:

1. Prize: One Swissair Ticket, Auckland - Zurich - Auckland, 2829; 2. Prize: Commemorative Gold Coin, 4259; 3. Prize: A Swiss Clock, 3276.

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SWISS TO ROLL INTO TOWN

Hamilton had a taste of Switzerland yesterday - today it is Auckland's turn.

A diplomatic and cultural roadshow of sorts is visiting New Zealand as part of Switzerland's 700th anniversary celebrations.

The entourage, led by the Swiss Ambassador to New Zealand, Mr Michael von Schenck, includes Swiss politicians, a string quartet complete with an alpenhorn and a yodeller and a traditional pastoral painter who exhibits his work at each venue.

In Hamilton the party was welcomed by more than 200 members of the Swiss club. Nearly twice that number of expatriates are expected to attend an anniversary celebration at Alexandra Park in Auckland tomorrow night.

There are more than 4000 Swiss immigrants and their descendants living in New Zealand.

In Auckland today the visiting representatives of Swiss Federal, Cantonal and Community Councils will lead a public seminar on the country's system of 'direct democracy' by citizens' rights to referendums.

NEW ZEALAND HERALD.



SWISS ROLL UP FOR 700TH BIRTHDAY

Members of the Swiss Folklore Group the Alder Family help to celebrate Switzerland's 700th Birthday at Wellington's Botanic Gardens yesterday. From left are: Ueli Alder, Erwin Alder, Hansueli Alder, Hansueli Walte and Jakob Freund.

Seven trees were planted by representatives of the Swiss Community and invited guests to mark the seven centuries that have passed since the confederation of Switzerland was established in 1291. The trees, donated by Swiss New Zealanders, are species that grow in Switzerland.

Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon, Wellington Mayor, Sir James Belich and members of the diplomatic community were among those present at the planting ceremony hosted by Swiss Ambassador Michael von Schenck.

As part of the anniversary celebrations the Institute of International Affairs will hold forums on the Swiss Political System in Wellington, Wanganui, Hamilton, Kaponga and Auckland. The Alder Family will provide entertainment at the seminars.

An exhibition of Swiss artist Albert Manser's work will be on show in those centres.

By TERESA SMITH,
Dominion, November 7, 1991.

SWISS CELEBRATE IN CITY

The resounding tones of alpine singers rang through the city last night as a group of visiting Swiss politicians and entertainers celebrated the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation.

Michael von Schenck (pictured third from left), Switzerland's Ambassador to New Zealand, flanked by musicians, from left: Ueli Alder, Jakob Freund, Hansueli Walte, Hansueli Alder and Erwin Alder gave Wanganui visitors to the celebrations at the War Memorial Hall, an insight into Switzerland's social and economic life.

The 18-member group, including the Ambassador and his wife, are travelling the country as part of the celebrations.

While in the country the group is being hosted by Swiss descendants and members of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

Travelling by bus, the visiting group will pass through familiar terrain today on the Parapara Highway on its way to Hamilton.

WANGANUI CHRONICLE,
November 12, 1991.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Sightseeing for our visitors as it is a fine day again. In the evening we gathered at the residence for the 'Stubete' with guests from the club, city council and Diplomatic Corps. The Alder Quintet played for dancing and the weather luckily lasted and people could wander around the grounds.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The big day has arrived when we take off on our travelling road show. The Newmans bus arrived at 10.00 in the morning and we started to pack. Had to load the Exhibition 'Face to Face with Switzerland', all of Albert Manser's paintings plus panels onto which they could be hung. Plus all the instruments for Alder Quintet including a bass, Alphorn and a set of three cowbells, cartons of chocolates and other prizes for the Tombola and of course all the bags and suitcases for all the people. All in all we were 17 plus our driver who had a busy week ahead of him. The bus started rolling and we were on our way north with first 'comfort stop' in Levin. It started raining but it did not dampen our mood and the landscape looked green after lots of rain and our visitors were surprised with all the livestock that dotted the pastures. We stopped for 20 minutes in Wanganui and then on to Kaponga, arriving there at 4.30. Our first test came when we assembled the Manser painting exhibition in the clubhouse and in a short time we had the display ready including the 'Face to Face' exhibits. We will have to do this many times from now on and the trial run went very well. Taranaki Swiss Club put on a nice dinner and we then proceeded to the Kaponga Hall for the concert tonight. It was on the same lines as the concert in Wellington and the people enjoyed the full sound of the Alder Quintet. Afterwards we had a get-together in the clubhouse and it was rather late when we were taken home by our hosts. A very special thanks to Ruedi Dudli and his committee for hosting this evening and the stage looked an absolute picture decorated with a little chalet and masses of flowers. We always love to come to Taranaki!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

We met at the clubhouse and the bus took us first to the Kiwi factory in Hawera. The technical manager gave us first an introduction together with a director of the factory and then the inspection tour began. We all looked a bit funny with all the white coats, hats and gumboots we had to wear for hygienic reasons. The Alders gave thanks to our hosts with a yodel. Next we went to Motunui where we inspected the Synfuel plant. A bit technical and we still wonder how it actually is made. Mount Egmont chose to hide behind thick clouds. On we went for afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Bint. Then a visit to Leppers Garden to admire the flowers and watching 500 cows being milked on a revolving table. The evening was organised by the Taranaki Electoral Committee and we were treated to a very tasty dinner. After a Maori welcome (our visitors were impressed with the fine performance) our Ambassador addressed the audience and conducted the panel discussion. Lots of questions were asked and were expertly answered by our panel. I wondered what the politicians thought about our system that has only part-time parliamentarians? The evening ended about 11.00 and our hosts took us home to our billets.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

We met at the cheese factory in Eltham and were shown how all the specialty cheeses are produced with lots of manual labour still prevailing. At the conclusion we were treated to sampling all the varieties. A light lunch at Ashleigh Lodge gave us strength to drive on to Wanganui and were received there by members of the NZIIA. First we were shown around the Wanganui College and then put up the Manser exhibition in the Wanganui Club. On this same venue we had dinner with dignitaries of Wanganui and the Alder Family provided the dinner music. Then we went to the Memorial Hall where we received a Maori welcome (yes, with pressing noses!!), Mayoral greetings and then the panel discussion started again. Enthusiasm was great and I am still surprised how interested the people are in our system. Our Ambassador

is very good at explaining the complicated system in easy understandable terms and the panel assisted him with the facts and figures of the municipal and cantonal decision-making process. A short musical programme by the Alders concluded the evening. We were billeted with members from the NZIIA and many thanks to the organisers and hosts. Wanganui is a very nice place with very nice people!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

We departed Wanganui at 8.00 for the long drive to Hamilton. Drove over the Paraparas stopping at the Ruakawa falls. At the Chateau we had morning tea and then a stop at Tokaanu where soon a few naked bodies were enjoying the warm thermal pool (ladies and gents in separate pools!). Along Lake Taupo with quick stops at Huka Falls, Wairakei and then a lengthy stop at Rotorua where the Pohutu Geyser put on a nice display for us. Our visitors were fascinated with all this thermal activity. On we rolled towards the Eureka Hall near Hamilton, arriving there at 18.00. The Hamilton Swiss Club had a lovely meal ready for and we made a short shift of it. We put up the Manser exhibition and the hall soon started to fill. The hall filled to capacity and the scrutineers counted 230 souls. The style of the programme was the same as in Wellington and Taranaki but the music got everyone going and the dance floor got very busy. It was a lovely evening and all the Tombola tickets were sold and lots of chocolates are spread around in Hamilton. Thank you Herbert Staheli and your team for hosting a wonderful evening. (We would like to come back!!)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

We went to the museum for photos and press interview. The rain created some problems as Erica Koller's Appenzeller costume does not like the rain and it was a bit tricky to keep the wind out of the fabric. But it went all right in the end. At 13.00 we arrived at Ngaruawahia for a meeting with the Maori Queen, Dame Te Atairangikaahu. We were called and we slowly proceeded to the courtyard where we observed all the rules required. We were addressed by an Elder in Maori which was translated to us into English. I translated it into Swiss to our Ambassador and he replied in Swiss and I translated it back to the English to the Elder who translated it back to Maori. The symbolic twig then was picked up and we were received as friends and pressed noses and entered the inner sanctum of the official residence of Dame Te Ata. We inspected the collection of artifacts and our Ambassador presented the Queen with a symbolic gift of earth from Switzerland and a vial of air together with a book on Switzerland. In return we received from Dame Te Ata a lovely plate with her name and sign of her status imprinted on it. Then we were served afternoon tea. All of this reception took two full hours and we bade farewell at exactly 15.00 after the Alders presented their yodels. A truly memorable experience. At 16.30 we arrived at the Waikato University for another panel discussion and a short concert by the Alders. The same enthusiasm was shown here and time always seems too short for these panels. Then on to the Ferry Bank Lounge where we put up the Manser Exhibition again (we are becoming experts!) followed by a dinner given by the Ambassador for the NZIIA. Alders entertained with music and played for dancing. It was a lovely day.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Left Hamilton at 9.00 and arrived at the Pan Pacific Hotel at 11.00. We set up the Manser Exhibition in the dining room and then had a real royal lunch, given by the Ambassador for the press, in beautiful surroundings served expertly by well trained staff. Remy Zibung was in charge of all the arrangements in the hotel. The afternoon we had at our disposal except for the panel that gave another presentation at the Auckland University at 17.00. The Mansers and myself shifted the exhibition to the

ballroom together with 'Face to Face' and the decor was superb. Round tables with red tablecloths and white trim, the full painting exhibition along one wall and 160 guests are expected. A lovely dinner, given by the Ambassador and Mr Graf to Auckland's Leaders, was served and addresses by our Ambassador, Dr Sporli and Prof. Stoffel, greetings by Bruno Weishaupt and then the cutting of a delicious birthday cake brought in by the General Manager of the Pan Pacific Hotel. The Alder Quintet played the inviting dance music. What a busy, exciting and beautiful day this was! Sleep came swiftly tonight and no rocking was needed ...

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The night was short and at 9.30 we were ready to make our way to Civic Chambers to meet His Worship the Mayor, Les Mills and the Mayoress. We were received and our Ambassador brought greetings from Switzerland and a few outlines of our council's function. His Worship replied and congratulated Switzerland for the 700 year existence. He interrupted a council meeting so all the councillors could listen to a couple of 'Zauerlis' by the Alders. It was well received and we had morning tea with the Mayoress and were presented with small gifts from the council and our Ambassador reciprocated with a commemorative coin. Then we made a sightseeing trip around Auckland. We arrived at the Alexandra Park Racecourse before 19.00 for the last function of our trip, namely to celebrate 700 years Switzerland with the Auckland Club. The tables were decorated in the Swiss colours and looked fantastic. The delicious food was beautifully arranged on two long tables. An enormous lot of work to feed over 400 people but there was more than enough. On a third table were the desserts and in the middle an enormous birthday cake in the shape of Switzerland. It was glazed with chocolate and white borderlines and red lettering: 700 Years Switzerland. It was an enormous effort on the part of the cooks and patissiers. Much effort was also put into the programme with presentations from the Yodelclub, the children's 'Reigen Dances' dressed in lovely costumes. The official part consisted of greetings from myself on behalf of the Swiss Society, then our Ambassador's address. Erica Koller brought greetings from home and Bruno Weishaupt greetings from Basel Land. Professor Stoffel presented a light-hearted lecture about Switzerland. An unsolicited remark then proffered at this point deserved to be answered with silence. The Alder Family then presented a very fine concert of about 40 minutes and then played music to dance. The Finale came with the Guggenmusik's grand entry. It concluded a very nice evening and I thank Chris Hochuli and his team for all the hard work.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The last day has arrived. We have to say good-bye to our friends the Alder Family. They will fly back from here to Switzerland via Hong Kong. Thank you for your contribution to make this tour so memorable and unique. It's sad to say tschau, but life must go on. The bus is loaded and we are heading south over the Bombay Hills and make a stop at Orakei Korako to look at the thermal wonderland and a bite for lunch. Then south to the Huka Falls where we stop once more and watch the masses of water falling down. The landscape is lovely and green and the sheep and cows graze happily in the lush pastures. Dinner stop at Paraparaumu and about 21.00 we unload again at Lower Hutt from where we started a bit over a week ago. We are well satisfied and are looking back of having given and received hospitality, friendship, knowledge, goodwill, culture and humorous moments. To all my fellow travellers I say thank you and it was a pleasure to work together with you all and enjoy your friendship.

ANDRE SCHLEICHER,
President.