

Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **66 (2000)**

Heft [4]

PDF erstellt am: **30.05.2024**

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SWISS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Swiss Society invites all members and friends to attend the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Sunday, 4th June 2000, at 1.30 pm (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

at the Clubhouse on the Swiss Farm of the Auckland Swiss Club, Kaukapakapa

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the previous AGM (31 May 1998) (printed in May Helvetia) and Matters Arising
4. Obituaries
5. President's Report and Matters Arising
6. Editor's Report and Matters Arising
7. Address by the Patron of the Society
8. Financial Report and Matters Arising
9. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and Matters Arising
10. Riflemaster's Report and Matters Arising
11. Setting of Subscriptions for 2000/01 Financial Year
12. Election of Officers (President / Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer / Editor)
13. Election of Society Committee and Co-Options
14. General Business
 - Club Reports
 - Other
15. Setting of date and venue for Society AGM, 2001
16. Meeting Closure.

Directions to the Club Farm at Kaukapakapa:

Exit the Northern Motorway at Albany/Massey University, go through Albany, further towards north until Dairy Flats. At the Caltex Petrol Station/Vegetable Shop a sign post indicates a left turn towards Kaukapakapa. Follow that road for about 10km, past Waitoki (BP Petrol station) until Rapson Road turns off to the right. A metal road leads you for about 4km up into the country - at the end of it is "The Farm". Signposts with the Swiss Flag will be placed in strategic places.

With the upcoming Society AGM in Auckland early next month, I am also once again looking forward to catching up with many "old" friends, as well as hopefully meeting new members. The AGM is our one opportunity each year of bringing the Swiss community together in one place, so I encourage all members to converge on Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend. Use this ideal chance to meet fellow Swiss and make new friends, or rekindle existing ones, as well as enjoy the beautiful bush surroundings of the Auckland Club's "Swiss Farm". Beatrice

Swiss Society Annual General Meeting Queen's Birthday Weekend 4.6.2000

Programme

Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

9.30 am - Cowbell Competition Finals, followed by Lunch

1.30 pm - Society AGM and Cowbell Presentation

4.00 pm - Departure from 'Farm'

To celebrate our yearly meeting, the Auckland Swiss Club is inviting everyone to an **Evening of Folklore**, at the **Alexander Park Function Centre**

6.00 pm - Apero

7.00 pm - Buffet Dinner, followed by Entertainment by the Swiss Kiwi Yodelers, and Dance to the sounds of the Holzhacker Band, till the early hours.

Folklore Evening Ticket Price- \$45 per Person

Tickets are selling now!!

For further information and bookings please contact your Club representative, or call us direct:

- Trudi Fill (09) 376 4923, or

Rolf Bertschi (09) 444 2970

We look forward to welcoming you in beautiful Auckland!

Directions to Alexandra Raceway Function Centre:

This is situated about 2km from the Greenlane Motorway exit. Follow Greenlane towards Manukau Road, and turn right into Gate B just before Manukau Road.

The Function Centre is on the fifth floor, overlooking the race track.



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.), held at the Clubhouse of the Wellington Swiss Club, Ohariu Valley, on 6 June 1999

Meeting opened: 2.15 pm

Welcome: Society President, Beatrice Leuenberger, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the "End of the Millennium" AGM, and introduced special guest, Patron of the Swiss Society and Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Walter Simmen. Beatrice congratulated the Wellington Club for earlier winning the Cowbell Competition final against Hamilton. This becomes the first time their name will be inscribed on the plaque - an appropriate way to end the century! Special thanks were also made to Bruno and Ursula Böckli, of Ozeania Reisen in Switzerland, for providing the lunchtime refreshments to celebrate their 10th Anniversary.

B Leuenberger (Pres), B Flühler (Dep Pres), R Rust (Editor), R Waldvogel (Sec), W Simmen (Patron), and 75 Society members.

Apologies: MT & S Melville-Schöpfer, A & H Müller (Auckland Club); Helena Duff and Christchurch Club committee; R & M Dudley, L & D Zehnder, A & F Meier, R & M Zimmermann (Taranaki Club); Ch. Flühler (Wellington Club); and B Miles, T Wilson, J & H Staheli (Hamilton Club).

Moved: Heinz Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Ernst Gfeller **Carried**

Obituaries: Sadly, a number of Society members from around the country passed away over the past year. These were: Rolf Jauslin and Ernst Dobler (Auckland Club); Margrit Buess (Wellington Club); George Wenk, Ella Ammann and Hanspeter Rust (Hamilton Club); and Carl Kuriger, Werner Hermann, Klara Gwerder and Alois Scherrer (Taranaki Club). Everyone was invited to stand for a moment's silence in memory remembrance of these past members and friends.

Minutes: of the previous year's AGM (1998) had been published in the May Helvetia - it was hoped that everybody had read these, and they were taken as read. As there were no Matters Arising, it was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Bert Flühler; **Seconded:** Walter Seifert **Carried**

President's Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) The year has flown by - busy but smoothly. A big job is of course the production of the Helvetia - Beatrice congratulated and thanked Editor, Rinaldo Rust, and everyone else involved, for a successful second year, in preparing the magazine for printing and posting. Beatrice acknowledged the input of all Committee members - a varied team of people able to make decisions together, working steadily and contributing in many ways to the Society.

Recently, the Swiss Govt. has taken great interest in its citizens abroad, recognising us as "ambassadors" for Switzerland. A lot of research has been done identifying roles, problems, and futures of organisations such as ours around the world. Compared to many other countries, we seem to be strong and active - functioning at two levels - having both our local Clubs, as well as the Society, with a regular nationwide publication.

Membership remains steady - we are working hard to find new members. Beatrice asked that details be passed on by anyone who knows of or meets potential new members. A letter about the Society can be sent. Beatrice thanked everyone for their support and is looking forward to the next year in the role of President. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Walter Simmen **Carried**

Editor's Report: (Rinaldo Rust reported) Again one 16-page and nine 12-page editions of Helvetia were published. The same format and layout have been enhanced with the colour photos on the front. The editing team has been encouraged by the many competition entries received.

Rinaldo thanked everyone connected with producing the Helvetia, and the advertisers for their contributions, urging members to support these businesses whenever possible. Rinaldo also thanked the local Clubs, especially secretaries, for monthly contributions; the Embassy for occasional material; and the whole editing team for their co-operation. As a voluntary group of Swiss-Kiwis, many have happily given their time and talent to the Helvetia. Constructive criticism, and of course encouragement, is always welcomed. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved: Rinaldo Rust; **Seconded:** Heidi Leuenberger **Carried**

Address by Patron of the Swiss Society: (Walter Simmen spoke) Mr Simmen told the meeting that in his experience, not all Clubs are as lively as here, and that Beatrice and her team are working hard and well to keep things running smoothly, as well as producing an excellent magazine.

New Zealand has been the first country outside Europe to be visited by a variety of artists and exhibitions. A show of hands revealed that only four people present had visited one of these recent cultural events, which come here at considerable cost. Walter urged that everyone able to view or attend these worthwhile events should make the effort to go.

Next year there will be new and improved legislation regarding Swiss Abroad, including improved assistance for Swiss citizens travelling or facing crisis etc. Mr Simmen wished the Society a further successful year in meeting new challenges heading into the new millennium.

Financial Report: (B Leuenberger reported) Copies of the financial report were circulated. Excess Income of \$2400 was similar to the previous year. The committee and editing team are always aware of costs, and every effort is made to maintain and increase membership numbers and ensure adequate advertisers. Accumulated funds as at 31 March 1999 were \$26,510. The sufficient excess allowed for the monthly colour photos, as well as a 16 page issue during the year.

Matters Arising: It was asked if \$20,000 was enough for a benevolent Society. Beatrice said she believed so, as the Society would be the last 'port of call' should any member require emergency assistance. Unlike perhaps a third world country, in New Zealand we have an adequate Social Welfare system to help residents where need or emergency could arise. Also, the Embassy (representing the Swiss Govt.) or the Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad can also be approached (confirmed by Walter Simmen). The Society's benevolent (charitable) responsibility (as stated in the rules) is only then called upon when all other avenues have failed. It was also asked (by a Wellington Club member) if the Society provided donations if requested. Beatrice replied that a written application would be required well in advance of an AGM for full consideration!

Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Herbert Staheli **Carried**

Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report: (Heinz Leuenberger reported) The Swiss Review continues to inform us on important matters, and further information on AHV, voting, or any other issues are regularly elaborated on in the Helvetia. As Heinz already reported last year, the Secretariat in Berne had asked him to form closer contact with our Australian compatriots. The NSW Swiss Club said they would publish suggestions in their bulletin - but nothing has been heard since. He has since asked our Youth Co-ordinator, Nicole Helsdon, to contact her opposite in Australia.

Moved: Heinz Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Marco Knaus **Carried**

Riflemaster's Report: (Peter Rust reported) The annual competitions of Cards, Bowling, Shooting, and Shotgun seem to be very well supported. Once again there are numerous younger members participating, probably because of the junior categories. Last year was the first to present a new series of medals, this time portraying Swiss farm houses. The Riflemaster's Financial Report once again showed a small loss, this year about \$50, but at this stage there were still sufficient funds in the account to cover costs without increasing competition fees. Exchange rates play a big role in the annual cost of medals. Peter thanked Club Riflemasters, and everyone else who had helped him throughout the year.

Moved: Peter Rust; **Seconded:** Marianne Benkert **Carried**

Setting of 1999/2000 Subscriptions: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Beatrice acknowledged and thanked businesses who advertised in the Helvetia over the past 12 months. This income is imperative, and means subscriptions can be kept as low as possible. Advertising revenue received over the year was equivalent to over 200 subscriptions, or nearly \$10 extra per subscription. Therefore, as regularly stated in the Helvetia, Beatrice encouraged all members to try and support advertisers, in their varying fields of business, whenever possible. As finances stand, the Society committee felt that there was no reason to adjust subscriptions, and the fee should once again be set at the current \$25 per household.

Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Mathis Seifert **Carried**

Matters Arising: The question was asked to define at which stage members within a family become 'adults' and must become individual members? After discussion, it was basically felt by members present that individual membership should commence when a member begins working, but sensible discretion could still be used by Clubs and Society. Parents must be members for juniors to participate in medal competitions.

Election of Officers: Beatrice vacated the Chair to Vice-President, Bert Flühler, who congratulated and thanked Beatrice and her Society team for work well done during the year. Nominations were then called for:

- **President** - Beatrice Leuenberger,
Moved: Bert Flühler; **Seconded:** Herbert Staheli **Carried**

Beatrice returned to the Chair and called for further nominations for:

- **Vice President** - Bert Flühler
Moved: Heinz Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Ernst Gfeller **Carried**

- **Secretary** - Ruth Waldvogel
- **Editor** - Rinaldo Rust
- **Committee** - Current members

All elected en bloc, with power of the committee to co-opt new members during the year.

Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Marianne Benkert **Carried**

- **Delegate for Swiss Abroad** - Heinz Leuenberger
Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Josie Flühler **Carried**

- **Auditor** - Bill Miles
Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; **Seconded:** Herbert Staheli **Carried**

General Business:

1. Club Reports: Club Representatives - Marianne Benkert, Taranaki; Roland Schütz, Wellington; Herbert Staheli, Hamilton; and Ernst Gfeller, Auckland - gave brief reports on the past year's activities in their Clubs.

2. Rule Change: The motion was put to add an Addendum to:

Rule 4, Subscriptions. 4.c. That "All Clubs must pay to the Society at least 50% of Society Subscriptions, which they must collect annually from their members, on behalf of the Society, by 30th September; a further 30% by 31st December; and the final balance outstanding by 15th March, each year. The first two payments shall be calculated, based on total members, exclusive of honorary members, of the previous financial year; and the final payment on the current financial year."

Beatrice explained the reason for this rule - because the Society was sometimes not paid its subscription payments from Clubs until the end of the year, causing cashflow difficulty. Each Helvetia edition cost approx. \$1500, and the Society required a regular income to meet ongoing expenditures. Some discussion followed - one concern was that a club may then pay too much if membership numbers dropped. But this could be corrected in the final 30% payment. And a club with 100 members would have to lose 30 of these for overpayment to occur - an unlikely situation - but the Society would then reimburse the difference.

Moved: Beatrice Leuenberger; Seconded: Marianne Benkert **Carried**

3. Web Page: Edi Brändli (Auckland Club) explained the "The Homepage of Swiss Emigrants in New Zealand - <http://www.Swiss.org.nz>". The website he set up in November 1997, and Edi would sponsor it through his business, EGB Electronic Services, for Society and Clubs. Edi explained the purpose and functions of the website - how it worked, uses and advantages. Society and Clubs would each have an e-mail address. The meeting was asked if the web site should be accepted, with the motion: That "The Society approve the use of the Website offered".

Moved: Edi Brändli; Seconded: Peter Fischer

Carried

The Society and each Club would be responsible for what appeared on their respective web-pages. Beatrice thanked Edi for generously providing and sponsoring this internet tool and latest method of communication. Edi also welcomed any constructive ideas for improvements or change.

Venue for next Meeting: Ernst Gfeller, Auckland Club President, invited all members of the Swiss Society to meet in Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2000, where the Auckland Swiss Club would be pleased to host the next Annual General Meeting.

Meeting Closure: Beatrice accepted the invitation from the Auckland Club to host the next meeting, as well as sincerely thanking and congratulating the Wellington Club committee and members for holding a successful AGM this year, with probably a record attendance of 80 people. Finally, Beatrice thanked all members present for their attendance and participation, and declared the 1999 AGM closed at 4.15pm.

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Member NZTIA

An Announcement from the Swiss Embassy in Wellington



Dear Friends Fellow Swiss Citizens

Appropriately it rained on my arrival. My predecessor, Mr. Simmen, however, waved the drops away with a warm smile and a wave of his hand and with these gestures I felt at home in this new country, and ready to take on the many duties of a Swiss ambassador in Wellington.

On this my first official day, I would like to convey to you and your families the Swiss Federal Council's greetings and best wishes, as well as mine. A special greeting goes to the young generation of Swiss citizens whom I encourage to seek closer ties with their fellow countrypeople both here and in their country of origin.

It is my intention to begin visiting the various parts of this country in the near future. I then hope to meet the different chapters of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and thus bring these greetings to you in person. This will give me an opportunity to obtain from you an in-depth view of your achievements here. Through your insights I shall reach a better understanding of New Zealand and thus look forward to these meetings.

There is surely no need to remind you that, as in the past, we at the Embassy stand ready to assist you in all matters requiring official attention as well in strengthening your links with Switzerland.

With kind regards;
Your Ambassador,
Silvie Matteucci.