

New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **68 (2002)**

Heft [1]

PDF erstellt am: **31.05.2024**

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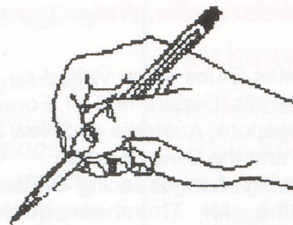
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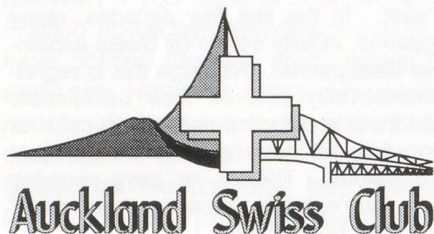
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**Mystery Tour, Sunday
18 November 2001**

Will somebody (or even I) get lost? What culinary delights has Edith whipped up this time? Will we have some light hearted fun during the games and the individual contest? And what might be the destination of this year's Mystery Tour?

Such were the thoughts of 44 members and associates of the Club on this warm and sunny Sunday morning at the starting point of the tour in Green Lane.

To prevent anyone from getting terminally lost, each driver was given a sealed envelope containing the entire road book and the secret destination of the tour. Participants were also given a map of the greater Auckland region and told "if you find yourself off this map, it's high time to open the envelope".

The road book and the description of the task for the first stage completed the package and soon all were on the road to the first destination, Howick Historical Village.

From there the next stage led to Whitford and the Café at the landing. However, no coffee break with a 'Latte' was on offer.

Rather, to whet everyone's appetite for the upcoming lunch, 22 customary Swiss dishes had to be matched to their cantons of origin. This proved a formidable task for everyone and the brainwaves and heated



Maraetai stop - Cervelat & Brot-Brättele on sticks, as we used to do...

discussions all over the parking lot almost set the asphalt melting.

Mercifully, along a road with some beautiful scenery, of which New Zealand has in such abundance, the next stage led straight to the lunch destination at Omana Regional Park on the Pohutukawa Coast. Edith and Albert had the bonfire ready and handed out bamboo sticks, Cervelat and Bratwurst sausages for a proper "Wurstbraetlele". Moreover, Edith had prepared bread dough and everyone got to try his or her hand at baking proper "Snake bread" to various degrees of perfection. The hearty meal was rounded off with Potatoes in tinfoil, baked in the embers.

Before everyone started to doze off in the warm sunshine, we were urged on to the next stage of the tour. This activated everybody's circulatory system in more ways than expected. First the trip continued along the Pohutukawa coast with it's stunning views, then it veered inland, through the Hunua Gorge and finally past Papakura on to Karaka

Sport Grounds where the next task awaited us.

Notwithstanding the effects of lunch time drinks, the task of balancing across a timber plank was easily accomplished by most. However, standing on one leg with eyes closed for more than a few seconds proved far more difficult than expected. Some impressive techniques were employed, albeit with mixed success. Performances involved hopping across the entire car park, while exhibiting the movements of a "dying swan", or all but levitating off the ground from all the flapping of arms. But in addition to providing onlookers with great merriment, the new skills acquired might come in handy during the next interview with police at the next alcohol testing road block.

The tour lead on to Glenbrook Steel Mill (for some with wobbly knees) where eight different spices had to be identified by their aroma.

Further on, along some backcountry roads, each and every one arrived in good time at the final destination, Fidel Good's farm in Waiuku.

Edith once again had a superb meal

of Lasagna, Salad, and Ice cream, with a big helping of whipped cream waiting for the weary travellers. After a couple of hours of companionship, livened up by the Alphorn group and the prize giving of the individual contest, we all returned home, vowing to be back for next year's edition of the Mystery Tour.

A big thank you to Fidel Good for kindly receiving us at his farm and to Edith Hess for the renewed display of her culinary art and handiwork.

Congratulations!

To Michael Bunter and
Heinz Matysik.

After weeks of intensive study they have sat and passed their National Range Officer's Examination. This is an internationally recognised award by the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, and qualifies them for supervision during the shooting activities at the farm. Both received over ninety percent for their papers. Their names will now be entered in the N.Z.D.A. National Range Officer's Register. They will receive their certificates and awards early this year. Henry Werffeli already has this award. It is a fantastic achievement, and a great relief for our rifle-master to have a backup in his position, so he can get on with other things demanded by his role. Yes, our shooting section is now even more certainly in competent hands.

TF

Past Events

Samichlaus was once again a lively event, held at the farm on Sunday 9th December 2001. Lots of young families took the opportunity to introduce their children to the Swiss Chlaus, who almost traditionally now, arrived in the helicopter and was loaded with goodies for everyone. Around 180 people mixed and mingled for the day. Strawberry tarts were first prepared by keen volunteers. The children and young at heart, were treated to a couple of puppet performances; big giant biscuits were there to be painted. The playground, having been equipped with new swings, was where the kids all had fun enjoying the muddy conditions. The womens singing group created a bit of the old Swiss Christmas spirit with traditional songs, and the yodellers lifted our hearts with their fine repertoire. It was nice to welcome the many visitors to the farm, to have a little insight into how we celebrate Christmas here in New Zealand.

Thank you all for coming and to the people who helped make this day a memorable Christmas celebration. Also to those who turned up the weekend before and prepared the farm for the day. Your effort is greatly appreciated.

T.F.

Welcome to our new member, **Markus and Keiko Schwarz** from Blockhouse Bay, **Ursula Roughan** from Whangarei, **Christof Müller** from East Tamaki. I hope you will

have a great time among us.

Congratulations on your 60th Birthday to **Heinz Feller**, our hard working committee member, on 31 January 2002.

Coming Events

Picnic: Sunday 10 February 2002
- from 10am onward.

Lunch available - Meatloaf (sorry: Fleischkäse) with Salads - \$7.- members(adults) \$4.-child, \$11 non-members, \$6.- child, \$2 Wienerli only. Bring all your visitors and show them the farm, play a game of bowls or cards. We hope to see many of you up there. For further information call Trudi 376 4923, or Ueli 0942 75309.

Teenage Summer Camp
March 2002

- voice your interest at the picnic or call Barbara Ashton(Tel. 483 8244), Trudi Fill (376 4923) for a Think-tank in the second week of February, which will be straight after the picnic.

Shooting starts on 23/24 February 2002

Society Games Auckland Club:
10 March 2002 at the farm.

Semi Finals Society Games Auckland / Hamilton 28 April 2002.

Annual General Meeting: 4 May 2002 at the farm.

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Summer break and can look forward to an exciting 2002. T.F.



*Mystery Tour - Dinner
at Fidel Good's*

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Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Past Events....

The Christmas Function was held on the 2nd December and unfortunately the weather wasn't that great with constant rain or drizzle for most of the day. This didn't stop most of our regular club families from turning up and soon the hall was filled with laughter and chatter - only the swimming pool was became redundant due to the wet and cool weather!! We were very fortunate to also have some live entertainment on the accordion, provided by Kurt Hess, which was very much appreciated by all.

The hot Bratwurst for lunch were delicious and very popular. And soon afterwards, as usual, Santa arrived to hand out presents to all the children.

Later, everyone was treated to a great selection of Swiss Christmas 'Guetzli' with coffee, and all too soon it was time to pack up and go home.

The Swiss Ambassador's visit was held on the 4th December at the Quality Hotel on a very hot and sticky night - but this didn't deter our members from turning up and listening to a very informative speech. We had nearly 50 people, many of whom had interesting questions which Mr Thurnheer tried to answer as accurately and diplomatically as possible.

It was also a perfect opportunity to meet our representative from the Embassy, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown.

Forthcoming Events...

Swiss Society Shooting

The annual medal shooting competition will be held on 23rd February, commencing **10.00am** at Elmiger's Farm, Chudleigh Road, Te Aroha. Please bring your own lunch and drinks. For further details, contact the Riflemaster, Hans Vetsch, Phone 855-3294.

Shooters please also note:

The Auckland Shooting dates are 18th & 19th May - omitted from our calendar in the December Helvetia.

Swiss Picnic - 24th February

Our Picnic will once again be held at the Eureka School from **11.00am**. Please remember to bring your own sun umbrellas, etc, as there is very little shade, along with chairs and rugs. The pool will again be available for the children, as well as the usual activities of Kegeln and Shotput. There will also be plenty of grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats for sale as well as Swiss baking, coffee and cold drinks.

Family Camp at Pirongia

This is planned for 5th & 6th April.



Hamilton President H. Staheli helping 'Santa' - 2.12.001

We require an immediate notification if you are interested in participating in this weekend activity of hiking, games etc. If we do not have any further responses or sufficient interest by 6th February we will need to cancel. Please phone Vreni Vetsch Ph 855-3294 or Anita Zuber Ph 856-2414.

And a special thank-you to Ozeania Reisen

...for sending us a generous supply of 'Jass Karten' from Switzerland. These will be very much appreciated at our forthcoming Card Evenings commencing on 27th April. AZ

Congratulations

to

Jog Kennel

on your

70th birthday,

in January 2002.

With best wishes from the
Hamilton Swiss Club

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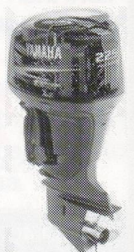
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Past Events....

New Year's Eve

This was held with our campervanning friends, together with members of the Swiss Club and visitors from Switzerland.

The grounds were beautifully manicured by our obliging caretaker, Don. Thank you very much, Don, for the great work you do all year round... we are so lucky to have you. Campervanners started arriving after lunch, with the first 'Swissies' arriving about five o'clock for happy hour. Everyone organised their own meal, and we all ate outside (about 30 of us) in beautiful, sunny conditions - most typical for Taranaki, of course !!!

Then followed an evening of fun and entertainment... Walter doubling Lisette on a bike will stay in my memory for years (they sang "Daisy, Daisy" and then "Schatz, chauf mir es Velo")... Leo and Doreen, with their great 'old folks home' skit... and then Walter showing us how many different ways a Swiss handkerchief can be used was hilarious. You should all have been entertainers!!! Rudi's boat race was also excellent, and many will remember this experience. Leo and Marianne played many tunes for dancing and singing, or for just listening.

Supper was served, and then the Old Year was toasted out and the New Year in. This was an excellent evening full of fun entertainment... and believe me, those of you not there missed a really great time.

The campervanners stayed for morning tea, then most people were reunited at the Stratford Club for tea on New Year's day - about 75 of us!! Everyone had a most enjoyable two days, and look forward to more enjoyment and happy times in the Year 2002.

Forthcoming Events....

February - 1st & 3rd Thursday

(7th & 21st Feb)... there is Kegeln. Come along and give it a go!!!

9th February

The Wellington Swiss Club will be up to play the semi-final of the cowbell competitions. We look forward to the friendly rivalry with our southern neighbours, together with a great social occasion.

Would all Taranaki members please contact a committee member if they are able to participate.

10th February

The Annual Picnic will be held at the Clubhouse from 10.00am. The ever-popular Schwingen will be held... with sausages; alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; ice creams all available. An excellent day for socialising, with the popular tombola tickets a must for all.

5th March

Our AGM at 8.00pm. Please come along and have your say.

17th March

Championship / Society Shoot at 1.00pm. Mark would love some more keen participants - come and give it a go.

This year, the Taranaki Swiss Club takes over the reigns of the Swiss Society for a term of five years.

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If you are able to help in any way, please contact Marianne on phone 06 762 8559. Any help would be appreciated!!! We have a very hard act to follow, so the more people able to give some time and effort, the easier it will be (we hope !!!) Please give this some (serious) thought. MD

(see report from Riflemaster on page 10)



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**Report from Riflemaster
M.Kiser
Christmas Shoot 2-12-01**

Once again we had a very good attendance for this popular event!
54 people took part in the competition
(30 shooters and 24 skittlers)

Results : Shooting

Top Score:	Emmi Kiser	48 points
	Erwin Kiser	48
Runner up:	Regi Mathys	47
	Nicklaus Kiser	47
	Heidi Kiser	47
	Beni Noetzli	47
3rd Place:	Holdi Mathys	46
	Anni Riebli	46
	Erna Zimmermann	46
	Arnold Fitzgerald	46

Results : Skittles

Top Score:	Myrtha Seifert	40
	Adrian Drummond	40
Runner up:	Peter Gillbanks	38
3rd Place:	Christine Amstalden	37

Lucky Number - Prize Draw Winners

Mystery Prize: Myrtha Seifert

2nd	Franz Schuler
3rd	Bertha Kuriger
4th	Angela Kiser
5th	Sylvia Schuler
6th	Adrian Drummond
7th	Peter Zimmermann
8th	Matt Styger
9th	Lisette Benkert
10th	Peter Mulholland
11th	Marianne Werder
12th	Heidi Kiser

Results : Trudy Ott-Belt-Shoot 21.12.01

Winner:	Matt Styger	99 points
	(4 Bullseyes)	
Runner up:	Maria Fitzgerald	99
	(2 Bullseyes)	
3rd Place:	Katy Fitzgerald	99
	(1 Bullseye)	

Results : Ted Napflin Memorial Shield

Shoot 18.11.01

Winner:	Katy Fitzgerald	99
	(4 Bullseyes)	
Runner up:	Christina Fitzgerald	99
	(1 Bullseye)	
3rd Place:	Paul Styger	98
	Matt Styger	98
	John Styger	98
	Lou Butler	98

Congratulations to all the place getters
and thanks to all participants for supporting our shooting club !

Wishing everyone a happy new Year
R.M. (smallbore)
M.Kiser Ph. 06 764 8993



FRANK IMHOF

1914 - 2001



Frank Imhof was born on a small mountain farm in Arth, Canton Schwyz, on 14 June, 1914.

Initially, he worked for his father, and then he sold insurance before emigrating to New Zealand in 1939. Frank farmed in the Waikato district before shifting to Taranaki, where he met his future wife, Evelyn (née Schicker). They were married in Hawera in 1942. After some years farming, Frank and Evelyn returned to Switzerland, where their daughter Anne was born in Arth. The draw back to New Zealand proved too great, and the young family returned some 14 months later.

As one of Taranaki Swiss Club's foundation members, Frank served as club secretary for a few years. He played the clarinet and saxophone at many a social and dance, both in Taranaki and Waikato.

Frank and Evelyn had the opportunity to return to Switzerland three times, the last time in 1996. In 1981, the couple retired to Northland to be closer to their daughter, Anne, son-in-law, Rick, their three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, also in Kerikeri. They had been married for 59 years when Frank passed away on 27 September, 2001.

His Epitaph: He was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and strong in faith.

Frank will be well remembered for the jovial person he was, and the love of music he had and shared so freely.

May he rest in peace !



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Past events....

2 December: Samichlaus

In traditional Swiss style, there was no Christmas tree with presents underneath it, but instead a benign Samichlaus in full regalia encouraged the children to recite, sing or play to celebrate this special pre-Christmas occasion. To reward the youngsters for their (mainly) good behaviour during the year, Samichlaus handed out stockings filled with fruit, nuts, Christmas cookies and a special grütbüchli. The 18 little guests and their parents then sat down to a lovely afternoon tea.

2 December, 5 p.m.: Visit of Ambassador Walter Thurnheer.

A goodly number of adult compatriots assembled at the Clubhouse to listen to the Head of the Service for the Swiss Abroad talk about current affairs in Switzerland generally and especially as they affect the Swiss abroad.

What he said was known to most of us, but it was a pleasure to talk to

this very approachable representative of the Swiss Government afterwards.

For some members it was also the first time they had the opportunity to meet and talk to Mrs Sylvie Matteucci, Ambassador of Switzerland in New Zealand. And while all this meeting and talking went on, the inveterate Jassers did not miss this chance for a game.

8 December: Christmas Party

A richly trimmed Christmas tree with flickering, glittering lights, in front of a makeshift curtain decorated with golden stars and other baubles (hiding the hole in the wall) provided a delightful background to the evening's entertainment. Real life candles surrounded by "tannechris" were placed on every table. The 60 or so guests drinking Sangria mingled for a while, before sitting down to a sumptuous meal. The ham was first class (recipe available from our president), the salads many and varied, the cheese and cold meat platter eye-catching, and the dessert - a bowl of strawberries, meringue, ice-cream, whipped cream - very delicious. To piano accompaniment issuing from behind the curtain, all the well known Christmas songs were sung with enthusiasm and, as an encore, we were treated to some lovely yodels by Kathi Trachsel. A memorable evening.

Forthcoming events...

9/10 February: Cowbell competition

This year, Wellington is going to Kaponga, Taranaki. People are needed to compete in all four events: Jassen, Steinstossen, Kegeln, Shooting. If you can come, please contact Roland Schuetz, phone (home) 568-6772 (work) 568-5737, immediately.

This get-together with our compatriots up-country is always most enjoyable, so make an effort, you will not regret it.

10 March: Brunch at the Clubhouse followed by walk.

24 March: Painting Easter Eggs at the Clubhouse

Please note: Until further notice there will be no Friday coffee afternoons at the Clubhouse. In



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