

# New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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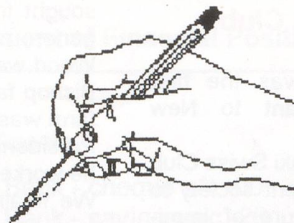
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# New Zealand Swiss Club

## News & Happenings

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Auckland  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington  
Christchurch



[auckland@swiss.org.nz](mailto:auckland@swiss.org.nz)

### Dear Members,

We are again in the throngs of winter and I hope you have all your firewood nicely stacked up on the dry side of your house as all good Swissies do.

It was nice to come back to the milder climate of Auckland, from wild and windy Taranaki (Society AGM), where we enjoyed the warmest hospitality and a most enjoyable celebration.... And the people are so nice and so Swiss and the clubhouse is absolutely fantastic, set beside a lovely river in the township of Kaponga which is a town out of nowhere (well, it's past the Bombay Hills!) on the slopes of Mount Egmont, which after a lovely display on Saturday had its summit hidden for all of Sunday behind the heavy clouds.

But goodness, the Taranaki people are holding on to that cowbell!

Us Aucklanders, yes, we did win the little bell, but had no chance of winning the big one. I am sure we need to practice more.

Taranaki have now taken on the running of the Society's affairs for the next five years, so all Helvetias following this are coming from Stratford. No doubt you will be reading about the change in this issue.

Thank you, Taranaki Swiss Club, for sharing your wonderful country place with us townies.

The **first Card Evening** on Friday 17 May was very well attended, with

20 odd players filling the rooms to the brim at Hobson Street. A warm thanks to all for coming and for bringing along supper, and prizes. And congratulations to the winner for the night, Louis Wallimann, with 4073 points, followed closely by An-negret Wolf with 4066 points. The games are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, next one being Friday 19 July (see below).

**Sauerkraut** is available again throughout the winter months. Call the maker, Hans Iten, Tel. 620 9208.

### Forthcoming Events:

There are only a couple of days for booking to the **Romantic Dinner** at the Farm.

It's this **Saturday 6 July**, so please call Edith as soon as possible on 444 6972, or Barbara on 483 8244 if you wish to come.

We have a **Working Bee** coming up on **Saturday 27 July 2002**.

It usually starts around 9am at the farm.

General tidying up for the coming National Day celebration. Collecting wood for the big bonfire, mowing grass, and arranging tables etc.

We appreciate your help, and a warm meal will be served at lunchtime. If you are new, this is a good way to meet the people, mainly the committee.

### National Day Celebration – Saturday 3 August 2002

At Kaukapakapa Farm, Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa

Start 4pm

Children bring your Lampion (lanterns)

Cost for Dinner:

\$ 15.- Members Adult

\$ 6.- Members Child

\$ 20.- Non-Members Adult

\$ 8.- Non-Members Child

Booking is essential:

Please call Edith 444 6972, or Heinz 624 1589

### Next Card Evening:

Friday 19 July 2002 7.30pm at 224 Hobson St, Auckland City

**Next Stammtisch**, Saturday 27 July 2002, following Working Bee.

**Fondue**: 5 October 2002, at the Farm

**Wandertag**: Sunday 27 October 2002.

For those who are interested in following the **Alinghi Challenge** for the America's Cup, we have a little introductory video which we would like to show to the members. We will combine it with a general film evening, if possible with a Swiss movie – watch this space for the exact date and time.

**The Goethe Society** (the German cultural outlet based at Auckland University) has a few interesting items coming up later in the year.

**Wednesday 7 August 02**: a Loriot Evening with short German comedy films

**Late August 02** (date not set yet): University of Auckland German Drama Company presents:

**Die Physiker**, by Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

**Late September 02**: Music by German speaking composers (in conjunction with the Auckland School of Music)

**Wed. 16 October 02**: Der Krieger und die Kaiserin (film)

If you would like to attend any of these evenings, call Trudi (Tel. 376 4923) for a detailed programme, or enquire at the University of Auckland, German Department. The person to speak to is Jim Braund.

T.F.



# Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

## Past Events ....

### Society AGM, Taranaki

The Swiss Society AGM has just recently been held in Taranaki and many members from our club made the trip down there. Some cars already travelled down on Friday because the weather turned out quite good after a couple of weeks of rain. The rest headed off on Saturday and everyone enjoyed the lovely scenery on the way down. The mountain was absolutely spectacular and it was even more exciting to think that we were going to be staying on the mountain at Mountain House. Unfortunately the weather didn't last, but instead all the socialising began. On Saturday night everyone was in party mode and after enjoying a delicious meal, we were treated to some Swiss entertainment by Kurt Hess on the accordion and a great sing-along was had.

Sunday morning most people had a leisurely morning, as our club was not involved in any competitions at the club house. However, many members turned up for a lovely lunch and were treated to grilled sausages in order to warm up for the forthcoming AGM. The proceedings at the meeting went smoothly and everyone was very appreciative of the retiring executive of the Swiss Society. Many thanks were expressed to Beatrice Leuenberger, Ruth Waldvogel and Rinaldo Rust, as well as the rest of the editing and dispatch committee. The meeting was followed by coffee and some lovely swiss baking which was much appreciated by all.

The evening's celebrations started early at the beautifully decorated Kaponga Hall and soon every one was lining up for their dinner. After dinner everyone was treated to various forms of Swiss entertainment as well as speeches about the 50 years of history of the club which was all very interesting and entertaining. Everyone enjoyed the delicious 50th Jubilee cake and soon it was time to head off back up to the mountain and to bed.

Many thanks must go to the Taranaki committee for their hard work in putting on such a successful weekend. A most enjoyable time was had by all and it was great to see old friends and make new friends.

### Card Evenings

Our third card evening at Eureka and the fourth at Tirau were both once again very well attended, with 44 and 40 players respectively.

We are really in full swing now, with 36 players still in contention for an overall prize - remember, to remain eligible, you cannot miss more than one evening!

At our third evening, Oskar Reichmuth achieved a massive 4447 points, probably one of the highest scores we have seen at our card evenings - but to show his modesty at such an achievement... he won the booby prize two weeks later!!

Many thanks to the people involved with providing the usual delicious suppers - one night we were served a selection of Swiss-style savouries; and the fortnight later with 'Wurstsalat' and fresh-out-of-the-oven home-made bread; of course, as always, followed by home baking, coffee and Schnapps.

Grateful thanks also to those people who kindly donated extra prizes (which is why there is some variation in the number of prizewinners).

Thank you to everyone for coming along and taking part, and congratulations to the following prizewinners:

#### Third Card Evening, 25 May, Eureka

1) Oskar Reichmuth	4447
2) Heidi Santner	4343
3) Joe Risi	4285
4) Peter Weiss	4254
5) Lina Rufer	4150
6) Uli Elmiger	4108
7) Angus Forsythe	4027
8) Beatrice Leuenberger	4024
9) Robert Frischknecht	4017
10) Theresa Fitzi	3993

#### Booby Prize:

Heidi Leuenberger	3080
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#### Fourth Card Evening, 8 June, Tirau

1) Seri Odermatt	4173
2) Angus Forsythe	4168
3) Hanna Frischknecht	4115
4) Margaret Hayward	4104
5) Robert Frischknecht	4066
6) Lina Rufer	4008
Bert Steiner	4008
8) Peter Weiss	4002
9) Roland Rufer	3999

#### Booby Prize:

Oskar Reichmuth	3171
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## Forthcoming Events.....

**Final Card Evening** for this year will be held on Saturday, 6th July 7.30pm in Tirau. Please come along and see who the lucky winners will be for the overall prizes.

### First of August Celebration

*(Please note this date is earlier than usual before the farmers get too busy with calving.)*

This function will this year be held on **Saturday 20th July**, at the Eureka Hall, **8.00pm** commencing with a lovely buffet consisting of ham, frankfurters and lots of delicious home-made Swiss salads and bread. Please come along and enjoy some traditional entertainment as well as an opportunity for dancing. Children are most welcome to attend and school-age children are half price. Adults are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Where else can you get a delicious dinner including Swiss baking and coffee schnapps for that price?

Look forward to seeing you.

### Fondue Evening

Saturday, **21st September** at the Eureka Hall.

Further details in the next issue.

AZ & BL

## Congratulations

**Ruth Waldvogel /Hamilton**  
celebrating her  
**70th birthday**  
on 3rd July 2002

With best wishes  
from the Hamilton Swiss Club  
and the Swiss Society of NZ.

## Congratulations

**Ted Lischer /Te Aroha**  
celebrating his  
**80th birthday**  
on 3rd July 2002

With best wishes  
from the Hamilton Swiss Club  
and the Swiss Society of NZ.





## FRANZ JOSEPH GROSSMANN

21st July 1910 - 25th May 2002



Franz was born at Unterägeri (Zug), the oldest son of a happy family of four boys and two girls. He emigrated together with his youngest sister Marie in 1958. Here in New Zealand they joined their brother Karl. Together they worked on a farm at Kiwitahi near Morrinsville and later started sharemilking at Waihou. In 1965 Franz with his sister Marie bought their own farm at Kiwitahi.

In 1975 they sold the farm and moved to Morrinsville where Franz lived in retirement until his death. His funeral took place on May 30th, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morrinsville.

Franz was a humble God fearing man with a heart of gold. For many years he was a much respected member of the Hamilton Swiss Club. He was an enthusiastic 'Jasser' and will be missed by all. - May God reward him with eternal rest for his friendship and companionship he shared with family and friends.

MG/RR



taranaki@swiss.org.nz

### Past Events ....

Well, for us Queen's Birthday Weekend was a HUGE weekend!!!

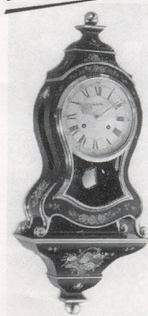
Firstly, a social get together was held on the Saturday, with the Swiss-Kiwi Yodellers, the Guggen-Musik, Auckland and Wellington Swiss Club members, joining our own members. A delicious meal of soup, potato salad and cervelats, and a dessert was offered... we thank all our members (and special thanks to non-committee members) who contributed. Paul Amstalden gave a very informative speech about the commencement of our club. Several boards and albums of the past fifty years were displayed for this occasion, and we thank everyone who put time and effort into these... they were superb. Our singing group sang beautifully, despite having professionals in our midst... congratulations and well done!! The Yodellers and Guggen-Musik gave impromptu items, much to the delight of the audience... and even our oldest member, Joe Detling, participated in the polonaise... great to see you kicking your heels (two nights in a row, too... well done, you're an inspiration to us all!!). A

wonderful night was had by all.

On the Sunday morning, Auckland and Taranaki battled it out for the Cowbell... what a fabulous idea having this competition to ensure that clubs mingle regularly. This competition involved keglen (nine pin bowling), jassen (Swiss cards), steinstossen (shotput) and shooting. We all enjoyed friendly rivalry, and Taranaki was lucky (or was it skill??) in winning all four events. Many thanks to all participants, for without your support, this competition wouldn't exist. The GuggenMusik went to the Plateau, but unfortunately the view was nearly non-existent... sorry folks... but at least you had a good view of Mt Egmont on your way down!!

A lunch of sausages and french sticks was served, and at 2.00pm it

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was down to the business of the Swiss Society AGM. Beatrice Leuenberger, in her last meeting as president, controlled an interesting meeting, and the new executive was elected. The Hamilton Swiss Club, was congratulated on the way they had run the Swiss Society, and on the wonderful way that they had published the Helvetia magazine.

A delicious afternoon tea was had, and later, everyone adjourned to the War Memorial Hall in Kaponga, where our jubilee dinner and entertainment would be held.

We were very please to have 320 people attend the dinner, and the entertainment which followed was superb. Ruedi Dudli gave a speech (*included in this issue*) on the history of our club, and Walter spoke about what the club offers today. Vreni Madgwich, from Wellington SwissClub, then read a poem, written by Theresa Scherrer, congratulating the Taranaki Club on its 50th Jubilee. A lovely iced Zugerkirch Torte was then cut by the foundation members... and was this cake delicious!! Many thanks to the ladies who made and beautifully decorated this cake.

The Taranaki Swiss Club Trachten-gruppe then commenced the entertainment for the evening. Our members walked in with traditional Swiss bells, and then performed three trachten dances. Next we were treated with fabulour items by the Swiss-Kiwi Yodellers and the Guggen-

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Musik - what wonderful talent and variety! The audience really appreciated your efforts in making the 50th Jubilee a night to remember.

Then came our own Beno Noetzi... maybe people in the audience didn't recognise him... and we all thought we knew him so well. He just blew our lights out!! The quiet, shy person is no more... to us, he is now the Italian star of our Swiss Club!! Thanks, Beni, for your contribution, we will NEVER forget your solo item. In between all the great entertainment we sold the tickets to our raffle. Many thanks to all our club members who generously donated items to make some beautiful baskets, and most sincere thanks to the Swiss Deli, who very extravagantly donated a ham... we are most appreciative of your gesture. The tickets sold too well, and we apologise to everyone who unfortunately were unable to buy tickets... next time we will have to coax the committee to roll more, it's a great passtime of our members!! Magnificent dancing music then played to the wee hours of the morning, and all too soon the terrific evening came to a close. Grateful thanks to our loyal supporters, and to all the members of the other clubs who joined us in making our 50th Jubilee a very memorable occasion. Many thanks to the Swiss-Kiwi Yodellers and the GuggenMusik for making the journey south to participate in our celebrations, we all thoroughly enjoyed your company and the entertainment you provided.

Thank you very much to Walter and his committee for organising this very festive weekend, which was enjoyed by everyone. All the time and effort expended to put this weekend on was well worth it. Let's now look forward to the 100th!!!

#### **Forthcoming Events ....**

##### **July 7 - Anniversary / Championship Shoots**

from 11.00am to 3.00pm, followed by the delicious Sauerkraut and pork meal. The meal will be served at 5.30pm, with prizegiving afterwards. Raffles will then be sold. A good social get together and fun evening.

**July 14 - Cards** commencing at 1.15pm.... both jassen and euchre

**July 21 - Once again... Cards**

these afternoons have been reasonably well supported, come and join in the fun !!

**July 27 - Swiss National Day** celebrations will be held on this day.

Committee members will contact all active members, however should we miss you, please make sure you contact us!!

MD

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## Taranaki Swiss Club President's Report

Dear Friends,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who joined us for our 50th Jubilee Celebrations and made it such a memorable occasion!

It was a great pleasure to see so many members of the Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington Swiss Clubs turn up in support of the Taranaki Swiss Club!

I congratulate and thank the Swiss Kiwi Yodlers, the Guggenmusik (sorry for not handing out ear plugs!)

the Singing-group, the Trachtengruppe, Beno Noetzli (we loved you too!), and all our musicians, for their first-class entertainment!

Thanks to; Mrs. Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown, the representative from the Swiss Embassy, Mr. Ruedi Dudli, our past President, and Mr. Paul Amstalden, for their interesting speeches! Mrs. Josie Gillbanks for donating a tree/shrub, which has now been planted in our Club-grounds, the Swiss-Deli for donating a leg of ham for the Tombola, as well as all the other sponsors who would like to remain nameless!

Mr. Johnny Bishop for taking us down memory-lane with his videos, slides and photographs! Mrs. Erna Zimmermann and Mrs. Lisette Benkert for the preparation of the Tombola! Mrs. Luzia Noetzli and Mrs. Marlies Hebler for making the beautiful Birthday Cake! The Wellington Swiss Club for the nice poem and the lovely bunch of flowers they presented us with! The Auckland Swiss Club for letting us win the competition and so keep the beloved Cowbell for another 12 months! I would also like to praise all the children for their

good behaviour throughout the celebrations!

My personal thanks to our secretary, Mrs. Doreen Schuler, our treasurer, Mrs. Marianne Drummond, our vice-President, Mr. Othmar Hebler and our hard working Club Committee for their outstanding support over the last few months and weeks, leading up to our Jubilee.

And last but not least, thank you very much to all our loyal members, for your participation!

You made it all worthwhile!

Thank you one and all!

regards; Walter Seifert, President.

### New Web Page - Swiss.org.nz

We have been online now for nearly five years. A constant flow of visitors shows us there is some interest out there! The time has now come to update and modernise our web page design. Mark Godat, of OIA Office Applications, has offered to work with us so we can create a new and better site (swiss.org.nz) in conjunction with the Australian counterpart (swiss.org.au).

The new pages are very dynamic and supported by a server side database. The new features now allow participating clubs to change the content of nearly all their pages on-line, including control of the menu, editing of events and new pages, uploading of pictures to decorate pages with photos. You could even go further to design forms for feedback, membership application and much more, which on submit, could be sent to any e-mail address specified. The need for a web master who does all the page editing work has become a matter of the past!! Like in the old pages, there are still "Cool Links", "Swiss NZ Business"

sections, the "Meet Emigrants" pages and much more.

The new design is now implemented and the address is re-directed. The second stage of the design does not just need us, it also includes everyone else. We now have to test in and find out all the bugs and problems. Based on feedback, we will update and change the pages many times before the whole site is finalised. Please spend some time surfing the site and give us some feedback on the new design so we are able to incorporate all of your many ideas too. From your Webmasters - regards from Edi Brändli and Marc Godat (webmaster@swiss.org.nz)

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### Past Events...

At Queen's Birthday Weekend, 17 members from our club went to Taranaki to attend the Swiss Society's AGM, and to join our Taranaki friends in the celebration of their 50th anniversary of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

The AGM was well attended and our president, Roland Schütz thanked the Hamilton team for the excellent job they have done in editing and printing the "HELVETIA".

A most enjoyable 50th Anniversary evening with great entertainment was the delight of all who attended this function at Kaponga War Memorial Hall. Well done, Taranaki !!!

At St. Mary's College, where most of us stayed, we were very well accommodated with a hearty breakfast in the mornings.

A great "Thank You" Taranaki, for organizing a splendid weekend.

### Forthcoming Events...

**7 July, Sunday, Jass Afternoon** from 2 pm at the club house

**11 July, Book discussion group,** 11.30 am at the Club house. Bring your own lunch; tea and coffee available. Trudi and/or Lotti will talk about books they enjoyed reading. The format and content of future meetings to be discussed by the group.

**14 July, Sunday walkMeet** at 10.30 am at Car Park, Rimutaka Forest Park (Wainuiomata, along Coast Rd.)

A variety of walks possible, from one to five hours duration.

Bring your own lunch. - After the walk there will be coffee and tea available at the Club house.

- Would people who are interested in being informed of future walks please let Lotti Napp know. (Tel. 9721215)

**August 1 Fire on Petone Beach** behind Hikoikoi playground starting

at 6 pm with a sing-a-long.

Sausages, buns, coffee and tea will be available, also cold drinks for children. Bring your 'Lampions' (Chinese lanterns).

**August 3 National Day Celebration** at the Club house in Wainuiomata

**August 21 Wednesday**

*Jass Afternoon* from 2 pm at the Club house.

**September 14 Berner Abend**

with 'Berner Platte' and live entertainment by the "Auckland Swiss Musicians". TS

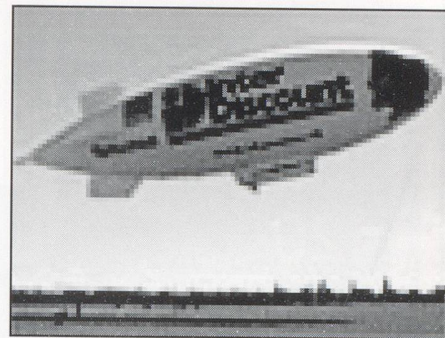


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### Expo.02 from on high

For most people airships, or Zeppelins, conjure up images of the fiery death of the Hindenberg back in the 1930s. But in recent years, blimps, as they are sometimes called, have slowly been re-appearing in Europe's skies thanks to a British company, which started building scaled-down versions for small numbers of passengers in the 1980s.

Now Skycruise Switzerland, a company that owns a British-designed Skyship 600, has launched its first passenger operations during Expo.02. The firm is hoping these flights will generate renewed interest in airships. "Its quiet, gliding motion through the air, combined with incomparable views, make it attractive today," said Christian Schulthess, Skycruise's chief executive officer. "The airship answers a need for relaxation, experiences and a slower pace."

### An expensive hour

The blimp at Expo.02 will fly at an altitude of 150 to 300 metres over Neuchâtel, Lake Murten and St Peters Island, carrying eight to 12 passengers. A 60-minute flight over the Three Lakes Region will cost at least SFr580 per person.

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### Swiss railways quietly celebrate century

The Swiss Federal Railways have decided to concentrate on their future, rather than look back at the past. - The Swiss in their vast majority love their railways. It is said that nowhere in the world is there such a strong relationship between the people and their railways. Maybe it's because the Swiss have no car industry.

One of the tasks of the Swiss Federal Railways is to continue preparations for a second phase of the Rail 2000 project, which aims to improve services nationwide with more trains, shorter journey times and greater comfort.

On some of the most frequent lines for example Bern-Zürich, half hour services have long been introduced under Rail 2000.

"We are even thinking of introducing trains every quarter of an hour on some of the denser routes from 2010-2020", a spokesman for Swiss Federal Railways said.

by swissinfo. org

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The Hamilton Team, once again preparing and packing over 500 Helvetia magazines ready for postage - from left Ruth Waldvogel, Beatrice Leuenberger, Helen Staheli, Joe Staheli, Karl Waldvogel and Bert Flühler.

Many a great gossip session was held around this table every month!!



### 50 Year Celebration of the Taranaki Swiss Club 1./2. June 2002

Please turn to page 5 for  
an article on the  
**History of the Taranaki  
Swiss Club**  
by Ruedi Dudli

