

New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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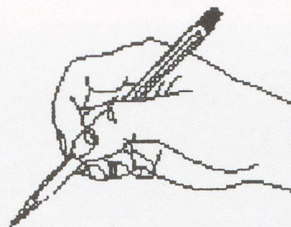
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Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch

My one wish for the future of the Swiss Society is that we can continue to nurture and encourage the interest and participation of the younger generation.

Beatrice once again thanked everyone involved in running the Society over the past five years - Editor, Rinaldo Rust and his inspiring editorials which many looked forward to reading every month; Ruth and Karl Waldvogel, Bert Flühler, and Joe and Helen Staheli for packing and posting each issue; and Doris Rust and Trudi Wilson for the "Your Corner" pages.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has supported me over the past five years - I have enjoyed and been honoured to be the President of the Swiss Society, and feel proud to be able to hand over an organisation which is in a healthy state, and wish everyone in the Taranaki Club who will be involved in the future running of the Society every success and my very best wishes.

The report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Trudi Fill

Editor's Report: (Rinaldo Rust reported) Rinaldo thanked his editing team for their dedication and help over the past five years, and expressed his best wishes to his successors who will now be producing the Helvetia magazine. The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Rinaldo Rust;

Seconded by Heinz Leuenberger

Beatrice then presented Rinaldo with a card and gift in recognition of his services to the Helvetia and Society over the past five years.

Address by Society Patron: In the absence of Mrs Matteucci, Beatrice introduced Embassy Representative, Bernadette Hunkeler, and invited her to address the meeting. Bernadette noted the success of the recent visit by Mr Walter Thurnheer, and appreciated that so many Swiss Abroad came to his meetings. In trying to strengthen relations between the Embassy and members of the Swiss Clubs, every effort is being made, workload permitting, to attend AGMs and Club activities around the country. The Swiss Society brings most clubs together and works well in the common goal of keeping Swiss culture and spirit alive. The Helvetia magazine is a wonderful example of 'how to keep in touch with Switzerland' and complements official Swiss Abroad publication, Swiss Revue, in an exemplary fashion.

One big change happening in Switzerland will be the new passport as from 1st January 2003. Children will all have their own passports. They will be valid for ten years for adults, and three and five years for children and youths respectively. Passports can still be obtained through the Embassy, but it is recommended to apply for this at least two months before it is required. Current passports will still be valid, but from 1 January 2003 the Embassy can no longer extend current documents and new ones will be required.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.), held at the Taranaki Swiss Club Hall in Kaponga, on 2nd June, 2002

Meeting opened: 2.00pm

Welcome: The Society President, Beatrice Leuenberger, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to Taranaki. Beatrice congratulated the Taranaki Club for once again winning the annual Cowbell Competition final against Auckland that morning. She also thanked the Taranaki Club Committee for organising the competition final, and providing a delicious lunch for everyone.

Present: Beatrice Leuenberger (President), R Rust (Editor), R Waldvogel (Secretary), and 73 Society members from the Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington Swiss Clubs.

Apologies: A & H Müller; O & S Suri; H Matysik; R Dudli; P & D Rust; H Iten; F & B Roggen; D Luond; B Hiestand; R Monti; K & B Anderson; J Gillbanks; F Schuler; J Kopp; D Hess; and D & L Hiestand. An apology was also received from our Patron and Ambassador, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci, as she was attending the 40th anniversary of independence in Samoa.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Walter Seifert

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous year's AGM (2001, Hamilton) had been published in the May Helvetia - it was presumed that everybody had seen these, and so they were taken as read. There were no Matters Arising, and so it was moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Heidi Leuenberger

Obituaries: Sadly, a number of Society members and friends from around the country passed away over the past 12 months. These were: Dolfi Risi, Emil Bösch, Anna Lischer, Christof Meier and Franz Grossman (Hamilton Club); Adolf Flühler and Josephine Dettling (Taranaki Club); Bert Steiner (Napier); and Frank Imhof (Kerikeri). Everyone was invited to stand for a moment's silence in remembrance and memory of these past members and friends.

President's Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) This will be my final report after holding office since 1997, and so an opportune time to reflect on the past five years. The Society has run smoothly over the past 12 months - and we've again been busy with Helvetia production and Society administration. In 1997, membership was 494, and now (as at end March) there has been a net increase of 34 members, also taking into account members lost. Total membership is now 528, which includes 18 honorary members. This shows there is still a lot of interest in the Society - greatly helped by a magazine up to the standard of the Helvetia - both by new arrivals from Switzerland, through to second and third generation Swiss in New Zealand. Front page competitions have continued to be popular, with 8-12 entries each month; and prior to last Christmas, we asked children to draw a Christmas scene - for which they all received an advent calendar, complete with chocolates.

2. Website: This has now been redesigned and combined with the Australian website. The hosting will be done under the authority of the Swiss Society of Queensland at a cost of A\$99 per year (instead of the previous \$250).

We have been online for a few years now, and a constant flow of visitors to the site shows that there is interest in us out there. The Society and



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Clubs have gained a number of new members through the website, and it has proved to be an efficient way of making interested people aware of our existence.

3. Medal Jass: As the individual Clubs play amongst/against themselves in this competition, they are free, within reason, to play by their own rules, as medals are presented to the top 20% from each Club. In contrast, the Society Sport rules must be adhered to for Interclub competitions as Clubs are measured against each other, so same rules must apply. Any queries should be made to the Riflemaster.

Venue for next Meeting: Wellington Club President, Roland Schütz, invited members of the Swiss Society to meet in Wellington at Queen's Birthday Weekend, 31 May - 2 June, 2003, where the Wellington Swiss Club would be pleased to host the next Annual General Meeting on 1 June 2003.

Meeting Closure: On behalf of the Society, Beatrice congratulated the Taranaki Swiss Club on reaching their 50th anniversary, thanked and congratulated the Club committee and members for their hospitality and efforts in organising the AGM functions.

Finally, Beatrice thanked all members present for their attendance and participation, and wished everyone an enjoyable evening function and a safe journey home.

The 2002 Annual General Meeting was closed at 3.45 pm.

Election of Officers: The five year term for the current Society Committee from Hamilton Club has been completed, and Taranaki Club members will fill the positions for the new Committee.

President: Marianne Drummond nominated; Moved by Walter Seifert; Seconded by Rinaldo Rust.

Vice President: Walter Seifert nominated; Moved by Marianne Drummond; Seconded by Rinaldo Rust.

Secretary: Silvia Schuler nominated; Moved by Lisette Benkert; Seconded by Maya Stutz.

Treasurer: Walter Seifert nominated; Moved by Marianne Drummond; Seconded by Rinaldo Rust.

Editor: Liz Amstalden nominated; Moved by Rinaldo Rust; Seconded by Beatrice Leuenberger.

Committee Members: No formal nominations were received, and it was suggested that above committee members appoint their own team. Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger; Seconded by Marianne Drummond.

Auditor: - no nominations received

The new President, Marianne Benkert, thanked everyone for their confidence in her.

Taranaki Club President, Walter Seifert, moved that in recognition of their work over the past five years, the outgoing President and Editor, Beatrice Leuenberger and Rinaldo Rust respectively, be made Honorary members of the Swiss Society. Seconded by Josie Flühler. The President of the Hamilton Club, Herbert Staheli, thanked Rinaldo, Beatrice and Rut, on behalf of the Hamilton Club, for their harmonious work over the past five years and presented each with a gift and flowers.

General Business:

1. Club Reports: Club Presidents were invited to report on Club activities over the past year.

Auckland - Uli Kipfer reported that they will be laying the concrete floor at the clubhouse shortly, and they are planning to plant more trees. A big welcome was extended to anyone wishing to visit at Kaukapakapa.

Hamilton - Herbert Staheli reported on the good support received at functions, especially the card evenings during the Winter months.

Taranaki - Walter Seifert reported the committee had a busy year so far in preparing for the 50th Jubilee, and is glad he won't have to do it again for the next 50th!!

Wellington - Roland Schütz reported on a very successful "Berner Evening". A lot of fundraising will now have to be done for a new roof!

Financial Report: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Copies of the financial report were circulated for everyone to read. Excess Income of \$1,544 increased our accumulated funds to total \$32,979. A good portion of income is through advertising, and we again urge all members to support our advertisers. Over the past five years, since 1997, the Society's asset base has been increased by just under \$10,000, and net membership has increased by 34 members during that period (which equates to a total of \$850). We are pleased to be able to hand over a very financially stable and healthy organisation to the Taranaki Club's further care. (Full financial statements were printed in the July 2002 Helvetia.)

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Marianne Drummond

Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report: (Heinz Leuenberger reported) Heinz is still trying to have English translations introduced at the Annual Swiss Abroad Congress meetings, in addition to French and German. Discussion also followed regarding voting in Switzerland by Swiss living abroad.

The Report was moved for adoption.

Moved by Heinz Leuenberger;

Seconded by Walter Seifert

Riflemaster's Report: (Peter Rust provided a written report.) Participation in the medal events has been much the same over past years, and it's pleasing to see more youngsters taking part.

Peter would be prepared to continue as Riflemaster for a further year, and then hope to pass it on to an enthusiastic Taranaki member. Events during the past year took place without any problems.

The Report was moved for adoption. Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Heinz Leuenberger

Setting of Subscriptions 2003/2004: (Beatrice Leuenberger reported) Thanks to the many businesses who advertised in the Helvetia over the past year. With continued assistance of this income we can keep the level of subscriptions as low as possible. Membership has also remained consistent, and we have again achieved a good excess income, so we can see no reason to change the current subscription. Therefore it is recommended that the fee once again be set at the existing level of \$25 per household.

Moved by Beatrice Leuenberger;

Seconded by Herbert Staheli



My dear fellow Swiss

This is the last letter I am writing to you in this term for the committee, and I would like to invite all the aspiring journalists to come forward with contributions to this page.

The first Card Evening was held on Friday 21 March 03 and 20 people took part.

Thank you all for coming, and I hope this was the start to a good exciting season.

The ranking happened as follows:

1. Emil Tellenbach	4181 points
2. Elisabeth Preisig	4002 points
3. Andrew Iten	3994
4. Dominik Hess	3976
5. Louis Wallimann	3940
6. Hans Fitzi	3912
7. Annagret Wolf	3896
8. Othmar Wyss	3835
9. Lillian Iten	3802
10. Jakob Preisig	3799
11. Monika Eggenschwiler	3795
12. Heidi Wilson	3762
13. Lynne Dunphy	3761
14. Claudia Bühler	3673
15. Hansruedi Wolf	3669
16. Edith Hess	3666
17. Tony Mathys	3564
18. Hans Iten	3462
19. Yvonne Bühler	3455
20. Hilda Iten	3264

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Heinz Helbling

schildert in seinem spannenden Buch die abenteuerliche Reise per Schiff und seine Erlebnisse im Taranaki als Käser und bei Farmarbeiten in den 50er Jahren.

Als Gründungsmitglied des Schweizerclubs Taranaki beschreibt er seine Erinnerungen aus der damaligen Zeit. Das Buch in deutscher Sprache umfasst 172 Seiten, mit vielen Originalfotos und kostet NZ \$32.-

Bestellung bei:

Peter Gutmann
182 Tramway Road
Hamilton
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We hope to see you at our next Card Evening which is on Friday 16th May 2003, 7.30pm at 224 Hobson St, Auckland City. Upstairs. As normal, every 3rd Friday of the month. For any information call Hans Iten on Tel. 620 9208.

With winter coming on the Sauerkraut is again ready and can be ordered through Hans Iten Tel. 620 9208. (The best in town, Ed.)

Although the Schedule is not officially sanctioned by the new committee yet, I invite you to consider two main events coming up this year:

- The Swiss Society AGM in Wellington, on Queen's Birthday Weekend.
- An event yet to be named which will

include the prizegiving of the shooting section. This will be in October in the city. Something to look forward to.

Regular Events

Stammtisch – every last Saturday of the month, in the afternoon until late or stay the night. Take your dinner with you and cook it on the barbeque. The next one is on Saturday 31 May 2003. Contact Markus Bühler Tel. 832 3334

Jassen – see above

Jöggele – Table Soccer – every 1st Friday of the month. At 8pm. At 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield. Bring a bottle (with wine in it if possible).

Contact Edith Hess 444 6972

WELCOME!

To the new members who joined us in

the past few months – Brian and Ruth Hahn-Stocker (welcome back!); - Othmar and Midori Storchenegger; - Andre and Saskia Belami; - Andreas Zickert and Michaela.

A very warm welcome to the club, and we hope you get to have lots of fun among us.

A list of the new committee will be published in the next issue.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Annual General Meeting. It is very reassuring for the committee to know that the members of the club we represent are behind us and know who we are.

*Until next time,
Yours truly,
Trudi.*

Hamilton Swiss Club hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Following a few items of general business to discuss, the meeting then finished at about 9.30pm. Everyone looked forward to a hot drink and a selection of the usual home-made Swiss baking for supper. Many thanks to everyone who attended and we all look forward to the usual good attendance at all of the functions we have planned for this year.

Past Events....

Family Walk

We had a great turnout for our recent family walk along the Waitawheta River

in the Karangahake Gorge on Sunday 23 March. Nearly 50 people, young and old had a most enjoyable day. After a long fine spell of weather, it did manage to rain overnight and early in the morning, but by lunchtime the sun was out. From our meeting place at the carpark, everyone set off on the walk, each going at their own pace. We met up and had lunch beside the river at Dickey's Flat, where some "boy scouts" managed lighting a fire to keep away the numerous sandflies. The children enjoyed themselves immensely playing and swimming in the cold river. Finally we headed back on the return hike to the carpark. Many thanks to the thoughtful ladies who provided us all with coffee and cake at the end of the walk - it was most appreciated.

The committee look forward to seeing you all again for our next walk, which will be along the Waikato River in Hamilton.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 12th April at the Swisscraft premises in Frankton. Unfortunately this date clashed with the very popular Balloon Festival and many members complained about the traffic congestion and the difficulty in getting to the AGM on time. However this didn't deter people from attending. In fact, we had 29 people present – six more than last year. We also had the pleasure of hosting Daniel and Karin Rüeger from the Embassy in Wellington.

After a bit of Kegel practice and a few drinks, the meeting got underway and the usual reports were read and the election of officers held. We didn't receive any resignations from the committee, nor were there any new nominations, so the committee of the past year remains the same.

Forthcoming Events....

Saturday, 10th May

Second Card Evening and Medal Jass to be held at the Union Parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Cambridge. Please be there at 7.30pm sharp – in particular for the medal Jass.

17th/18th May

Two day shooting programme in Auckland for 300 metre shooters. Everyone stays at the Auckland clubhouse and this proved to be a most enjoyable weekend last year. Beginners are most welcome.

The club will also subsidise travel for all members. For further details and transport arrangements please ring the Riflemaster, Hans Vetsch, ph. (07) 855-3294.

Saturday, 24th May

Third Card Evening at the St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti Street, Matamata. 7.30pm start.

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 31st May to 2nd June

Swiss Society AGM to be held in Wellington. Several members intend travelling to Wellington and will stay in a motel in Lower Hutt. If you are interested in booking accommodation together with other club members or are interested in sharing transport, please ring Beatrice, Ph (07) 843-7971 as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made in good time.

Saturday, 7th June – Fourth Card Evening, Union Parish Church, Queen Street, Cambridge. 7.30pm start.

Email List: I am trying to set up a list of club members who have email. This would be handy if we need to give you last minute reminders or an update of things happening. Your email address will remain confidential. Please send an email to Anita at: zuber@xtra.co.nz

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and I will add you to the list.

Birthdays / Anniversaries: I am keen to add these to the Hamilton section of the Helvetia but I'm not always sure if this is appreciated. If you know of someone who has an important birthday or anniversary coming up, please send me an email or you can phone me (07) 856-2414 and I will include these in the next issue of the Helvetia.

Anita Zuber
Secretary



Parade to help celebrate Stratford's 125th jubilee

On 15 March many members of the Taranaki Swiss Club participated in the parade held to celebrate 125 years of Stratford. Several members helped to make a beautiful float, which held the card players and the musicians. Frank, with his usual charm, approached Norwoods who agreed to lend a tractor to the Swiss Club with which to pull the trailer...and the rest happened from there. At the front of the Swiss Club's participation in the parade was Remigi throwing the Swiss flag, with Peter Zimmermann and Thomas Werder at his side also holding Swiss flags...by all accounts, you all did very well!

Mark carefully drove the tractor with many adults and children in costume following. It really was a colourful ensemble, and then there was Paul Amstalden carrying the cheese - you looked great, but I'm sure that the walk must have been long enough for you (from the Stratford



Some of the participants at the parade to celebrate Stratford's 125th Jubilee.

Club to Pioneer Village ... about 3km)! Amongst all these people were the men carrying the bells ... making a huge racket as usual, but also looking terrific. I consider that we can be proud of the Swiss Club's participation in this parade, and I am certain that the people of Stratford enjoyed us taking part.

Following this event, many participants gathered at the Benkerts for a barbeque and social evening. This went off with a hiss and a roar ... and all enjoyed themselves immensely ... as shown in the photo! In abundance were eating, singing, dancing, and chatting, so the variety was great!

Kegeln - this enjoyable sport is being played on the first and third Thursday of the month except June to September, December and January. They have been fortunate to see a few new faces attending and have had great fun. Many participants enjoy a game or three of jassen in between the kegeln, and a delicious supper is held thereafter.



Part of the crowd enjoying the barbeque after the parade.

Please don't hesitate to join in, even if you haven't tried the sport before ... there are plenty of experts to give you some useful tips!

Cards - this favourite pastime is being held for eight afternoons between April and July.

Please make every effort to attend, as a great time is had by all ... can be a bit noisy from time to time, so bring your earmuffs! Both euchre and jassen are played ... and I don't know which are the noisier ones!!!!????!! The first card session was held on 6 April and the winner in the jassen was Josie Gillbanks (well, she does get plenty of practice!) with Ruedi Dudli second and Margrit Suter third. The booby was won by Ros Monti...obviously not enough practice ... or is it far too much and she's overtaxed in jassen?

The euchre was won by Johnny Bishop, with Eric Meuli second and Werner Suter third.

The raffle was won by Ruedi Dudli (you

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did have a profitable day!) and second prize went to Beryl Brown. Thanks to all who attended, and we hope that you can participate in the future card afternoons.

Forthcoming Events

May 1 & 15 Kegeln ... this is the last month for a while, so please come along and give it a go ... good practice for the Society medals!

May 4 & 11 Cards ... jassen and euchre played. Everyone is welcome, so if you have friends who would like to join in, they are more than welcome. Once again, great practice for the Society games.

May 17 Championship Shoot commences at 11am, followed by the Preiskegeln at 1pm ... this competition is terrific ... great rivalry just for a sausage! The delicious fondue and/or sausages and salad are served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Book in now with Marianne on 06 762 8757 or Walter on 06 762 8559. Many play cards during the afternoon or evening so a variety of activities are available to you on this day.

May 25 The Swiss Society Competitions will be held starting at

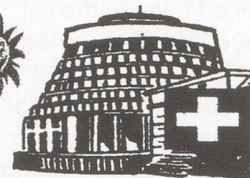
10.00am. There are beautiful medals to be won, so come and give it a go. A separate section is held for juniors, so come and join in the friendly rivalry.

May 31 to June 2 The Taranaki Swiss Club will be organising a bus trip to our friends in Wellington again. Please support this trip, as your members are now the executive of the Swiss Society, and they would certainly appreciate your attendance at the meeting ... and of course the entire weekend. We always have a lot of fun, and receive excellent hospitality from our compatriots in Wellington. For further information, and booking your seat early to avoid disappointment, please ring Walter Seifert on 06 762 8757 or Othmar Hebler on 06 272 2878. They look forward to hearing from you.

June 8 & 22 Cards ... again! Wonderful pastime, so join in.

June 15 Championship Shoot at 1.00pm...give Mark your support. This is an enjoyable sport, and there are plenty of people on hand to help you.

MD



Wellington Swiss Club

wellington@swiss.org.nz

Past Events:

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 12 April 2003. Despite the absence of quite a few regulars, who are usually always present, we had a good turnout of members.

Two of our last year committee members have resigned and the club's president thanked Lotti Napp and Roland Lorenz for their contribution and great help during the year.

Our new Committee for the year 2003/2004 is:

President:	Roland Schütz
Vice President:	Verena Madgwick
Treasurer:	Ruth Messmer
Secretary:	Therese Scherrer
Members:	Heinz Jäggi Peter Hynes Petra Mösch

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday, 10 May 2003, Fondue Evening, 7pm BYO. This is a very enjoyable evening with an excellent Fondue, in fact "the best in town"! served with salads, dessert und coffee.

31 May to 2 June, Queen's Birthday Weekend, the Wellington Swiss Club will host the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. We look forward to seeing many members of our other Swiss Clubs present here in Wellington.

Hazardous Materials Data Sheet - Women

Analysis

Element - Women

Discover - Adam

Atomic Mass - Accepted as 55 kg. But known to vary from 40-225kg.

Occurrence - Copious quantities in all urban areas with trace elements found in most other areas.

Physical Properties

1. Surface usually covered in powder or painted film.
2. Boils at nothing, freezes for no apparent reason.
3. Melts if given special treatment.
4. Bitter if incorrectly used.
5. Yields to pressure applied gently to selected points.

Chemical Properties

1. Has a great affinity with gold, silver, platinum and most precious stones.
2. Absorbs great quantities of expensive substances.
3. May explode spontaneously without warning, for no reason.
4. Softens and takes on a rosy glow when soaked in hot water.
5. Most powerful money-reducing agent known to man.

Common Uses

1. Highly ornamental, especially in sports cars.
2. Can be a great aid to relaxation tests.
3. Pure specimen turns bright pink when discovered in its natural state.
4. Turns green when placed beside a better specimen.

Believing in Ourselves

Women speak because they wish to speak, whereas a man speaks only when driven to speech by something outside himself- like for instance, he can't find any clean socks!!!

*Friends, you and me...
You brought another
friend...*

*And then there were 3...
We started our group...
Our circle of friends...
And like that circle...
There is no beginning
or end...*