

# New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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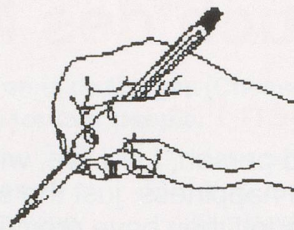


# New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

Web page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>

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Auckland  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington  
Christchurch



## Past Events ...

### Card Afternoons

These have been relatively well attended ... with everyone having a lot of fun!!! Erna is obviously continuing the good work that Doreen did!!! Results for the three last card afternoons are as follows :

**18 April** - Jassen: 1st Berta Sidler; 2nd Walter Seifert; 3rd Peter Gillbanks; Booby Maya Stutz

Euchre: 1st= Edi Fuglistaller, Margrit Suter; 3rd= John Hermann, Margrit Dudli

Raffle - The lucky people this time were Edi and Frieda.

Maya, the booby again ... well you had better improve if you want to be in the team playing jassen in the final of the Cowbell competition ... you know we only pick on form!!!

**2nd May** - Jassen: 1st Charlie Schuler; 2nd Maya Stutz; 3rd Mathias Seifert; Booby Margrit Suter

Euchre: 1st Albert; 2nd Jean Fuglistaller; 3rd John Hermann; Booby Bertha Zimmerman.

Raffle - the fortunate ones were Lisette and Margrit Suter.

Maya, you may have just found your form in time ... well done ... lady luck must have been on your side ... or was it skill????!! Keep lady luck on your side for the cowbell competitions!!!

**16 May** - Jassen: 1st Marlis Hebler; 2nd Mavis Schuler; 3rd Heidi Werder; Booby Joe Buhler

Euchre: 1st Jean Fuglistaller; 2nd Bertha Zimmerman; 3rd Edi Fuglistaller; Booby Tilly Riddick.

Raffle winners were Marlis and Heidi ... you both had a good day ... winners in the cards and raffle.

Thank you to all card players for participating, and Erna looks forward to your continued support.

**The winners of the wordfinder** in our Taranaki Swiss Club Newsletter were Wendel and Kathi Appert .... congratulations .... and well done ... you won a free dinner at

## Hans-Rudolf Speck 1927 - 2004

Hans-Rudolf was born on 6 October 1927 in Dietikon, Zurich. His father passed away when he was twelve years old, leaving his mother with two sons to bring up. Times were very hard in those years, and there was certainly no financial assistance from the government. Hans did an electrical apprenticeship, and in 1951 he came to New Zealand with his mother and Sonja, who became his wife in August 1951. They were married in Kaponga.

Hans worked in the Palmer Road Cheese Factory



until his love for soccer brought him to New Plymouth, where he started playing his favourite sport. He worked as a tram conductor and then a train driver. When the tram services finished, Hans drove buses for the New Plymouth City Council. Then in 1960, together with Sonja, they bought their own bus business.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Sonja.

LB

our fondue evening. The correct answers were: The restaurant was Restaurant Schwarzenbach, Bisisthal and the place names in the wordfinder were : Ruti, Payerne, Buchs, Bulle, Glatt, Aarau, Biel, Aigle Cham Sion, Chur, and Laax.

Many thanks to those who took part, and we'll see what we can arrange for next year's issue!!!

MD

### Visit by Dr Georg Stucky, President of the Organisation for Swiss Abroad.

On the evening of 3 May 04, twenty-two of our members attended the information evening of Dr Stucky at our clubhouse. It would have been nice to see a few more people taking part, as the evening was very well advertised over the previous three months. I found Dr Stucky a very nice gentleman. He was very well spoken. His speech was very informative and interesting to listen to!!!

Since all the people present were able to understand our mother language, I asked Dr Stucky if we could use the

Swiss language for debate, to which he and everyone else agreed!!! Dr Stucky answered all the questions put to him with great flair and ease!

Once again, I would like to thank Dr Stucky for his visit and also thanks to Heinz and Heidi Leuenberger for bringing Dr Stucky down to Kaponga from Hamilton. Mr Heinz Leuenberger, our delegate for the Swiss Abroad, had some very good comments to make as well, to contribute to the discussions we had. Thank you one and all.

WS

### Kegeln

These evenings continue to be running well, with good attendance. A little birdie tells me that some of these ladies are staying up til all hours of the morning!!! Good on you!!! If

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you are interested in playing kegeln, come along to our evenings, or ring Johnny Bishop for further information.

MD

### Forthcoming Events

**June 13 & 27** Jassen and Euchre again ... we will just have got over Queen's Birthday weekend ... and we're back into cards again!!! Keep Erna motivated and attend these afternoons ... she's doing a great job!!!

**June 20** Final Championship Shoot at 1.00pm. Go along and give Mark some support ... he would love to see you. Shooting skills not necessary ... you may acquire them!!! Plenty of helpers on hand to get your shooting skills to full potential!!!

**July 4** The annual anniversary shoot is being held. Shooting or kegeln from 11.00am to 3.00pm, followed by the scrumptious sauerkraut and pork meal served at 5.30pm. A day not to be missed - great social day.

That's all for now ... please do attend as many functions as possible to keep your club committee inspired and motivated to keep running them for us all!!!

MD

**Hamilton**  
  
**Swiss Club**  
 hamilton@swiss.org.nz

### Past Events....

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, 16 April at Swiss-craft in Frankton with an attendance of 27 members. We had one resignation from the committee, that of Heidi Fransen who had served on the committee for about 12 years with some of that time as Secretary. Many thanks Heidi for all your efforts and we wish you all the best in all the many other activities you are involved in with your family. We would like to welcome

a new member to the committee, that of Ursula Haeffliger. We wish to welcome you and hope you enjoy your time with us. Following the usual formalities of the AGM we had some lively discussions during general business. We hope we will be able to carry out some of these recommendations throughout the year and hope that all our members will support the activities planned. Following the meeting, the committee served a delicious home-baked supper and there was plenty of coffee schnapps available as well as a selection of teas for those



who aren't into coffee late at night.

The visit from Dr Georg Stucky, President for the Swiss Abroad, was arranged for Sunday, 2 May and was also held at Swiss-craft in Frankton. We had over 40 members attend this function and we were presented with a very interesting speech prepared by Dr Stucky for this visit to New Zealand. Following this presentation, Dr Stucky welcomed questions and comments from the floor. There were several different points raised and Dr Stucky endeavoured to answer these all very informatively. Again, the committee served a delicious supper

## Congratulations

**to Joe (Kaspar)**  
**Kopp oo Pirongia**  
*celebrating his 80th birthday*  
**on 1st June 2004**

*With best wishes from the*  
**Hamilton Swiss Club**

following the meeting. Many thanks also to Joe and Helen Staheli for providing accommodation and their hospitality for this evening before Dr Stucky was taken to Taranaki by the Leuenbergers on the Monday.

First Card Evening - Winter must definitely be here, with our first card evening held on 7 May in Cambridge. Having just moved this event to a Friday night, we were pleased to have 50 players for our first card evening. A prompt start was made with 32 players competing in the medal Jass - giving the rest a bit of time to catch up with friends, or for a few friendly rounds. Following the medal round, all players settled in to some serious card playing, with a break for a well-deserved and delicious supper after the first three rounds, before continuing on the next three. At the conclusion of playing, the tables and chairs were quickly stacked and put away, and the prizes were awarded to the top eight scorers.

A big thank you to Vreni and Margareth for the lovely supper, and to everyone who came along. Congratulations to the following prize-winners: 1. Uli Elmiger 4443; 2. Therese Rust 4232; 3. Martha

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Schefer 4155; 4. Arthur Matti 4154; 5. Fritz Hasli 4151; 6. Agnes Gamperle 3960; 7. Mary Fluhler 3954; 8. Hans Vetsch 3925. Booby Prize: Beatrice Leuenberger 3330.

## Forthcoming Events...

**Friday, 4 June** – Third Card Evening to be held at the Union Parish Church Hall in Cambridge, 7.30pm sharp.

**Queen's Birthday Weekend, 5 & 6 June** – Swiss Society AGM to be held in Auckland. The Auckland club is hosting this event at the Clubhouse, Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa for the afternoon meeting on Sunday and followed by a Folklore Evening with Dinner and Dance at The Sorrento, One Tree Hill, in the evening. There is also an evening function organised for the Saturday at the Newmarket Club in Teed Street. The cost of this is \$45 and includes both functions. If you are interested in participating with the Hamilton Club please phone Anita (07) 856-2414 immediately.

**Friday, 18 June** – Fourth Card Evening to be held at St John Ambulance Hall in Matamata, 7.30pm sharp.

**Friday, 2 July** – Fifth Card Evening in Cambridge, 7.30pm

**Friday, 16 July** – Sixth and Final Card Evening in Matamata, 7.30pm

**Saturday, 31 July**, National Day Celebration will be held at Mallow Manor on SH1 south of Hamilton heading towards Cambridge. This will be our big

## Peter Samuel Gutmann

Peter passed away on 23 April 04 at his home in Hamilton. Peter was born in Payerne but moved to Bern at a young age. In the early 1950s he came with his friend Heinz Helbling on a great adventure to New Zealand.

As many Swiss did, he went to Taranaki and worked in the cheese factories there. Later he settled at Hamilton, in the Waikato, where he continued to make cheese at Matangi.



He married in 1956 and raised a family of three children. Peter had a great love for his expansive vegetable garden and received great satisfaction from his many different trees. He was extremely adventuresome in attempting to grow any type of fruit / nut tree on his section, the result of which was widely shared with everyone.

He will be sadly missed by us all.

Contributed by the family Gutmann

social event for the year and this time we hope we can offer you a warm and friendly atmosphere, a delicious dinner and great entertainment by the Holzhacker Band from Auckland. Our attendances have been dwindling in the past few years and we are now hoping to attract back many of our past participants for a great night out. All Hamilton members will be sent an invitation and we ask that you pass this information on to as many people as possible. All tickets will need to be pre-purchased and numbers will be limited, so mark your calendars now so that you don't miss out. If you are not a member or would like an invitation posted out to a friend, please contact Anita Zuber (07) 856-2414 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz or fax (07) 856-6181 giving details of where you would like the invitation sent to.

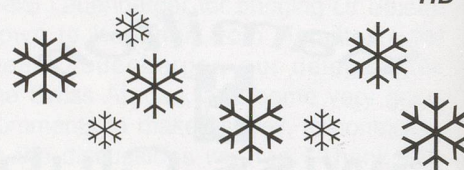
AZ

## CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

### Forthcoming Events...

Ski Weekend at Mt Lyford Ski Lodge will be held on Saturday and Sunday 3 and 4 July. Book now to secure your place at this stunning mountain retreat by phoning Reto on 03 337 9117.

HD



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## Past Events.

### AGM 17 April

Roland welcomed the members with his usual 'wie geits', and we were all pleased to see a good number arriving. There had prepared the agenda which was followed, beginning with the welcome and apologies.

Election of Scrutineers, acceptance of the Minutes, President's -, Treasurer's - and Riflemaster's Reports. When it came to the election of the committee we sadly had to see Heinz Jaggi standing down from his position. Thank you Heinz, it has been wonderful to work with you, we shall miss you a lot. I will miss my 'driver' to the meetings too!! Heinz has been a great advocate for the garage sale and I do hope he still will continue to help on that occasion.

Ruth Messmer has handed over the position as treasurer to Petra Press. Roland thanked Ruth for her many years as treasurer and presented her with a plaque and flowers. Petra was welcomed and we wish her well in her position. We are short of a committee member but hope to find volunteers during the year. Walter Hartmann will continue as Auditor, thank you Walter. Hans Glauser has got many other commitments and has resigned as Riflemaster. Hans Scherrer has agreed to be the Riflemaster this year. Thank you Hans, I know you will do your best. Roland presented the building committee report. There appears to be a hiccup with the designs. The committee is working on it. Craig Press joined the building committee. Thank you Craig I am sure you will be of great value. The AGM finished with a delicious supper of 'belegte Brotchen'.

### Computer Evening 30 April

A small group met at Roland's as we need the telephone connection for the e-mail. Walter Hartmann is very patiently explaining more and more of the great things the computer can do. However, not all the willing participants are comprehending this computer age!! The evenings are very interesting and well planned, thanks Walter.

### European Fair 1 May

On Saturday morning the weather forecast was for rain and the fair was

postponed to Sunday. On Sunday morning Frank Kitts Park was bustling with many different nationalities and by midday the smells of Hungarian goulash, Polish sauerkraut, Danish apple caklets and many more were very tempting. Three dance groups performed early afternoon. It was a pleasure to see the children singing 'Bruder Jakob' in their language and then all combined in English which is called Are You Sleeping, Brother John?

The response of the Swiss Club members to bake traditional Swiss biscuits was great. Thank you ladies for your baking. The Swiss table looked good and we sold a lot of biscuits and 'Weggli'. Thank you Monika and Petra.

### Mr Stucky's visit 4 May

A group of 18 patriots, some from as far away as Feilding, were enjoying a glass of Gluhwein when being welcomed by our president Roland and introduced to Mr Stucky. The light meal served by the committee was delicious. The arrival of Daniel and Karin Rueger after the meal was wonderful, especially as they had just returned from Switzerland that afternoon. Then Mr Stucky explained in his speech the role of the organisation of the Swiss Abroad. He specially explained that it was a non-governmental organisation supporting the authorities and representing the interests of the Swiss Abroad. He also stressed that the Swiss Abroad need to remind Switzerland of their existence and keep on voting. He listened to the questions and dissatisfaction over the AHV and promised to look into that matter.

## Forthcoming Events

### Schi Hutte Fondue 29 May

The first function will be a fondue. The winter has arrived so what could be better than a delicious fondue. A few members will skip the New Zealand winter and travel home to Switzerland, so come and enjoy an evening together at the clubhouse. There will be a Tombola and there are some great prizes to be won.

### Sunday Afternoon Jassen 13 June

It will make a lovely afternoon in the clubhouse to have a game of cards with your friends. If you know of someone who would like to play cards but has no transport, please

bring them along. The Jassen will start at 2pm.

### Hutt River Trail Walk 4 July

Put your walking shoes on, pack some snacks and drinks and walk along the Hutt River from Hikoikoi Pa to Stokes Valley. It is a pleasant walk and should take about 3-4 hours. Craig and Petra are keen to start a walking group. Give them your support and be at the Pa at 11 am on Sunday 4 July.

### Summer Family Excursion to Kapiti Island Sunday 21 Nov 2004

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit Kapiti Island. It is known as one of the best wildlife sanctuaries. You can hear and see many of the rare birds. We have to book well in advance and the booking can only go ahead if we get the numbers. Please book with Craig and Petra ph. 563-8600 by Friday 18 June.

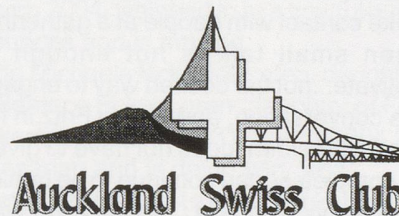
### National Day Celebration 31 July

Please put this date in your diary. It will be a lovely evening and the committee plus helpers will serve a delicious meal (as always)

### Fire at Petone Beach 1 August

We have to make up for last year's cancellation. There will be a huge fire and a lot of songs you like to sing! Hot sausages and cafe will keep you warm.

VM



auckland@swiss.org.nz

## Dear Club Members,

### Let me introduce our new president:

Fritz Scheidegger came to New Zealand with his parents in 1956. His uncle lived in Whakatane at the time and had encouraged his father to come out. They set up farming in Matamata. His

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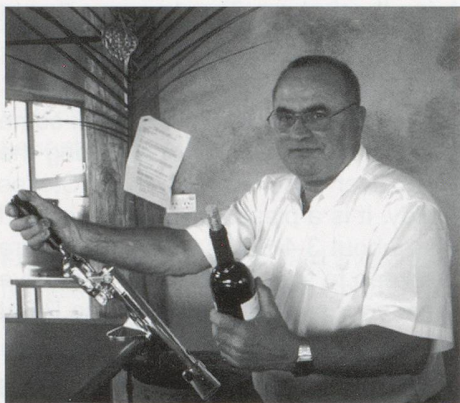
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mother was homesick and returned to Switzerland after 1½ years. The family then moved to a farm in Ardmore and Fritz, besides supporting his father on the farm, took up an apprenticeship with a fellow Swiss, Emil Heimgartner, as an engineer. He has lived in New Zealand since he was 12 and he has established a strong existence for himself in this country. After completion of his training, he played a big role in the management of Emil's company until the sons took over and Fritz set up his own company in 1974, Northern Tools Ltd, which he still owns and runs with great success. He was on the Swiss Club committee 40 years ago when it used to meet at Kitchener Street in the city (huhh? This is ancient history....) and was then, as he was last year, engaged as barman. The bar can be a convenient platform to make contact with people at a gathering, when small talk is not enough to motivate...not the desired way to engage in a conversation, and I hope Fritz in his role as president does not have to give it up completely, can continue to be behind the bar occasionally. Just by the way, Fritz does not drink alcohol. He has run his own company, Northern Tools, since 1974 which, he says, was fun in the early days but is fraught with struggle and frustration under a less and less co-operative government. With his lovely wife, Margaret, he has founded a big family with seven children and by now 7 grandchildren. They are kasideen skiers, have enjoyed many skiing holidays in Switzerland and make the most of the New Zealand scene outdoors. They are actively involved in 3 four-wheel-drive clubs which compete nationally and internationally. I have confidence that Fritz is well equipped for running the affairs of the Club and we are, I believe, once again in good hands.

#### **The AGM on Saturday 1 May 2004 elected the committee thus:**

Fritz Scheidegger, President. The vice president, Edith Hess, treasurer, Heinz Matysik and secretary, Trudi Fill, have

been re-elected and decided to remain as last year, as have Hans Iten, our Cardmaster, Albert Ryter, our Barmaster, Henry Werffeli, our Riflemaster, and Ursula Nixon. We can be assured with Heinz's input, that the finances will be well taken care of, as well as all computer-related matters and the pine plantation, and with Edith's flair in the creating of events we will be in good hands for entertainment. Contrary to the statement made earlier, you will have to put up with reading more of my blabber in this column until my successor, Heidi Wilson, who kindly accepted her election on to the committee, feels confident of taking over my role. Other new committee members include Sandra Hess, who had a short break while she raised her beautiful little children and established a home on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour; Egon Eberle who has for some years now actively supported the club and is frequently seen lending a strong hand at the working bees, and Ernst Gfeller who a few years ago was our president and has enjoyed a short break while re-adjusting his priorities and renovating his house, as well as tending to his family. I am sure in this composition we are a strong, committed team, so let's get on with it.

A word of thanks to the outgoing people – to Ueli Kipfer who has been president for the past 3 years, for making all of his connections and strengths available to the club and the time and energy sacrificed for this role, also thanks to his wife Jennifer, for the coffees and the support to the club; to Rolf Bertschi, for his time and support, during the events (with mammoth dishwashing stints) and in between – Thank you, and I sincerely hope that you remain part of the club activities whenever you can.

The AGM accepted the subscriptions for the club to remain at \$50 single, and \$60 family per year.

We also approved a few purchases mainly to improve the cooking facility at the farm and to make the place more safe for people to use. We will have new gas cookers and a new movable barbecue. The planting of pines on 2ha of our property has now been re-approved and will definitely go ahead this winter.

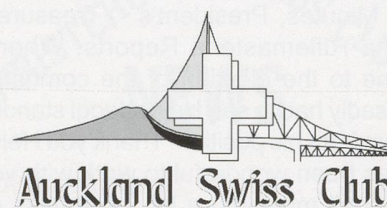
We all enjoyed a hearty dinner after the meeting (all except our guest of honour who had to provide his own sausages.... Aaawwww, dear! it happened) and Mr Georg Stucky who was kindly brought up to the farm by Rolf and Rosemarie Bertschi, gave an interesting talk and

answered questions about issues concerning the Swiss abroad.

A special thank you to Mr Stucky for visiting us in this remote country, to the staff at the Embassy for including Auckland in his schedule, and above all to Rosemarie and Rolf Bertschi for looking after Mr Stucky during his stay in Auckland and for taking him down to Hamilton.

#### **The Card Evenings**

My humble apologies for omitting to report on the Jassen in the last issue. I was all wrapped up in the Weltuntergangsstimmung of the pre-AGM blues.



### **PROGRAMME**

Of the Swiss Society  
Annual General Meeting  
Queen's Birthday Weekend  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2004  
In Auckland / Kaukapakapa.

**Saturday 5 June 2004, Newmarket Club Inc.**  
Teed St. Newmarket, Auckland

**5pm onward:** Welcome of the Clubs from around the country with Dinner provided.

\*\*\*

**Sunday 6 June 2004, At the farm, Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa 9am-12noon - Cowbell Competition.** The match is held between Taranaki and Auckland!

\*\*\*

**12. 30pm - Lunch**

\*\*\*

**2pm - Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.** Chaired by the president, Marianne Drummond of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

\*\*\*

**Sunday evening Folklore Night to conclude the weekend. 6pm - Doors open at Sorrento, One (Tree) Hill, Auckland 7.30pm - Dinner served followed by entertainment and Dance to the tune of the Holzacker Band.**

**Cost \$45 per person**

Everyone is cordially invited to take part in this weekend. It is a unique opportunity to mix and mingle with the members of the big colourful Swiss/New Zealand family that is scattered around this country, and make acquaintances for the future.

**Directions to the venues are available to each club.**

**For any bookings, contact your local club representative or Edith Hess  
Tel. 09 444 6972**



For the record: the interclub games between Hamilton and Auckland were won by Auckland who won 8 games and only lost 4. Congratulations, Auckland.

The March games were held for the first time in the new premises at Balmoral which proved very comfortable and practical. The turnout was moderate and the results were as follows:

1. Annagret Wolf 4324 points; 2. Elisabeth Preisig 4065; 3. Hans Iten 4019; 4. Jakob Preisig 3970; 5. Louis Wallimann 3855; 6. Heidi Wilson 3808 points; 7. Monika Eggenschwiler 3720; 8. Nelly Steinemann 3606; 9. Hilda Iten 3404; 10. Hansruedi Wolf 3011

#### The Jassabend in April has its own story:

"Unfortunately I couldn't get hold of the key to the hall, no-one was home at Good Shepherd or at the Presbytery. So I invited the whole group (17 of us!) to my place. We had to improvise a bit but soon we had everything organised and the games started and ended without a hitch, albeit about 45 minutes late. I didn't think anybody was too disappointed. I sincerely apologise for the mix-up and promise it won't happen again. The results were as follows:

1. Hansruedi Wolf (revenge!) 4092; 2. Verena Ruedi 4058 points; 3. Syd Melville 4018; 4. Louis Wallimann 3981; 5. Heidi Wilson 3891; 6. Hans Iten 3890; 7. Nelly Steinemann 3817; 8. Jakob Preisig 3814; 9. Andre Iten 3791; 10. Elisabeth Preisig 3773; 11. Molly Gianotti 3722; 12. Marie-Therese Melville 3707; 13. Monika Eggenschwiler 3659; 14. Hilda Iten 3588; 15. Marcel Ruedi 3584; 16. Annagret Wolf 3488; 17. Lynne Dunphy 3235

Thank you everyone for coming and for providing so generously for supper and bringing prizes. The next Card Evening is on Friday 18 June 2004, 7.30pm, at Good Shepherd Hall, Telford Ave, Balmoral (at the end of the dead-end road). Look forward to seeing a big number of you again.

**Hans Iten**

The Year 2004/5 Calendar for the Club looks like this: (Must have diary and pen in hand while reading the following:)

- **Queen's Birthday Weekend:** Society AGM in Auckland.
- **19 June 2004 Candlelight dinner** – See below
- **17 July 2004:** Games Night at the Farm
- **24 July 2004** - Working Bee
- **7 August 2004** - Swiss National Day Celebration at the farm
- **18 September 2004** – Raclette/Fondue Evening at the farm
- **14 November 2004** – Mystery Tour – not telling
- **27 November 2004** – Working Bee
- **5 December 2004** – Samichlaus – Christmas Party
- **29 January 2005** – Working Bee AND Society Shooting at the farm
- **13 February 2005** – Picnic at the farm with Kegeln, Steinstossen
- **27 March 2005** – Wandertag – venue to be confirmed

The hosting of the Society AGM is our first assignment and happens in the next few days, on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

For people who have not registered their participation there is still a chance to do so by calling Edith on Tel. 444 6972, for contributions which would still be gratefully accepted.

Or call Heinz Tel. 624 1589 or Trudi Tel. 376 4923 for a late booking to the Folklore Night on Sunday 6 June at the Sorrento, or the welcoming night on Saturday.

We are aiming at a strong representation from the Auckland Club and expect many of you to be there to greet our guests from around the country. Thank you for your commitment.

#### Candlelight Dinner

Saturday 19 June 2004 (the day after the Jass evening) at 7.30pm or earlier, at the farm at Rapson Road, Kaukapakapa. Price \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

This year, as requested, will be a true candles affair again, and the ambiance that this creates, together with the skills of Edith in providing a fabulous 3-course meal (value for money!!!) promises a true delight for all senses for you and your special friends.

Numbers for this evening are limited so bookings must be in by Wednesday 16 June 2004. Best to do it now. Call Edith on 444 6972, or Trudi on 376 4923.

#### We have 2 brand new people in our circle:

Bethany Grace Hochuli, daughter of Olivia, granddaughter of Chris Hochuli and Christine Williams, was born on 13 March 2004, weighed in at a tiny 5 pound 3 ounces and is thriving.

Jada Michaela Eckert-Karsten, daughter of Beatrice Eckert, granddaughter of Fila Eckert, was born on 31 March 2004 by Caesarian and is doing very well.

Congratulations to the parents and grandparents and best wishes for the new citizens of this world.

**Trudi.**

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