

# New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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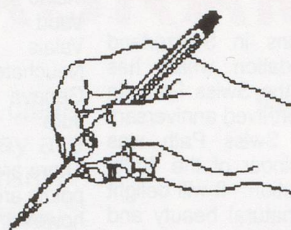


# New Zealand Swiss Club

## News & Happenings

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

E-mail - [society@swiss.org.nz](mailto:society@swiss.org.nz)



Auckland  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington  
Christchurch



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

### Past Events

**On January 24-26 and 28-30** we hosted two groups from Switzerland for two nights each. These people were from all over Switzerland, but were mainly in the farming sector ... be it dairying, crop, fattening beef or even a strawberry farmer!!! They were all very interested in how we lived, were keen to see our farms with buildings and machinery and compared our way of farming to how it is in Switzerland ... obviously very different!!! They arrived late afternoon and spent the first night with their hosts, and the following morning they met at the Swiss Club and visited Dairyland in Hawera where they had lunch. They then visited an opossum factory in Mahoe (where is that? ... just a few kilometres from Kaponga) which they found very interesting and bought some of the various goods that they sold. Next they visited a 700 cow dairy farm and then went up to Dawson Falls, returning to the club house where their hosts were getting ready a pot-luck tea. The visitors were absolutely amazed at the selection of food ... and the quantity ... which soon disappeared!!! Even the tour guides were flabbergasted at the variety ...

thinking that her group might only have salads to eat and no meat!!! We provided a little entertainment and then everyone was off home due to the early starts for the tour groups. Except for the odd bug some of the hosts picked up, we thoroughly enjoyed hosting the two groups, and they immensely enjoyed their time too ... after first feeling a little apprehensive going into homes of people that they didn't know. They really appreciate being able to communicate with their hosts, and finding out answers to their various questions.

**February 13** - we held our annual picnic ... after first being doubtful about the weather, we were fortunate to have a lovely rain-free day ... overcast, but we were glad that it wasn't as hot and sticky as the weather had been in previous weeks. Cars started rolling in at approximately 10.30am and continued to do so all day ... I think numbers of Kiwi-Swiss were down a little compared to previous years, but our attendance was bolstered by a contingent of a Schwingen Group from Limpach area (canton Solothurn / Bern) who were in New Zealand on holiday. Also we were pleased to see some of our friends from Hamilton here too ... thanks for coming down, and we hope that you enjoyed our picnic. Around lunch time the barbeques were ignited, and the smell of barbequed cervelats and bratwursts were giving off a real "swiss picnic" flavour to the day. This year we had veal and pork bratwurst, with the latter making their

first appearance at a Taranaki Swiss Club picnic ... and did people love them!!! We ran out!!! Many thanks to the Swiss Deli for your their prompt service of the delicious sausages. After devouring sausages ... thirst arrived and the beverages went down a treat ... as did the scrumptious trumpets and iceblocks. The "Schwingen" kicked off at 1.00pm, under the watchful eye of our referee from Switzerland, Hans Iseli (he was part of the touring group). Five juniors and twelve seniors participated, with locals and tourists joining in the competition ... although the bouts were competitive they also had much fun. How they find fun in getting covered in sawdust ... I don't know!!! I guess that's why females don't participate!!! The eventual winner was Migg Signer (a tourist from Switzerland) with runner-up Erwin Hebler (a great effort by a local). Third was Ruedi Schori (a member of the touring party from Switzerland, who has previously won the Schwingen in Taranaki twice). The juniors section was taken out by William Gray with Martin Hebler runner-up ... muscle or technique must run in the Hebler family ... although I haven't seen dad participate ... eh Othmar ... may be it's still coming????!!! Many thanks to Othmar and his dedicated team for organising the "Schwingen" which the audiences always enjoy thoroughly. Now, a BIG HUGE THANK YOU to the "Schwingen Group" ... one of their members, Adrian Schar who is president of the Limpach Schwingen Club, presented the Taranaki Swiss Club with a beautiful cowbell as first prize ("wanderpreis") for the first New Zealand schwinger who participants. This bell is truly lovely and Erwin is very proud to be the first person to hold it ... well done, Erwin. Grateful thanks to Mark who organised the children's activities ... they really enjoyed the fishing, and getting their small prizes ... you did a great job!!! Thank you to Markus who organised the Steinstossen which was won by Nicol Ruchti (if you can't win the schwingen ... he was out injured ... you win the steinstossen!!!). Well done ... second equal were Janik Ruchti and Paul Hardegger. The winner in the ladies' section was Marlies Hebler with Lucia Noetzli runner-up. At around 3.00pm

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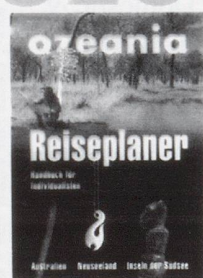
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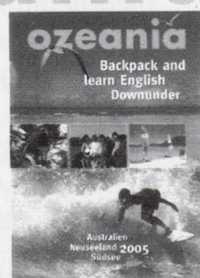
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the barbeques were fired up again, for people to be able to have a sausage on their way home ... or to fill the gap until tea time. For the remainder of the afternoon people were happy to chat away ... or play cards ... some played cards all day (I don't know how you can concentrate on cards that long!!!). Then at 7.00pm we had tea ... cold cuts and a tremendous variety of salads, cheese and bread. This went down extremely well ... with the odd beer or two or three or more ... or a glass of chilled wine. Peter and Zeno played music for people to dance to or just to listen to (as they had been doing all day). Many thanks to you both for your music, which was enjoyed by all ... you certainly make the picnic "sound" Swiss ... there is just no comparing real, live music to tapes!!! The evening ended about midnight ... a long day for us all!!! But having said that, it was very enjoyable. It was wonderful to see some people who haven't been to a Swiss Club function for a while, and also to see many of our very loyal regulars. We hope you all enjoyed your day and look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming functions. Tremendous thanks to the whole committee for your help ... it is a big day, and many hands make light work ... the grounds looked great, thanks to Don and Johnny, and the club house was spotless ... thanks to Silvia, Erna, Heidi, Lisette, Remigi and Johnny. To the people selling the various foods and beverages ... a BIG thank you too ... people always enjoy eating and drinking!!! We do appreciate all our helpers.

### **Forthcoming Events**

**3-5 March** - We are hosting another Swiss Group along similar lines to the last two groups.

**17 March** - Kegeln ... Johnny enjoys the company of as many people as possible ... so go and join in the fun.

**March 19** - The Taranaki Swiss Club is taking part in the Multi-Ethnic Parade ... so come along in your costumes (young and not-so-young alike) and support the Swiss Club and the Multi-Ethnic Society in this wonderful day. For further information, please ring a committee member who will tell you what is happening ... otherwise they will find out for you. This is usually a very interesting and colourful (everyone in their traditional costumes) day, and we would appreciate your support.

**20 March** - Championship / Society Shoots at 1.00pm. Mark would like to increase the number of people participating in the smallbore shooting ... so come along members, support him.

The committee is organising the new programme after the AGM on 1 March ... so you can look forward to opening your mail from the Swiss Club soon ... unfortunately it will also contain a bill for your membership!!! Why does bad news always follow good news!!! We hope that you will enjoy the programme we put together for you, and look forward to your attendance at our functions.

MD



*The Finalists in the juniors section... William Gray and Martin Hebler with referee Hans Iseli. William ended up winning*



*Unloading the hay bales by the 'schwingers'... their warm up!*



*Migg Signer (a Swiss tourist) after having won the final against Erwin Helder*



*Nicol Ruchti enjoying a congratulatory kiss from Sonja Werder*



*People enjoying a dance at the evening function on our picnic day... thanks to Peter and Zeno for the lovely music*



*The dedicated team selling barbecued sausages... Johnny, Emmi, Heidi, Erna and Marianne*



# Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

## Forthcoming Events...

**Sunday, 20th March** - Family Walk and boat trip to Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf. It is planned to make this an overnight trip with a stay on Saturday night in Orewa and then leaving for the island on the 9.45am Fullers ferry from Gulf Harbour. Accommodation is available at the camping ground for approx \$25 per person, own linen required or there is plenty of Motel accommodation available from about \$75 per couple. The cost for the ferry is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children and \$22.50 for senior citizens. Guided walk - optional extra \$5. Anyone could also come as a day trip if they don't wish to stay overnight on Saturday. There is a café on the island or people can take a picnic lunch. We would like to have an idea of numbers as soon as possible, so if you are interested please let Vitus know. You can ring him on (07) 855-2841 or email raevit@xtra.co.nz

**Friday, 15th April** - AGM at Swissscraft Premises, Colombo St, Frankton. 7.30pm for drinks and 8pm for meeting followed by supper. A representative from the Embassy will also be in attendance so please come along and show your

support. We could also do with some more volunteers for the committee so please let us know if you are interested. Many hands make light work.

**Sunday, 17th April** - Cowbell Competition, Auckland versus Hamilton to be held at Swiss-craft premises, 10am start. Herbert will be co-ordinating the Hamilton team, so if you are interested in participating please talk to him.

**Advance Notice for Society AGM:** This year the Hamilton Club will be hosting this event and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all the clubs to attend this event on Queen's Birthday Weekend. The AGM will be held on Sunday 5th June followed by a social function in the evening. Further details in the next Helvetia.

AZ

## CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

### Forthcoming Events

**Culture Galore** - celebrating Canterbury's cultural diversity - on Saturday 19 March from 12 noon to 4pm (postponement date Saturday 26 March) at Ray Blank Park, Maidstone Road, Avonhead. Come and taste our traditional Swiss Raclette and Chocolate Fondue and enjoy the diversity of the Canterbury cultures with its' food and entertainment.

The Wellington Swiss Club had three events in the last two months of the year: a trip to Kapiti Island on 21 November, a Christmas meal on 5 December and a Samichlaus afternoon for our youngest members and their elves (aka parents) on 6 December.

The trip to Kapiti Island was extremely well attended and everyone enjoyed the special character of Kapiti in ideal conditions. The sun shone, the birds sung and the boat dropped us off, and picked us up, without any feet getting wet.

After a brief introductory talk on arrival at Kapiti, our party divided into groups going to the area around the lagoon at north end of the island, or via the two tracks to the highest peak (Tuteremoana) at 512m. The climbers were well rewarded with clear views south to the Marlborough Sounds and Mana Island, and to the west and north towards the Tararua Ranges and the Horowhenua coastline.

The not so shy Kaka and Weka provided us with a lot of entertainment and explored a number of bags for any desirable morsels. At the end of the day everyone returned home with some nice stories, a little sunburn and slightly sore feet.

About fifty members and friends attended the Christmas dinner. The menu was glazed ham, a meat platter and salads for mains, and ice cream, meringue and strawberries for desert. The generous helpings required a pause between courses for a good old sing along to Christmas carols.

On the next day Samichlaus und Schmutzli managed to guide their sled through the unseasonal rain to a safe landing on the Moores Valley Santapad. Approximately fifteen of our youngest members provided lots of smiles and happiness as Samichlaus talked to them about how good they had been during the year and what they could do better in the following year. After Samichlaus and Schmutzli departed, there was a



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*The Kapiti trip group*



pleasant afternoon tea during which everyone shared each others company for the last event of the club year.

### Past events:

#### Family BBQ Bookfair and Steinstossen.

The Wellington weather has shown its best side for our family BBQ. A small group of faithfulls enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon in the shade of the trees at the back of the clubhouse. After the BBQ, thank you Peter, Heinz organized the "Steinstossen" and made sure Hans wrote down the correct measurements. The ladies got special instructions not to receive injuries!!!!

#### Shooting Practice

The new Venue at Paul Scherrers in Mangaroa Valley was great. A pleasing number of "Schützen" were practicing and demonstrated their skills.

#### Bernadette and Nigels Welcome BBQ

It was only two years ago that we said good buy to our two lovely friends, but there was so much to catch up on. Heinz provided a big map of Africa so Nigel could show us the places that they had visited and the areas they are intending to visit in the near future. We heard all about their involvement in the schools or better said their involvement in the fund raising for the schools. It was a wonderful "gemütlicher Abend" and everyone enjoyed sitting round and catching up on the happenings in the New Year.

### Forthcoming Events.

#### March 5th Swiss Reise-Gruppe

The Dolphin travel group will spend an evening with us in the clubhouse. As far as we know there will be about 20 guest arriving and the committee will serve a light meal. If you would like to come and tell them of your experiences in your adopted country. It would make the occasion a memorable one. Donations will be welcome.

#### March 26th Butterfly Creek Walk [changed date]

Butterfly Creek is an easy Sunday walk. After the first bit of climbing you are rewarded with a splendid view over the harbour. Then a comfortable descent to the stream and picnic area. Afternoon tea in Eastbourne.

Please ring Petra if you are interested at Tel 563 8600

#### March 13th Jass competition

Sunday afternoon Jass competition in the clubhouse.

#### April 16th AGM in the clubhouse

Have a say in what you would like the club to do. Support the committee and come to the AGM. starting at 7.30pm and finishing with a light super.

#### May 14th Euro Fest.

The venue of the cultural festival has been changed into Shed 11, on the Waterfront in Wellington, but the date remains the same. Monika and

Verena are the representatives from the Swiss Club and would welcome any help and suggestions for the fair.

VM.



**New Friday Jass Venue** in the Central City! Ponsonby Community Centre, 20 Ponsonby Tce, Ponsonby.

After a long search to find a venue in or near the central city, which would be accessible to all of you, we have found and booked for the year the Gluepot Room in the beautifully restored Ponsonby Community Centre. It has room for up to 30 people, 5 tables, coffee & tea facilities, heater and a fan, whiteboard, etc. Come and check it out on March 18, 2005 at 7.30, our first Jass evening and then every 3rd Friday of each month until November.

Ponsonby Tce is off Ponsonby Road, nearer the Jervois Road end. Come a little earlier to give you time to park in one of the little side streets. See map below for directions. See you there!

**Hans Iten, Convenor**  
(Phone: 620 9208)

**Venue:** Ponsonby Community  
**Centre:** 20 Ponsonby Terrace

**Enquiry from Languages International, Princes Street, Auckland 1.**

They are looking for a Student Welfare Counsellor for students from Europe.

### THE SWISS KIWI YODELLING GROUP, AUCKLAND, PRESENTS

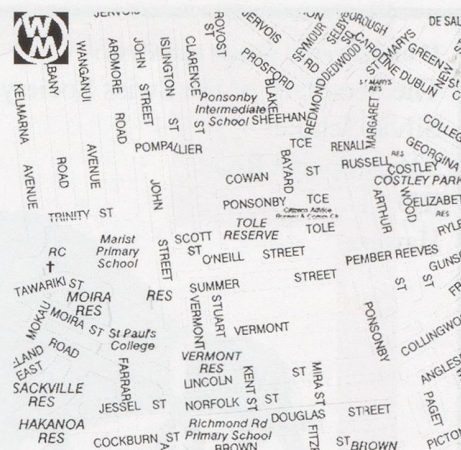
#### Alpine Party on April 23, 2005

at the Swiss Farm, Rapson Rd,  
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70s music with DJ Marin Van Doorn

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The position is part-time, for 5 hours every Monday, from March to September 2005. The applicant needs to be fluent in German and French, and other if possible.

If you are interested please contact Ms Sarah Freear, Marketing Manager, at [www.languages.ac.nz](http://www.languages.ac.nz)

### Forthcoming Events

(Please note that the dates of some venues have changed from the ones published in Februarys Helvetia)

**Friday, 18 March** Friday Jass at new venue, see article and map above.

**Sunday, 3 April** Wandertag. Venue to be advised.

**Friday, 15 April** Friday Jass. In Ponsonby again.

**Sunday, 17 April** Cowbell Semifinal in Hamilton.

**Saturday, 23 April** Jodler Fundraising Event at Farm (new date).

**Saturday, 7 May** Club AGM at Farm (new date).

### Poetry Quiz

One verse from a beautiful German poem.

1 Who wrote it?

2 Who are the two characters in it?

3 Which ilandí exactly are they talking about?

4 What is the title of the poem?

Answers in next Auckland section of Helvetia.

**Kennst du das Land, wo die  
Zitronen blühen, Im dunkeln Laub  
die Gold-Orangen glühen,  
Ein sanfter Wind vom blauen  
Himmel weht, Die Myrte still und  
hoch der Lorbeer steht,  
Kennst du es wohl?  
Dahin! Dahin  
Möcht ich mit dir, o mein Geliebter,  
ziehn.**