

# New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **71 (2005)**

Heft [3]

PDF erstellt am: **29.05.2024**

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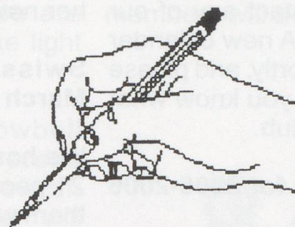
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# New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

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

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



Auckland  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington  
Christchurch



## Past Events



*The editing team and all the dedicated packers decided we needed a night out on the 17 December without folding the Helvetias!!! We had an absolutely delicious meal at the Ugly Duck in Fitzroy and had a great time enjoying each others company!!! Some even decided to do some Christmas Shopping at 11.00pm!!!*

On the 19th of February 29 members and friends travelled to Wellington by bus to take part in the semi-final of the Cowbell competition. We had a lovely trip down, and arrived in time for a delicious lunch. Thereafter it was down to work ... ten pin bowling in Petone where we were beaten by the locals ... steinstossen where the Wellingtonians outmuscled us ... finally

we managed a win in the cards ... and we won the shooting. So the scores were two each, and another round of cards was held to find the team which would contest the final. Either we had the necessary skill or the luck ... but Berta, Heidi, Mathias, Joe, Heidi and Lisette managed to get sufficient wins ... and we had successfully won the semi-final. Many thanks to the competitors from both clubs who took part ... as without you, there would be no competition. There was plenty of friendly rivalry ... but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We then enjoyed a scrumptious meal and the great company of our Wellington friends ... we are always extended such wonderful hospitality, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time in the big smoke. Our commiserations to the Wellingtonians, but we hope that you will still support us in Hamilton!!! Our grateful thanks for the terrific hospitality, and we look forward to hosting you next year.

On the way home we stopped for a picnic lunch which was very pleasant and everyone arrived back home safely in the late afternoon. Many thanks to Othmar for organising this trip ... his first one ... and he did a great job!!! We'll keep you on!!! Thanks to everyone who came along ... we trust that you enjoyed yourselves and that we will see you again in June in our endeavours to get back the beautiful cowbell!!!

**March 1st** - we held our Annual General Meeting with an attendance

of about fifty people. Thank you all for coming and showing your interest in the club and for contributing to the discussions. We had two resignations from the committee - Beno Noetzli as they are moving to the Hastings area, and Walter Seifert as President although he was happy to remain on the committee. I'm sure that I can speak on behalf of all of our members, in thanking you both for your contribution to our club... especially Walter who has been on the committee for many years, presided over the smallbore shooting club, being vice-president and then president of the Taranaki Swiss Club for the last ten years. We really appreciated all the time and effort that you put into the Swiss Clubs' activities and wish you well in your retirement!?! You won't know what to do with your time!!! Myrtha may look for an off-farm job for you!!! Othmar, having been vice-president for the last few years, accepted his nomination as president and was elected unopposed ... congratulations Othmar, and we all hope that you enjoy the presidency. The vice-presidency was therefore vacant and Heidi Werder accepted her nomination as vice president (the first female in our club, I understand) and we congratulate her on her appointment, and hope that she too enjoys her new role. The remaining committee members were re-elected and are listed below. No other major matters arose during discussions, and the meeting closed at a very reasonable hour!!! Should you have any questions

## Thankyou

The Swiss Society of New Zealand wish to thank the following organisations for their generous sponsorship:

- The Taranaki Electricity Trust
- The New Zealand Community Trust
- The Lottery Grants' Board

We are very grateful for your generous donations and look forward to your continued support.

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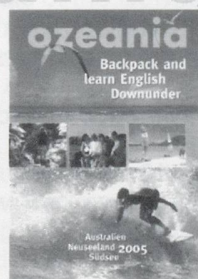
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regarding any of our functions, please do not hesitate to contact any of our committee members. A new calendar of events will be out shortly, and please refer to it often so that you know what is happening in your club.

#### Committee members for 2005-2006

Patron : Charlie Schuler  
 President : Othmar Hebler  
               - ph 06 272 2878  
 V/President : Heidi Werder  
               - ph 06 273 4286  
 Secretary : Paul Amstalden  
               - ph 06 756 7064  
 Treasurer : Marianne Drummond  
               - ph 06 762 8757  
 Ladies : Mrs Emmi Kiser  
               Mrs Lisette Benkert  
               Mrs Christine Amstalden  
               Mrs Silvia Schuler  
 HallCustodian: Mrs Erna Zimmermann  
                   - ph 06 272 6438  
 Men : Mr Charlie Schuler  
           Mr Franz Schuler  
 Music : Mr Zeno von Hospenthal  
 Keglen : Mr Johnny Bishop  
            - ph 06 274 8764  
 Smallbore : Mr Mark Kiser  
               - ph 06 762 2922  
 Karabiner : Mr Remigi Zimmermann  
               - ph 06 272 6438  
 Grounds : Mr Don Luond  
 Bar Manager : Mr Markus Rufer  
 Bar Manager : Mr Mathias Seifert  
 Past President : Mr Walter Seifert

Now a little about our two new executive members, as some of you may not know them.

#### Othmar Hebler

Othmar immigrated from Buttisholz, canton Luzern, to New Zealand in 1979, where he first started work as an engineer in Eltham. He started sharemilking in 1985 and later progressed to farm ownership. In 1988 he married Marlies, also a Swiss, in Stratford. They have three secondary school-aged children and now live in Ohangai, near Hawera. They have been involved with the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years and we look forward to his leadership and innovative ideas.

#### Heidi Werder

Heidi came to New Zealand as a tourist in 1984, where she met and later married Nick. Heidi hails from Urnasch, canton Apenzell, and is yet to travel back to see her homeland. They have been farming in Manutahi, near Patea, all their married life and have a family of six. They have been involved in the Taranaki Swiss Club for

many years, and we wish Heidi well in her new role as Vice President.

#### Swiss Tour Group - 3rd to 5th March

We hosted yet another Tour Group of 21 people from 3 - 5 March. Most of them were from the canton of Aargau, and were not of farming origin this time. Arriving on the 3rd they went home with their hosts and spent the evening with them. The following day they met at the Clubhouse, and went to the Mountain House for lunch and a chat with some of the local Swiss. When the bus left, they headed upwards to the Plateau but their view was not very far ... Midhirst, Stratford, Inglewood and parts of South Taranaki. Thereafter the bus took them to the Opossum factory at Mahoe, which proved very interesting. The next stop was at Werner, Therese and Jason Gut to view their Simmental and Hinterwalder cattle. The group enjoyed their day immensely and were satisfied with the variety of things they saw. At 7.00pm we held a potluck tea at the Clubhouse with a spectacular display of food. The visitors were amazed at the quantity and variety of food in front of them. Some entertainment was provided and the visitors went home with their hosts for a good nights' sleep before another busy day travelling to Wellington, where they were to have tea with members of the Wellington Swiss Club.

#### Forthcoming Events

**April 7** - Keglen at 8.00pm, with some keen members playing cards.

**10** - Jassen and euchre for the first time this year. It is always great to see our regulars but I am sure that Erna would love to see some new faces ... come along, and give cards a go ... fun to be had!!!

**17** - Society / Championship Shoots at 11.00am, with cards at 1.15pm. Give two sports a go on one day!!!

**21** - Keglen again at 8.00pm ... show up and give Johnny a surprise!!!

**May 1 & 15** - Cards at 1.15pm.

**5 & 19** - Keglen ... get some practice so that we can win that cowbell in Hamilton.

**15** - Society / Championship Shoots at 11.00am.

**29** - Swiss Society competitions from 10.00am. There is always a separate section for the juniors, so come along parents and bring your children ...

show them some traditional "Swiss" sports, and they may be lucky enough to win a lovely medal.

**June - from the 4 - 6** we will be attending the AGM of the Swiss Society in Hamilton, together with competing against the winner of Auckland and Hamilton in the final of the Cowbell competition. We would like as many of you as possible to come ... you are assured of an excellent weekend. Please ring either Othmar or Heidi to book your seat.

MD

**Hamilton**  
  
**Swiss Club**

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

#### Past Events...

**Swiss Society medal shooting competition** was held on Saturday, 19th February at the Elmiger's property in Karapiro on a perfect summer's day. There were 21 participants including a couple of ladies and a junior. The trophy and top score goes to Hans Vetsch. Congratulations and well deserved.

Thank you to Ueli and Erika for having us and providing us with shade and the bottomless coffee-pot plus the antifreeze!! A great thank you to all the participants. For those who were not there, we had a great number of newcomers and they really are the winners of this competition for having a go at something new. We hope to see a few more next year!! Remember, the 300 meter shooting event will be held in Kaukapakapa on the 14th and 15th May. Remember it is a weekend event but we will accommodate those that wish to shoot in one day only. I will contact those that "usually" attend but would like newcomers to call me so I can include them in the team. Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster - Phone (07) 855-3294

**The annual picnic was held on Sunday 20th February** at the Newstead School. This was the second time we were at this venue and it seems to be becoming a popular place for swiss and non-swiss to meet. This year we were also fortunate to strike a lovely summer's day with no rain in sight and just a slight breeze to cool us off occasionally. A lot of people turned up promptly at 11am and it wasn't long



before we had some fierce competition at the two bowling alleys. The society medal competition was popular as always, as well as trophy bowling and prize bowling for "Landjaeger". Congratulations go to Ruedi Meier for winning the men's trophy and to Ruth Waldvogel for winning the women's teapot trophy. Throughout the day everyone enjoyed the grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats as well as a delicious selection of swiss home-made baking served with coffee and schnapps. The society shot-put competition was also popular for both men and ladies and congratulations to Peter Rust for being the top scorer. The children enjoyed using the swimming pool and the rest of the time entertained themselves on the adventure playground as well as a lot also participating in the bowling competition. Many thanks to everyone for making this a great day and in particular to all the helpers on the roster. PS – if anyone took home the wrong deck- chair , can you please give Ruth a ring Phone (07) 855-3417.

### Forthcoming Events...

**Friday, 15th April** – AGM at Swisscraft Premises, Colombo St, Frankton. 7pm will be for some social bowling, 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.

**Friday, 29th April** – First Card Evening and Medal Jass at the Union parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Cambridge, 7.30pm for a prompt start.

**Friday 13th May** – Second Card Evening and Medal Jass St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti Street, Matamata, 7.30pm for a prompt start. (please note : if there are no further participants for the Medal Jass, the evening card competitions will commence immediately, so please be on time.)

All card evenings will be held on a Friday night and at two weekly intervals, alternating between Cambridge and Matamata.

**14th & 15 th May** – 300 Meter shoot for Hamilton Club members in Kaukapakapa (see details above in the shooting report)

### Advance Notice for Society AGM

– **4th & 5th June** : 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. We will be having a social evening on Saturday evening commencing at 5.30pm with drinks, followed by a BBQ dinner at the Matangi Hall. This evening is for our out-of-town visitors and we anticipate it will be a fairly early evening as some of you will want to be ready for the finals of the Cowbell Competition which will commence at 10am on Sunday morning at the same venue. The AGM will be held at 2pm followed by afternoon tea. In the evening there will be a dinner and dance with entertainment by "The Sound of Switzerland". The cost of this evening will be \$40 per person and we need definite bookings for this as well as the other events at least one week before. All club secretaries will be sent full details of this event so please contact your club secretary if you would like to attend. Accommodation will be very scarce in Hamilton due to the Lions Rugby tour,

so please book promptly. All Hamilton members will be sent an invitation.

AZ



### Past events:

#### February 19/20 Taranaki Club competition weekend

We have tried our very best, but obviously our best was not good enough. These Taranaki farmers are just too strong. But we had a great weekend.

As soon as the bus arrived the BBQ was ready and we all enjoyed the tasty "Swiss made" sausages under the shade of the trees in the back of the clubhouse. The Bowlers and Shooters had to leave soon, as the places were booked. But the rest enjoyed a good chat with old friends and made new ones with a beer in the hand or a cup of coffee.

While the different groups defended their places, the committee prepared the dinner.

The Ten pin bowlers returned full of joy. They had won and that meant hope, however it did not last long. The Shooters and Steinstossers had lost. The Jassers did there best and made it to a draw. When the last game was played they lost. Congratulation to the winners in Taranaki.

Dinner was served and Roland's culinary expertise in Pork and Beef Roasts were enjoyed by all. Fresh Blueberry and Ice Cream for desert and Cake and coffee to finish the meal.

Leo and Othmar entertained after the meal, but the big excitement came when Trudi's Quilt was Dutch Auctioned. Lisette and Mathias tried hard to win it, but to finish Franz carried the Quilt on the Bus and home. Good choice Franz I am sure Silvia will enjoy it.

Sunday morning breakfast went without a hitch. Trudi's Zöpfe were delicious and so was the cheese from the Dutch shop. Just after 10.00 am our friends piled into the bus and we waved our fond goodbyes.

Thank-you Taranaki for keeping the competition an interesting yearly event. We enjoy your visit and your friendship.

#### March 5th

Swiss travelling Group.  
It took some phone calls to overcome the breakdown of the communication.



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But what an enjoyable group they were. Very diverse in interest but so easy to get along with. The committee cooked a roast dinner {Roland has got it down to a fine Art} Blueberries and ice cream for dessert and Coffee and Cake to finish the meal. Our President reminded the group that when you are in Rome you do as the Romans do. So they had to sing a song.

Coming from Aargau the choice was easy, "Im Aargau sind zwei Liebi, as Meiteli und as Buebli.....

The group had to be at the ferry early next morning, for that reason the driver needed to be in the hotel before 11 PM. Wellington Swiss club members and the committee waved them good buy and wished them a great holiday in New Zealand.

### Forthcoming Events.

**April 16th AGM** in the Club House. Wainuiomata

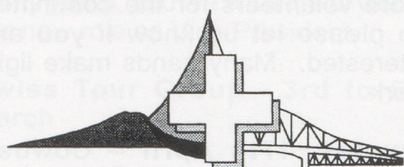
It is time again to think of your committee. Are you pleased with the way they run the Club? Have you got some new innovative ideas? Come and let us know. Support the committee and be at the AGM starting 7.30 PM and finishing with a light supper.

**May 14th Euro Fest.**

The preparations for the Euro Fest are in full swing, but we still need your help. If you have some ideas and can help, or know of anyone who does some cultural crafts that could be demonstrated at the Fair please get in contact with Monika at 478 5649 or Verena at 526 9841.

**May Fondue Evening.**

Date to be advised.



**Auckland Swiss Club**

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

Hi All in Auckland!

My days are numbered on this medium and I better make the most of it. Just to inform you, I am intending to pass on the job of written record and communication (or the small part that Heinz doesn't do) to Heidi Wilson, and I do hope you will all come up to the AGM on the Saturday 7th May – 3pm at Kaukapakapa farm, and give her your vote. She has done a marvellous job already doing the mundane job of writing the minutes and some part of the Helvetia notices, and is all fired up. To be truthful I am grateful to be passing this on since my life has done a bit of a belly-up and I find myself too busy with work and education to do this job justice.

I hope to see you all up at the AGM. Of course you will be rewarded with a hearty meal, and of course honoured by a representative of the Swiss Embassy. Other motions are in the notice which will be posted to you.

The picnic was held on Sunday 13 February 2005, and a great many people turned up and took part in the different Society games – Jassen, Shooting and Kegeln.

The Society competition results will be published when the whole Cowbell Competition of which this is part, is completed and the medals given out. Other competitions held were won as follows:

Ezio Cup: Lorenz Good (15 years) bravo!  
Air rifle junior: Anton Good (10 years) bravo!  
Air rifle adults: Marcel Ruedi – bravo!  
Some people were so keen to win the Ezio Cup that they put their name (I won't name anyone in particular) on the list again but the waiting was so long that they eventually had to pull out. My apologies.

It was a beautiful day with good food and the alphorns were played by Oscar and Albert, and the women's singing Circle sang a Maori song for us. I hope everyone who came up enjoyed themselves.

I was very pleased to see so many young and new faces giving it a go. Good on you, and I hope you come again. Unfortunately the photography team was not able to publish any pictures this time.

Our president Fritz Scheidegger and I had the pleasure of meeting with

her Excellency the Ambassador, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci, during her short visit to Auckland at the end of February, and discussion on all sorts of topics took place. It is always very reassuring and interesting to hear what is going on on a political scale in the home country as well as between the two countries.

Three main points I would like to mention:

the importance of our vote to have the chance to be part of the European Community in the next major referendum regarding doing away with border controls on individuals – apparently this is paramount for the Swiss folk to accept, or many other important bilateral agreements with the EU will automatically become null and void, which will isolate Switzerland even more from the surrounding EU.

The efforts of Switzerland to have more exposure in the East have had a positive roll-on effect in that the New Zealand post is being given more attention. Yeay.

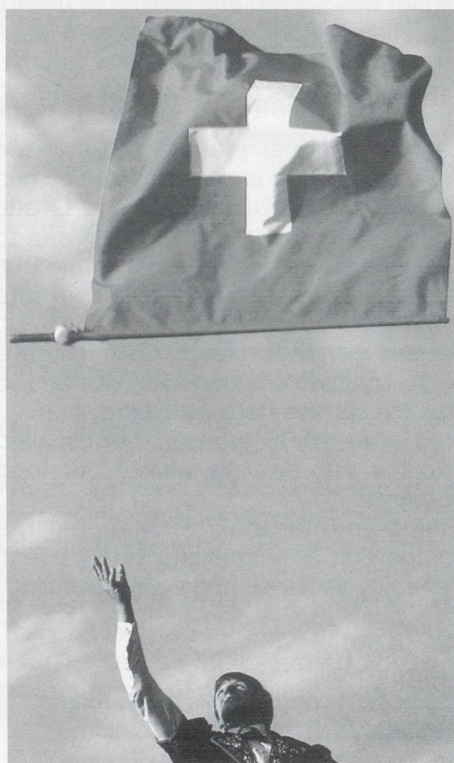
The third point concerns the Auckland club – we have a lot of young families with young children and we from the committee are keen to open up the opportunity of establishing the equivalent of a language nest (as in Maori Kohanga Reo) where these children could meet and speak the native tongue while they still have it, or even support children who have English as their first language acquire some words in Swiss to have some kind of connection with their relatives at home.

I speak from my own experience where two of my children have practically no knowledge of Swiss German (a fact that I am not in the least proud of), due to a complete lack of Swiss influence in their very early years. Had I had the access to a language group as we are intending to call into being, my children would have had a little more exposure and would now have just a slightly better base of Swiss.

So let you young families join together and bathe your children in our native sounds for a few hours every month, so they too know where their parent(s) come from and when the time comes where they go to their country of origin for whatever reason that may be, they have a starting point.

The format can be varied:

Once a month on a Saturday at the farm where there is a playground, and we can store a few Swiss books and games, every fortnight during the week at alternate homes around a group that may form, for a greater group we hire a community centre hall or crèche on a Saturday weekly/fortnightly and bring our





own material.

I would welcome ideas especially from people who will benefit from such an arrangement, and invite you to direct your concerns or interest to me personally, Tel. 376 4923, or any committee member. The ambassador welcomed such a group.

The ambassador and her husband also showed great interest in the success of our president in China with the Kiwi Dragon, the 4WD off-street race which they won with flying colours (as mentioned earlier) and found that Switzerland really wants to get behind high achievers of this calibre if they want to increase their exposure in certain regions. Roll on the next challenge!

Trudi

### Forthcoming events:

**WANDERTAG**— Sunday 3 April 2005  
Boundary walk once again. It is such a lovely walk and we noticed that not all members have done it. And each year we obtain so many new members that we just have to introduce those to the extent of our property. Please join us this year again and simply come up to the farm at Rapson Road, Kaukapakapa at 10am. Bring a hat, water and picnic. Not your high heels.

**THE COWBELL SEMIFINAL** will be on in Hamilton on Sunday, April 17.

We count on a good turn-out from our members for a day of competition and socialising with our Hamilton friends. If you intend to come, send your name(s) and details to Fritz Scheidegger (President), P.O. Box 300 006, Albany 1330 or

fscheidegger@xtra.co.nz

or Hans Iten, 4, Garden Place, Mt. Eden, ph.620 9208 as soon as possible.

### FRIDAYJASS

Jassen started on Friday, 18 March at the new venue, the Ponsonby Community Centre at 20 Ponsonby Tce, Ponsonby (The Gluepot Room). The results will be published in the May edition of Helvetia. The next Friday Jassevening at Ponsonby will be on 15 April, same venue as above.

We hope to see as many of you as possible there. Hans Iten Tel. 620 9208.

**The JODLER FUNDRAISING** at the farm promises to be another roaring success. The date is Saturday, 23 April. For details

contact Peter Arnold Tel. 479 4487.

### POETRYQUIZ

Here are the answers to questions about the poem the in the March edition of Helvetia:

1. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
2. Werther und Mignon
3. Sizilien
4. Mignon

P.S. From Heidi: It is one of the most beautiful poems in German literature, it should have been published in poem form and should be read aloud.

### SOCIETY AGM – Hamilton

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 4/5/6 June 2005

Voice your interest at the club AGM and put your name down. Bookings for accommodation should be made soon as there are other events taking place in Hamilton (would you believe!) that weekend. Our aim is to keep the cowbell in Auckland (it looks so good at the café in Milford!) and to have a good time with all the other clubs around New Zealand.

### FILM EVENING Saturday 2 JULY 2005

This will be at the Rothesay Bay hall and the clue is: Sternenbergr. Watch this space for further details.

Heidi/Trudi

*Friendship is a treasure worth  
more than gold or any precious  
stones.*

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

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Peter Arnold: phone 09 479 4487,  
mobile 0274 824 701,  
email petula2001@hotmail.com

## The origin of the Easter Egg

In most cultures, the egg has signified rebirth and resurrection since the earliest times. The Egyptians buried eggs in their tombs and the Greeks placed eggs atop graves. Given as gifts by the ancient Greeks, Persians, and Chinese at their spring festivals, the egg also appears in pagan mythology, where the Sun-Bird hatches from the "World Egg". The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with a festival commemorating Easter, their goddess of offspring and springtime, through her symbol of the rabbit.

Eggs were wrapped with gilt or gold leaf, while peasants often dyed their eggs. The tinting was achieved by boiling the eggs with certain flowers, leaves, log wood chips, or the cochineal insect.

In parts of Germany during the early 1880s, eggs were even used as birth certificates. An egg was dyed a solid colour, then a design, which included the recipient's name and birth date, was etched into the shell with a needle or sharp tool.

Easter's most valuable eggs were hand crafted in the 1880s. Made by the great goldsmith Peter Carl Faberge, they were commissioned by Czar Alexander 111 of Russia as gifts for his wife, Czarina Maria Feodorovna. The first Faberge egg measured two and a half inches long and had a deceptively simple exterior. Inside the white enamel shell, though, was a golden yolk, which revealed a gold hen with ruby eyes when opened. The hen itself could be opened, by lifting the beak, to expose a tiny diamond replica of the imperial crown.

Source : [www.inspirationline.com](http://www.inspirationline.com)

## Smile a While

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service his cousin asked him, "how many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen" the boy answered. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up like the Bishop said: "4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer!!!"