

# Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

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## Taranaki

### Past Events:

Our card afternoons during the winter months have come to an end, with attendance up and down depending on the weather and what other activities our members had on. The committee thanks Erna and her helpers very much for organising these afternoons which are most enjoyable and, of course, the afternoon teas delicious. Some of us come just for the afternoon teas, as our cards aren't very good!!!

### Results for 12 July

#### Jassen

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Frieda Meier
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Berta Sidler
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Heidi Seifert
- Booby - Margrit Dudli

#### Euchre

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Anne-Marie Farquhar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Graham Farquhar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kathleen Zehnder
- Booby - Johnny Bishop
- Raffle winners were Eric Meuli and Joe Sidler.

### Results for 19 July

#### Jassen

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Ruedi Benkert

2<sup>nd</sup> - Berta Sidler

3<sup>rd</sup> - Lisette Benkert

Booby - Erna Zimmermann ... how could that happen to the Cards organiser? Just a stroke of bad luck, eh Erna!!! By the looks the Benkerts had you sewn up!!!

#### Euchre

1<sup>st</sup> - Doreen Schuler

2<sup>nd</sup> - Bertha Kuriger

3<sup>rd</sup> - John Kuriger ... and it looks like the Kurigers played well too ... or had the good cards!!! Good on you both!!!

Booby - Anne-Marie Farquhar ... last time a winner and this time the booby!!!

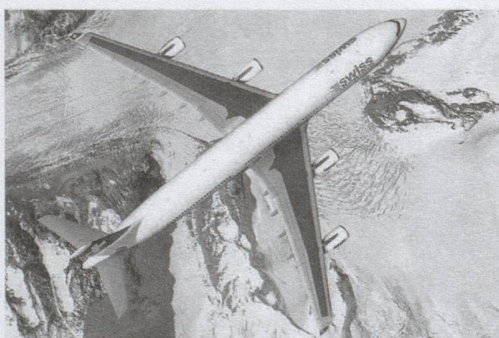
Raffle winners were Anne-Marie Farquhar (at least you were lucky with something if not the cards!!!) and Othmar Hebler.

**The Swiss National Day** celebrations were held at our Club house in Kaponga on 1<sup>st</sup> August with a crowd of over 100 in attendance. It was so good to see so many new faces, and several families attending this function. Many of these were second or third generation Swiss, and we hope that you enjoyed the Swiss culture and entertainment that we provided. Walter Seifert was our "Master of Ceremonies" for the night, as Othmar was on holiday in Switzerland (and attending

the Congress of the Swiss Abroad on our behalf), and he did a great job!!! We'll keep you on Walter!!! Firstly we listened to the interesting speech by the President of the Confederation, followed by the Swiss National Anthem. We were then treated to the first play of the night; Martin, Dani, Peter and Arni did a terrific job acting out the scene of the Rütli Schwur ... the audience was very quiet which showed the interest that this play held for everyone. This was followed by the singing of several traditional songs by our "Singing Group" and also Silvia and Lisette. Once again the audience was very quiet ... thank you for being such a wonderful crowd. The entertainers certainly appreciate your attentive demeanour.

The Swiss Society medals and various other trophies were then awarded to happy winners. We had three double-medal winners in the Swiss Society competitions ... congratulations to Remigi Zimmermann, Mathias Seifert and Daniel Drummond. It would be great to see more juniors participating next year, so come along parents and make every effort to attend ... seeing the enjoyment on the children's faces certainly makes it worth it!!! Johnny then handed out the

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



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Keglen trophies for the season with the men's section being very fiercely contested ... only two points separating them after an entire season!!! What a terrific fight by both men!!! Congratulations to Martin Hess for winning the men's division (the first time his name is on this trophy ... well done), followed closely by the "Master" himself, Johnny Bishop!!! Well done guys!!! Marlies Hebler took the honours in the ladies division ... congratulations, Marlies. The trophies for the highest scores during the season went to Martin Hess and Silvia Schuler ... well done, both of you ... we look forward to more great results next year!!! Erna then awarded the Jassen and Euchre cups to Heidi Seifert and Bertha Kuriger respectively... well done to both of you ... either luck was always with you or you



Albi and Many Dettling on behalf of the Swiss Family Reunion committee being presented the Len and Molly Chamberlain literary award by Walter Seifert.

REALLY ARE good card players ... I am sure it is the latter!!! Remigi then presented The Joe Dettling Memorial Trophy to Erwin Kiser for his excellent scores in the Karabiner Shooting. Well done, Erwin. The Len and Molly Chamberlain Literary Cup was presented this year to the Swiss Family Reunion Committee for their outstanding effort in organising a terrific weekend earlier in the year. Albert and Mary Dettling, on behalf of the organising committee, accepted the award. The committee decided to award this trophy a little differently this year (we have usually awarded this to people who have compiled family trees or

written articles) as we thought that the Reunion Committee's effort was outstanding ... everyone who participated in the gathering appreciated their valuable contribution including the big workload that they had had organising the numerous events. Well done to all those concerned.

We all then enjoyed a delicious supper before the tombola tickets were sold. A big thank you to Erna and Lisette for organising the prizes and selling the tickets (with a little help) ... but the biggest thanks must go to all our members and friends who purchased the tickets ... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!! A Tombola can be quite incredible ... you sell ten tickets to one person and they don't get a winning number ... and then conversely you can sell two tickets to one person and they get two winners!!! That's the luck of the draw!!! After the prizes had been collected, the second play started. This play was the legend of William Tell, and very ably acted by Martin and Toni Hess, Peter Arnold, Dani Meier and Silvia Schuler ... with Arni Fitzgerald the narrator ... you all did a great job ... and Peter, you have a great aim!!! Hit the apple right in the middle, he did!!! Wow, what a shot!!! The audience, once again, was very attentive, and enjoyed watching a bit of Swiss history. Many thanks to all the actors and the narrator for their wonderful contribution to our Swiss National Day celebrations, and we look forward to watching further episodes!!! Zeno, Aaron and Maria provided musical entertainment which was appreciated by everyone ... some danced and some listened ... you are all very skilful musicians and we are very thankful to have your talents in our midst. Initially they were fortunate to have the skills of Rebecca (on wooden spoons), Daniel and Richard (on accordions) to help them along!!! Or was it just creating extra noise????!!! On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club committee I

would like to thank all our entertainers for their tremendous efforts in creating such a varied performance for our audience ... it was terrific. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!! Many stayed until the wee hours of the morning enjoying a chat and a cup of coffee. Thank you to all our members and friends who attended the Swiss National Day celebrations, and we look forward to seeing you at future functions and activities.

Late morning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, many committee members came along to help clean the hall (although it wasn't really messy!!!), enjoy a lunch and participate in a committee meeting which signals the end of the 'winter functions'!!! Thank you to all the ones who were able to attend ... we know that some were unable to attend due to farming commitments ... for many hands make light work! Zeno, in his first role as acting president, did a great job ... keep up the good work ... we look forward to you chairing another meeting!!! And so the winter activities have finished for another year ... roll on the Christmas Shoot when calving and AB have come to an end!!!

## *Fuure Events:*

**October 1 & 15 - Keglen** recommences at 8.00pm with Johnny at the helm. Please go along and support him. It is fun, whether the skittles are good or not!!! A chance to catch up after the hectic days of calving, enjoy a drink, play skittles and tuck in to a delicious supper.

**October 18 - Shooting** recommences too this month ... today the Trudi Ott Belt and the Championship Shoots can be done from 1.00pm. Please try to attend and make Mark's day!!! He's good at coaching too, so come along parents and take your children down to the Swiss Club and give shooting a go.



**November 5 & 19 - Keglen** again ... come along and give this 'Swiss' sport a go.

**November 15 - Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and Championship Shoots** at 1.00pm. It would be great for Mark to have a few more participants, so come along and give it a go ... juniors most welcome.

**November 17** - *This is the final day to order your sausages which will be delivered to the Benkers towards the end of November. Please ring as soon as possible with your orders to make the job easier; the November sausage order is usually huge as people want these delicacies for their summer barbeques, so be in quick!!! Ring Lisette on 06 7628718 or Marianne 06 7628757.*

**November 29 - The Christmas Shoot / Keglen** starts at 10.00am, with an activity organised for the children. A potluck lunch is always an enjoyable affair, with Father Christmas making an appearance soon after. This is an excellent social day, so please come along. Every competitor is asked to bring a wrapped prize with a minimum value of \$10.00, and of course everyone will receive a prize in return. Parents / grandparents are asked to bring a named, wrapped present valued at approximately \$5.00 for their children / grandchildren. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible before the rush of Christmas starts.

**December 12** - We have decided that we will participate in **Eltham's 125<sup>th</sup> jubilee celebrations** by taking part in the Christmas parade. Further details will appear in a future issue of the Helvetia, or please contact a committee member if you have any ideas or if you wish to participate. MD

## Hamilton

### Past Events:

**1<sup>st</sup> August - Swiss National Day Celebrations** were held on the actual date and we had about 100 people in attendance who were welcomed to the beautifully decorated Matangi Hall. Many of these people we hadn't seen at a club function for quite a while. We're not sure if it was the menu or the entertainment that drew them to this function, but whatever it was, it was an evening enjoyed by both young and old alike. At 7.30pm the president, Herbert Staheli, welcomed everyone and the delicious meal was served buffet-style. The buffet consisted of ham, speck, gabanos, sauerkraut, potatoes and carrots for those who didn't like sauerkraut. There was even plenty for seconds and soon the pots were empty. Many thanks to all the chefs, in particular Vitus and Ruth, who made kilos and kilos of sauerkraut in their spare time. Soon after the dinner the entertainment by "The Sound of Switzerland" from Auckland got underway and a few people even made it to the dance floor while the rest of the group enjoyed listening to the music and chatting with friends. We then had a Lampion parade for the younger generation, this was a first for our club as far as I know, and thanks to Ursula for instigating this event which was again enjoyed by young and old. After listening to the speech from the Swiss President and singing the Swiss national anthem it was time to draw the kindly donated raffle prizes. This time it was decided that everyone got a complimentary ticket and had just one chance to go in the draw. We had at least 15-20 donated prizes and the winners very much appreciated taking something home. Many thanks to all those who donated something. Follow-

ing this it was time for supper where everyone was treated to a lovely selection of baking from the Cambridge bakery as well as lots of home-made selections. Again, another very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Peter and Ursula Arnold and the rest of the band for entertaining us. Also many thanks to all the helpers within and from outside the committee. Many hands make light work, especially when it comes to washing dishes and tidying up! AZ

**Family Walk - 30<sup>th</sup> August at Mount Maunganui** - With pouring rain on Sunday morning it did not look like many members would undertake the drive across the Kaimais to join the walk of the Hamilton Swiss Club at Mount Maunganui. Just before 11am, however, the rain stopped and about 25 walkers started the loop track around Mauo. About half of them were keen enough to climb the summit of Mauo via the hidden, steep track about half



The group that reached the summit

way around the mountain. After the walk in the windy weather, many were hungry and congregated for lunch at the recently opened Café Suisse NZ on the Cruise Deck in the town centre run by Geoff and Betty. KH

### Future Events:

**Family Walk - Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009** - we will meet at 11am for a range of easy loop walks in the southern enclosure of the Maungatautari Scenic Reserve. The entrance to the enclosure is at the end of Tari Road,



directly opposite Pukeatua School. Parking is approximately 100 metres from the entrance. Reach Pukeatua from Hamilton via Te Awamutu - Kihikihi and Arapuni Rd. We plan to walk rain or shine, but in case of very inclement weather, contact Kurt Hess (07) 858 3306 or (021) 113 9211 before 9am on the day. Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks.

**The Family Christmas Party** will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 11am at Newstead School. We will have some crafts and activities for children to participate in. If you have something you would like to share with the children, please contact someone in the committee. Sausages and bread, cold drinks and then baking and coffee will be provided. Ursula will present a story, in which all children are able to participate, and Santa will make an appearance. Bring along some change and support the raffle - donations to the raffle table will also be appreciated. AZ

## Auckland

### Past Events:

**Swiss National Day Celebration** was celebrated by just over 100 members who were welcomed with a nice cup of Glühwine followed by lovely dinner: Flädlesuppe, Züri- Gschnetzlets, Rösti, Erbsli & Rüepli and for Dessert a Brönnti Crème. After the President of the Swiss Confederation Speech everyone sang the National Anthem led by our own Swiss Ladies Choir. Our youngest members started the entertainment part of the evening with a Lampion Parade followed by delightful performances of the young and the young at heart - Natalie Hess singing and playing the guitar, Oliver Hess's drum solo, Peter Vogel's Ticinese

song and parody on the Swiss army, Ursula Nixon's tunes on the saw, and Daniel Jacot-Descombes's aria, accompanied by his wife Pamela, was a real treat.



Ursula Nixon plays a tune on her saw

Oscar and Albert made us a bit homesick once more with their Alphorn playing, and the Swiss lady singers presented some Swiss hits from the last 20 years. Nice to see such a lot of talent and enthusiasm in our club!

Thank you all for making that evening such a memorable one.

We had our third film, **Die 6 Kummerbuben**. Everyone there enjoyed themselves and the company of others over a cup of tea, Zigerkrapfen, Zwetschgawähe und Schokoladekuchen.

### Jass evening results:

#### August Jass Results

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	4211
2nd	Andrew Iten	3962
3rd	Franz Krieger	3952
4th	C Fitzi-Gordon	3926
5th	Annagret Wolf	3898
6th	Marcel Ruedi	3867
7th	Lynne Dunphy	3841
8th	Fidel Good	3789
9th	Ian Gordon	3486
10th	Nelly Steinemann	3455
11th	Edith Hess	3443
12th	Louis Wallimann	3386

### September Jass Results

1st	Andrew Iten	4115
2nd	Hans Iten	4091
3rd	Heidi Wilson	4081
4th	Adrian Blaser	3947
5th	Verena Ruedi	3891
6th	Fidel Good	3871
7th	Nelly Steinemann	3859
8th	Lynne Dunphy	3845
9th	Ernst Lanz	3742
10th	Louis Wallimann	3680
11th	Franz Krieger	3332
12th	Marcel Ruedi	3311
13th	Edith Hess	3219

### Future Events:

**Friday 9 October - Jassen at Danish House at 7.30pm.**

**Friday 13 November - Society Jass at Danish House.**

**Sunday 15 November - Rock-hopping with Geologist Bernhard Spörli** - Geological Walk Whangaparaoa Peninsula, with Geologist Bernhard Spörli, postponed from Mother's day. Tides and hopefully weather will be right on Sunday 15 November. Meet at Army Bay Carpark at 09.30. For details see May Helvetia, or Swiss Club Website. Please book with Nelly: [nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz) or 4794038.

**Saturday 28 November - Working Bee at Farm.** All welcome. Free meal for workers.

**Sunday 6 December - Samichlaus at Farm.**

**Saturday 12 December - Christmas at Rothesay Bay Hall, Rothesay Bay.**

**Invitation to all Singers: Swiss Christmas celebration, Saturday afternoon 12 December.** As usual we will sing many of the well known Swiss Christmas carols together. Some of them we would like to do in four voices. We invite any singers to join us - we would love some of you guys to help us out, but women are most welcome too.



We practice every other Tuesday night, 7.30pm, at Edith's place in Glenfield. The Christmas practices will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup>. For further information and to register please contact Edith Hess 4446972 [ehess@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ehess@xtra.co.nz) or Nelly Steinemann 4794038 [nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz). We are looking forward to hearing you!

*The Swiss Ladies' singing group*

**The Swiss & Knusprig** are a group of young Swiss families who are looking to create some events that would interest the younger generation.

If you are Swiss & Knusprig please attend at least some of these events to make it more fun. But if you are Swiss & Runzlig but young at heart you should join them as well.

**Events 2009 for Swiss & Knusprig** - After evaluation of the Questionnaire the Swiss & Knusprig team and the Committee have decided to hold the following functions:

**02 October 2009 - Pub Night:** Responsible: David; Place TBA

**18 October 2009 - Beach Party:** Responsible: Tanja; Place: Cornwallis Beach. Back up date: 01 November 2009

**06 November 2009 - Pub Night:** Responsible: TBA; Place TBA

**22 November 2009 - Cookies/Gingerbread** decoration: Responsible Erika and Edith; Place: TBA

**04 December 2009 - Pub Night:** Responsible: TBA; Place TBA

For any questions or suggestions please contact: Tanja or Lukas or any Committee Member.

## Wellington

### Past events:

On Sunday 26 July a number of parents with children met at the Swiss Club to make **lampions** for 1st August. Murray and Sandie Simons made sure everything needed was provided for: plates for afternoon tea, red paper to make Swiss flags, scissors, transparent plastic, glue, sellotape, wire to make the handle,



A busy time creating lampions

and candles. There were also balloons which offered great fun for the kids to play with. I would like to thank Sandie and Murray in the name of the Swiss Club for their effort to organise and provide for this event.

On 31 July a bunch of people gathered at the Hikoikoi Reserve at **Petone Beach to celebrate the Swiss National Day with a bonfire**, lampions, hotdogs and hot drinks. While the weather forecast was for windy and rainy weather, it turned out to be just a bit windy. In fact, the wind was really steady. It wasn't a problem apart from that the lampion we made hadn't a chance to have burning candles. The lovely, stunningly big fire kept everyone warm for sure, and offered a great occasion to fry marshmallows. Many thanks to Heinz and Peter for setting up and looking after the fire, many thanks also to Peter Hynes for generously providing a proper Swiss Föürwärrch and for everyone else to

contribute to making this event happen.

On 1 August the **1st August dinner** was served at the club house in Wainuiomata. A great dinner buffet was served offering Züri Gschnätzlets, Knöpfli, carrots and a dessert. In between the courses, the Bundespräsident speech was listened to which focused on Switzerland in a time of recession. The Swiss National anthem was sung too. The committee would like to acknowledge the kitchen coordination of Rahel Williams!

### Future events:

The second of the very yummy **Fondues** of this year will be served on **Saturday 24 October** at the club house. Details have yet to be confirmed, but I envisage the event will start from 6pm with an appetiser, followed by the Fondue from 7:30pm. *IR*

## Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Die Goethe Society (nicht mit dem Goethe Institut verwandt!) versucht, den Deutsch-Studenten der Victoria University die Möglichkeit zu geben, auch ausserhalb der Uni Deutsch zu üben, mit verschiedenen Veranstaltungen wie Stammtisch und unter anderem auch einem Rätsel-Rally oder einer Schnitzeljagd. Dies ist für alle Deutsch sprechenden Personen in Wellington gedacht, und es kann jeder daran teilnehmen. Falls Mitglieder des Swiss Clubs interessiert sind, hier ist der Link:

<http://www.goethe.wellington.net.nz/programme.html>

Für etwaige Fragen steht gerne zur Verfügung:  
Manfred Berthold, Mob: 021-761414, Ph/Fax: (04) 232 9556

## The 87th Auslandschweizerkongress in Lucerne, 7-9 August 2009 Report from Othmar Hebler

Marlies and I went to Switzerland for a holiday for the whole month of August, and as the ASO (Auslandschweizerorganisation) Congress was in Lucerne, I took part as the representative for New Zealand.

Since almost half (45%) of the delegates were new to the ASO, a function was organized to get to know each other. On Friday 7th the Assembly started at 9am at the City Council Chambers for the 140 delegates from 110 different states. With so many new delegates the average age dropped from 70+ to 56 years of age, with 30% women. There were different themes on discussion: Swiss Schools Abroad, business clubs, swissreview, the closure of Swiss abroad bank accounts, solifund, budget cuts in general and the possible closure of embassies.

The Bund would like to close the embassies in the countries around Switzerland since there is an open travel policy; you no longer have to stop for customs going from Switzerland to any neighbouring country. The idea is that Swiss clubs function more as business clubs, and Honorary Consuls to take the place of Embassies. Swiss business clubs generally invite people from industries and governments and then foster business relationships and help to settle deals. Here in N.Z. the Swiss clubs have a different function; they are social clubs.

UBS and other Swiss banks have started, mainly in America and Italy, to freeze the bank accounts of Swiss abroad that failed to have any transactions for more than 3 months. The general manager of Postbank is looking at maybe taking this on board, too.

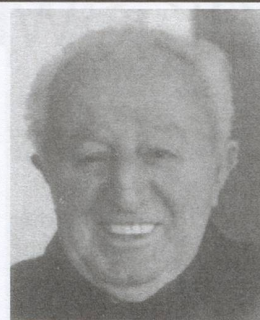
The Swiss government wants to shave about Sfr 500'000 off from the swissreview. You could help save by only having 1 magazine per family or try and get it online [www.revue.ch](http://www.revue.ch)

Swiss Schools Abroad (Auslandschweizerschulen) are under scrutiny for funding, too.

On Saturday everybody went to the Verkehrs- haus, where various speakers presented their views on Swiss tourism and Swiss postal services; parliamentarians gave an outlook on the political situation, followed by a question and answer session - and of course wonderful food and a choice of different Swiss entertainment. Sunday was the farewell day, with either a trip to the Rigi or a tour around the old city of Lucerne.

This was a very interesting experience, and most important of all I got to know Swiss delegates from all over the world.

Othmar Hebler



Morton Frederic Walter Rogers

12.10.1919 - 28.05.2009

Fred (as he was known to us) was the third child of Paulina (Pollie) and Tim Rogers. Pollie was born in Baar, Switzerland and married Tim in the Sacred Heart Church in Manaia, South Taranaki, on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1915.

Primary schooling started for Fred when he was 7 years old at St Pats Convent School in Kaponga and Kapuni School. He then thoroughly enjoyed two years at St Pats College Silverstream (Upper Hutt) from 1933 to 1934. His working life was spent farming then factory work until he was manpowered back to the farm when war broke out in 1939. In the late 1940s he worked for Arthur Brown Constructions Co helping build the huge chimney for the present day Lactose factory in Kapuni.

In June 1954, in Palmerston North, he married Barbara and they raised a family of seven - Sylvia, Brian, Fred (jnr), Eileen, Len, Carmen and Paul. He was very, very proud of their children, 19 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. After working for Arthur Brown he returned to farming until he retired in May 1989.

In earlier years he thoroughly enjoyed the Swiss picnics, 1<sup>st</sup> August celebrations and the bus trips to the Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington Swiss Clubs for the Cowbell Competitions.

The Sacred Heart Church Manaia was packed for Fred's funeral and he was laid to rest at the Manaia Lawn Cemetery South Taranaki on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 with a Guard of Honour by the Swiss Club. Zeno played the accordion and Othmar played the Alphorn at the graveside.

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

## Erinnerung

*Willst du immer weiter schweifen?  
Sieh, das Gute liegt so nah.  
Lerne nur das Glück ergreifen,  
Denn das Glück ist immer da.*

J.W. von Goethe