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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wellington Swiss Club

January 29: Shooting Practice.
February 26: Picnic and Sportsday.
March 11: Swiss Society Kegeln Steintossen Competition.
18: Swiss Society Shooting Competition.
April 7: Swiss Society Shooting Competition.
Annual General Meeting.

Auckland Swiss Club

February 19: Picnic (Swiss Farm).
March 11-12: Society Games.
April 14: Annual General Meeting.
June 3: Annual General Meeting Swiss Society.

On top of that we will endeavour to arrange informal social meetings every two to three weeks.

For information on the programme please phone Edi: 444-3020.

Hamilton Swiss Club

February 26: 1984 Picnic at Kiwitahi.

Taranaki Swiss Club

February 12: Annual Picnic, 10.30 a.m. Bratwurste and refreshments available.

VRENI'S AND ANGELA'S CORNER

Ein Augenblick der Geduld
Kann vor grossem Unheil bewahren
Ein Augenblick der Ungeduld
ein ganzes Leben zerstoeren.

Do you know Silja Walter. She was born in 1919 in Rickenbach, Olten. She visited the teacher training college in Menzingen; studied literature and in 1948 she entered the monastery Fahr.

She wrote that poem ...

Das Kind ist gekommen
Man steht wie benommen
im Glanz, der nun glueht
Weil keiner ihn sieht.

Nun sterben die Sonnen
Denn Gott hat begonnen
auf Erden zu gehen
damit wir ihn sehen

Das Kind ist das Leben
Man muss sich ergeben
Wer wuesste nicht wie
Dann sterben wir nie.

December 22nd was the longest day and also the beginning of the summer, if you believe the calendar.

It is the time for roses and if you treat a bunch of roses properly they will last longer.

- Break away all the thorns on the lower third of the stem.
- Put them for half an hour in a bucket with cold water up to more than half the length of the stem.
- Change the water very often and cut stem anew, preferably under water.

January 6th is the day of the three kings, who came to visit Christ in the manger - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

— Mum used to bake a special cake for that day and in it hid a small figure of a king. Whoever got the king in his slice of cake got a crown made of gold paper and 'ruled' as king for that day. The '3 Koenigstag' was a day for children.

— In Puntrut three boys with crowns walk through the village, dressed in a long shirt with a red belt and sang songs for small donations.

— In Einsiedeln and in Schwyz young boys, dressed in white blouses and hats chased old ghosts with an enormous noise.

— And in Graubuenden all the eligible girls tried to find out who would be their future husband. They threw one shoe over the shoulder across the big place in the village. The point of the shoe showed towards the house of the future husband.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR HANDS

Destiny provides you with nice or not so nice hands. Try to make the best from what mother nature provides you with.

The simplest way of preventing your hands becoming chapped and rough - wear gloves. If you think your hands start to look a bit weary, dip them in olive oil to which you add a little lemon juice.

To make your hands look beautiful rub the following cream in and let it really "go into the skin".

100gr of cream
1 grated lemon rind
1 bulb of the white lily (Flower bed).

Mix all in a food processor.

Do you want to get rid of any kitchen smell? Just rub them with vinegar. With the leftover from percolated coffee (Kaffee satz) you get rid of a garlic smell. When your hands smell from onions, rub them with parsley.

IT SAID

Woman, in bookshop to friend: "It's the kind of book you can't put down. Especially if there are children around."

Man, to waiter: "Take your time - I'm not much of a tipper anyway."

Sheikh to wife: "Your eyes are like pools of oil, your skin is as smooth as petroleum ..."

Man to neighbour: "The whole family did some cleaning over the weekend. My wife waxed the floor in the kitchen. I vacuumed the carpet in the lounge-room. And our son raked the rug in his room."

Marriage Counsellor to couple: "Quite frankly, I don't think either of you would be compatible with *anybody*!"

Woman to credit manager: "We're having trouble with your easy-payment plan. Do you have an easier one?"

Man to analyst: "Even the doors of supermarkets stopped opening automatically for me."

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Details from Swissair Ph 794 664
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— I M P O R T A N T — NOTICE TO OUR READERS

The Helvetia is celebrating its 50th birthday. To commemorate the occasion we would like to bring you a review of the Helvetia over the years. We have the complete issues since 1962. If any of our older readers have Helvetias from before that time would you kindly lend them to us for photocopies.

Please send them to: V. Kull, R.D. 21, Stratford. We will return them promptly. Thank you!

Also, if anyone knows a few things that happened about the first 25 years of the Helvetia, please let us know. Write to the above address. We would like to print it and share it with all our readers.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

The average man has 30 kilos of muscle and about 1.4 kilos of brains — which explains a lot of things.

Eating dulls your hearing, according to one doctor. This may be nature's way of protecting us from after-dinner speakers.

To be objective about sex requires a mature and experienced viewpoint. Unfortunately, by the time you achieve this, you generally don't give a damn.

Always remember, money isn't everything — but also remember to make a lot of it before talking such nonsense.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

A reporter from the local newspaper went to interview a woman in our small town on her one hundredth birthday. "How does it feel to be starting on your second century?" he asked.

Without hesitation, she replied, "I feel a lot steadier on my legs than I did when I started my first."

In a speech to the House of Lords, the Right Reverend Maurice Wood, Bishop of Norwich, told of inviting entertainer Cliff Richard to sing at one of the prisons in his diocese. Bishop Wood recounted:

We were delayed and Cliff, facing a chapel packed with expectant prisoners, said nervously, "I'm sorry the Bishop and I are late, but we had a bit of difficulty getting in."

"We know," came a voice from the back. "We have a bit of difficulty getting out."

I have a friend who is something of a "girl-watcher". When I humorously mentioned this to his wife, she said, "I don't care where he gets his appetite as long as he eats at home!"

THIS AND THAT FROM SWITZERLAND

— The budget of the canton of Zuerich for 1984 will show a deficit of 173 Mio sfrs, for the first time in four years. The reason being the new faze-reform-law from 1982.

— Vidwalden will be the first canton to have a power station to produce power from garbage. The gas that is produced when garbage ferments will drive a generator. This project will cost 1.3 Mio sfrs and should produce enough power for a township of about 600-800 people.

— 55 voluntary men and women from Switzerland helped to build a 31 mile long swing bridge for the 90,000 inhabitants of Matagalpa in Nicaragua. The bridge was built with little outside help, without machinery and under quite big difficulties, and financed by private money from Switzerland.

— 20% more Canruptcies for the current season, says Creditform.

— Harry Belafonte made his second appearance in Zurich a success, contrary to his first concert two years ago.

— The damage done by 'acid rain' in the forests is bigger than anticipated by most. What should and could be done is not sure yet.

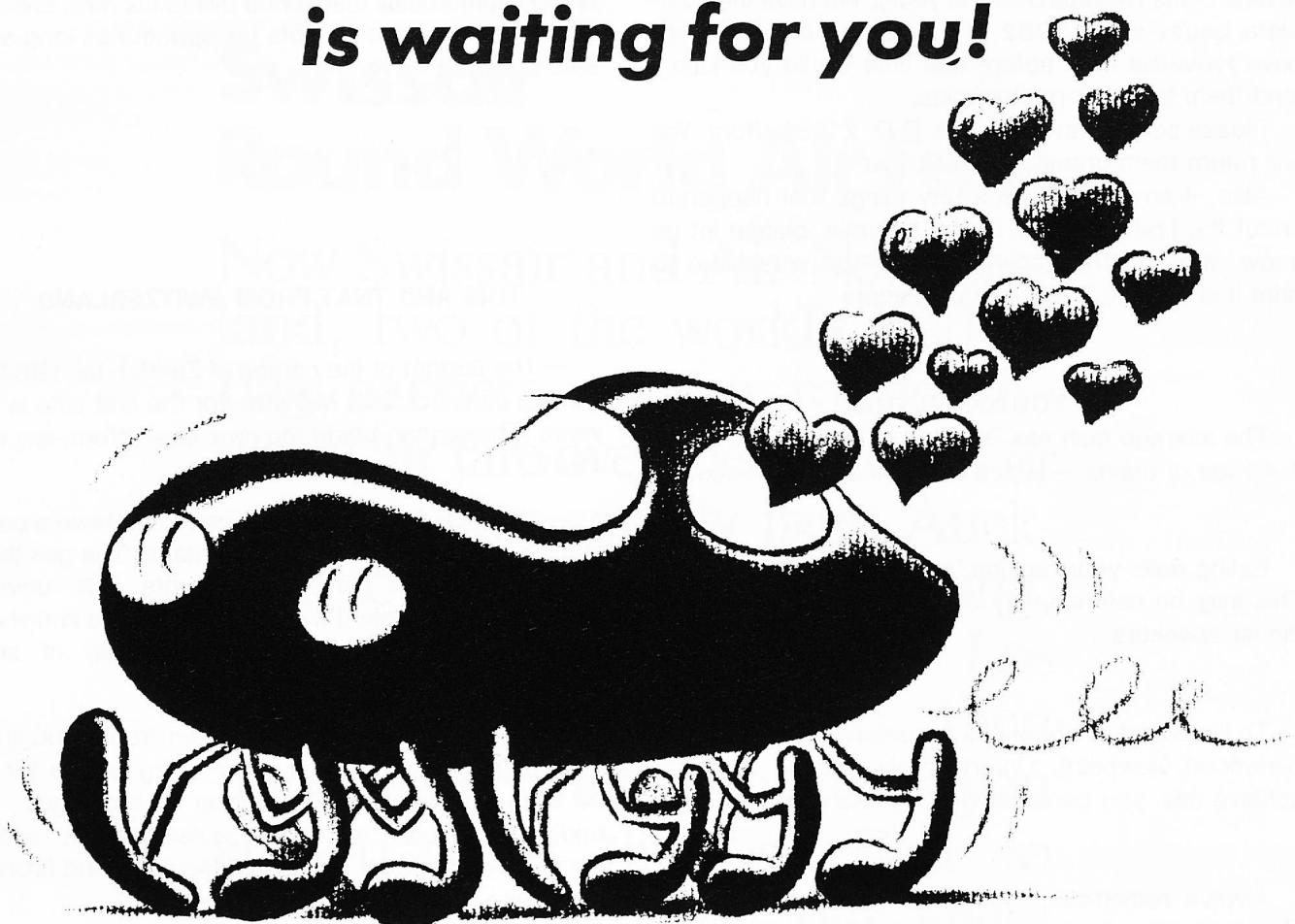
— The price of petrol has gone up again, for another two Rappers. This brings super to 1.27 sfr and normal to 1.23 sfr.

— B.B.C. (Brown Boveri) landed a 80 Mio sfr contract with Egypt. They are to build a gas driven power station until late 1984.

— The soccer list was topped by Grasshoppers in the 12th round. But in the following round they lost to Servette 0-3 and could have lost much higher.

— The new coach of the F.C. Zuerich ist Koebi Kuhn Hans Kodric was sacked without comment.

Grüezi – and welcome back home! Your Avis Crackerjack is waiting for you!



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Swiss-Kiwi Jodlers Auckland AUSTRALIAN TRIP 1983

After we landed on October 3 at Auckland International Airport at about 1 p.m. we sure had a great trip behind us. It all started well over a year ago with preparing, a ball in May and lots and lots of practising every Wednesday at Hans Fritz's place. Then all of a sudden we only had to sleep three times, twice, once and off we went on September 23 at 8 o'clock. in the morning.

Because of the many tired passengers from America we thought it would be better not to sing on board the Continental Airplane DC 10 due to land in the early morning in Sydney. I must say the humour in the group was great right through, and that helped us a lot to fill in the boring gaps of the trip, anyway there were not many of those gaps. The Customs in Sydney were good to us, except to Emil in his evening suit and top hat and Osci (no wonder, he always looks funny).

The heat (32°C) was just a bit too much for the Swiss-Kiwi Jodlers, so after arriving at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Double Bay, we all had our first swim in the pool. In the afternoon we all gathered in the same dress and went per bus down to Sydney's pride, the Opera House. In front of this great place we sang, blew the alphorn and took heaps of photos. John was busy trying to get everybody at the right place at the right time, so he could do some filming. That was a hard job for John, but then, the place was so great, everybody wanted to see it from all different angles.

At about 5 p.m. we met some of the local Swiss at the pool deck of the Hotel. Cocktails were served while everyone was busy talking. After a few songs we had to leave them to see Sydney by night, a trip everyone was looking forward to. Crossing the bridge on a double-decker bus, champagne, gambling, a great dinner, striptease and lots, lots more was worth the price we had to pay. Most of us went to bed about 3 a.m., some drunk, some still sober, but everybody tired from a long terrific start to our tour in Aussie.

Saturday morning was free for shopping, which we did ... In the afternoon it was time to say goodbye Sydney, also time to meet our bus for the first time, driven by Peter and Otto. Soon we discovered that this bus was not the most comfortable thing to travel in, but we made the most of it. South it went, down to Wollongong where the first concert was planned that same evening.

Roesli and Hans Kaufman were leading us down along the coast and soon we discovered that something had gone wrong in the planning. The hotel was about 50 km up a hill from where we should have had our premiere. Everybody was a bit disappointed about this happening, but soon all that changed. We decided not to sing for them, instead, we went to the local pub of Robertson looking for some food. I don't think that you

would like to read a book, because there were just a few too many details about that night. To everybody's surprise, Osci all of a sudden appeared with a wig on. But that was not all, he brought one for all of us, all the way from Auckland. Typical Osci, no wonder the Customs had a good look at him. I give it a nine out of ten. I was glad to get to bed by midnight, looking forward to the next day's thirst ...

Well, the next day, Sunday, was mainly a travelling day. Our navigator (Tony) was still suffering from the night before, that's why we drove around without knowing where we were for about 1½ hours, but then after a good lunch he showed us the right path. Some of us paid for lunch with 20 cent pieces, which they got out of the poker machines, some got an expensive meal, but it was fun. Early afternoon we arrived in Canberra where a few Swiss waited for us on the roadside. After the usual Hello to everybody, we got the accommodation situation sorted out. Most of us stayed in town, but three, including me, were lucky enough to stay in the countryside about 40 kms from the capital. That night we spent with our hosts which was a good experience.

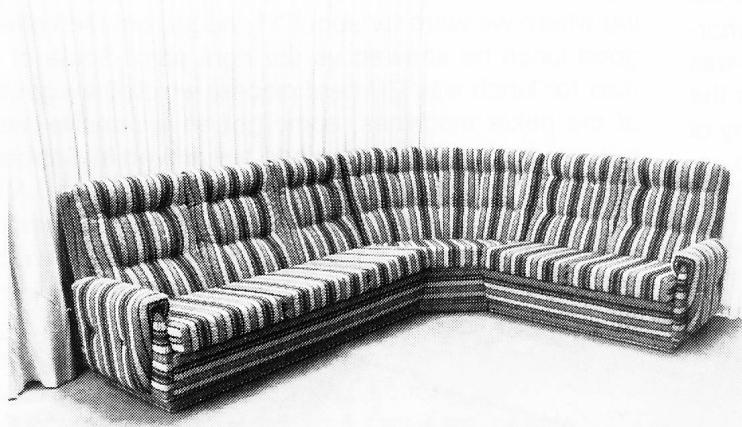
At 11 a.m. Monday we were invited to a Cocktail reception at the Swiss Embassy. People from the Embassy and all the invited guests welcomed us warmly. After a few glasses of wine in the hot sun, we soon started to sing for all our new friends. In the afternoon we did some sightseeing around Canberra, some went home to bed. Then at 8 p.m., you wouldn't believe it, we went on stage at the local German Club for our premiere performance in Australia.

The hall was just a bit too big for us, but all went well according to the applause we got. It seemed to me that the Germans there are not very used to late nights, most of them left around 11 p.m., except of course the Swissies. Overall we had a good time in Canberra and I'd like to thank all our hosts for the great hospitality.

Tuesday - Travelling day. Very early breakfast and off we went down to Melbourne. What a long way to go. Packed in the Sardine tin we travelled through excellent farmland. All nice and green and so healthy looking. It is hard to believe that the country can look brown or even red in Summer.

Excellent trip for birdlovers. All colours, sizes and shapes were on display along the Motorway. Some for closeups, some up in the trees, but still nice and so colourful, anywhere else only in Zoos or parks to see. Sometimes they were shied away by Anneli's laugh. Of course she always was busy playing cards with Otto her lover, Hans her brother-in-law, Hansueli with his stinky pipe, Kurt the fanatic player and Edith, Hansueli's partner.

The time and countryside went past and soon it was time to see Melbourne's high rises. With cloudy weather the town looked rather grey and was a bit dirty.



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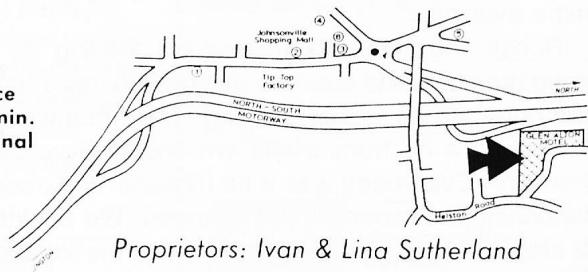
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Emil found us a motel, where we got changed and stretched our legs a bit. Soon we were ready to leave for the Swiss Club restaurant, where quite a few fans waited for us. After a big welcome and a few speeches it was up to us to entertain the crowd, which we did and I think they loved it. The local Jodlers are good, but also positively surprised about our performance. We had a good time, some a terrific one, but those felt sorry the next day, because their hats wouldn't fit anymore. Bedtime was around 12, I think ...

All day shopping on Wednesday, huh. Oh boy, you could buy stuff there, you only can dream about here in New Zealand. Everybody had to watch out not to go over the credit limit of their bankcards. I personally loved that day because we could do what we wanted to. By 8 p.m. everyone was ready for a healthy good dinner at the Swiss Club. It was nice to see the friendly faces again. We exchanged views on our singing, etc. "Baergmorge and Baergarve" sounded good together with the local Jodlers. After that day we all knew, that we are more than just nothing, it gave us much more confidence and by now we have our way to entertain people. We love it, that's why we do it.

Thursday - Hamburgerday. After some difficulties to pay our rent to the manager we left Melbourne and headed down to the coast. For the first time we got a bit of an idea about the fire they had in this part. The damage is unbelievable. All we saw were black trees, pushing already new leaves out again. Hard to believe, if you know that the fire had up to 3000°C. Then it happened, we stopped for lunch at Apollo beach. Guess what we got for lunch?? I hadn't had one of those for ages, so it was a bit of a change. Off we all went along beautiful, but rough beaches. We saw the famous 12 apostles, London Bridge, Bay of Islands and lots more. In the late afternoon everyone thought to see Kangaroos and then they screamed Kangaroo. All of us, including the driver were looking for where the finger was pointed to and nothing then a tree trunk or whatever, just not a Kangaroo.

Lia, dying to see one, said it wasn't funny, so she was not interested anymore and almost missed three times the chance to see a real one shortly before our destination, Mt Gambier, where we entered South Australia. Here we had to put our watches back half an hour. A good dinner was served at the motel where we stayed and off to bed we went after 470 km of travelling.

5 a.m., that was the time we started on Friday, September 30. Crazy, isn't it? But we had to, because we were expected at 12.15 p.m. up at the hills of Adelaide for T.V. filming. Everybody half asleep, still a cup of coffee in the hand, made themselves ready for take-off. Thanks to the motorway we sped through green paddocks towards our destination of the trip,

Adelaide.

12.15 p.m. sharp we arrived at the hills. In front of a burnt restaurant and burnt trees some local Swiss welcomed us. Soon afterwards the T.V. crew arrived and the stars got in position. Once this way, once the other way, once from here then from there. We did well, as we saw it that same day on the 6 p.m. news. Most of us spent the afternoon at the wildpark, where we got a big cuddle from the koalas and also Kangaroos. Lia was out of her house with all those animals. I spent little time in the snakehouse, was afraid a glass could break.

Then we were off to the township of Adelaide. At the Swiss coffee shop we enjoyed a real good coffee and all sorts of goodies with it. There it was, where we kindly got picked up by our new hosts. That night we spent at home talking and eating. It was worth coming here.

Before the last rehearsal at 12.15 p.m. on Saturday, we were busy doing all our duty-free shopping. It was our last chance. At the Abbey everybody was surprised how nice and big it was, some thought it was a bit too big, but it was just right, as we soon realised after the first song. We didn't do too much, Hans was worried about our voices, so he let us go fairly quick. Be here at 7 a.m. I heard on the way out. Before going home we had a bit of a look around Adelaide. It is a nice town with its huge festival centre in the middle. Dinner was served early and off we were to our grand finale. A nice crowd filled the hall, many Aussies too. Our performance rose to the occasion. I felt we never sang so well, the same for the horns and the music. The audience loved it.

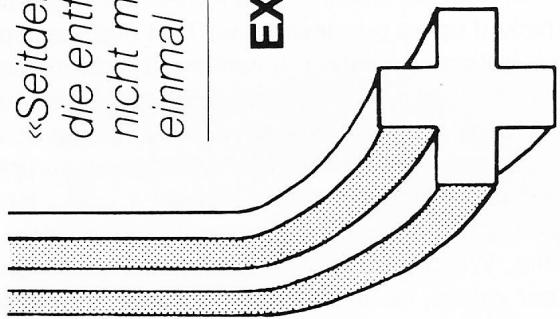
After the 15 minutes' break we carried on with all we knew. The solo jodel from our driver, Peter was breathtaking, so was the whole concert. After 1½ hours we were ready for the Australian wine, which we discovered by now, was quite good. Emil and Ursula were playing the accordion and some even had a dance. It was a wonderful night, which we will never forget. Can't remember our bedtime, but it wasn't that late.

Our Australian trip is coming to an end. A picnic is organised at the Barossa Valley, the paradise of Australian wine. After making everything ready, we take off for the hour long trip to the Chateau Valdara, where we all tasted some wine before buying heaps for lunch. It didn't take long to get everything going, even the fire. Lunch was excellent, so was the afterwards. It seemed to me, all of us had a bit too much to eat, the way we sang afterwards. Having a good time with good wine, we left the Chateau and headed homewards. As an appreciation we got two bottles of wine each, free from the local Swiss. On the way back to Adelaide we tasted some real German-made coffee and cakes. It was yum-yum. But then it was time to go home for the last time. We didn't mind going to go to bed early and without dinner, we'd had enough of that.

CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.

«Seitdem es Flugzeuge gibt, sind die entfernten Verwandten auch nicht mehr so weit weg, wie sie einmal waren.»

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