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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

On Saturday, October 3, we held our fondue evening which was a very big success with 105 people attending, in sharp contrast to the disappointing turnout of only 65 people for August 1 celebration. The Jay Es Band soon had everybody dancing and kept them at it for the rest of the evening. This traditional Swiss music certainly seems to be very popular. After a bit of panic in the kitchen, due to the very large crowd wanting to be fed, the delicious cheese fondue was served, together with French bread and Aufschnitt. It must have been appreciated by all, as it did not take long before we ran out of bread and the empty pans were back in the kitchen. Many thanks to those very efficient dishwashers who did an excellent job. After the meal, the

rifleman presented medals to all the skilful and lucky competitors of the Swiss Society sports competitions. Coffee and cakes followed and all too soon this most enjoyable evening came to a close. Many thanks to all.

Attention: A medal was found outside the hall the following day by a member of the public. If you are missing your medal please phone Fam Zuber 62-414 Hamilton.

Forthcoming Event

Picnic on February 28, 1988 at Villiger's Farm, Kiwitahi. Please keep this date free and tell your friends. Further details in the February issue of the Helvetia.
A. ZUBER.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Forthcoming Events

December 31: New Year's Eve celebrations. All welcome. Cover charge \$5 each and a plate for supper.

February 7: Annual Picnic Day, 10.30 am at clubgrounds.

March 1: Annual General Meeting at clubhouse, 8 pm sharp.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

On November 14, at our clubhouse, we had the pleasure of welcoming Minister Walter Fetscherin, head of the office for the Swiss Abroad. There was a very good turnout of compatriots eager to be informed about the functions of the various official bodies whose job it is to look after the interests of the Swiss Abroad, and of the new policies and laws of concern to them personally. Minister Fetscherin began his tour d'horizon by explaining the relationship of 'his' office to the secretariat for the Swiss Abroad. In very general terms, the office is where policies are formed and the secretariat is where they are executed. In other words, if you have a personal "Swiss Abroad" problem, write to the Secretariat, and if you want to discuss policies, write to the office. He then threw in a bit of history and statistics: the first Swiss emigrants were the mercenaries of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. There are now nearly half-a-million Swiss living abroad, mainly in Europe and the Americas. Some of the most important points covered: Adult children of Swiss mothers and foreign fathers have until June 1988 to apply for Swiss Citizenship. This is a once only opportunity, do not miss it. Most probably to come law in the next couple of years: foreign spouses of Swiss citizens living abroad can acquire Swiss citizenship after eight years of marriage. The Swiss abroad have the right to vote in Swiss elections while visiting Switzerland. It is unlikely that in the near future they will be able to execute this right from abroad, be it at an embassy or by mail.

The 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation in 1991 will still be celebrated in the proper manner despite the refusal of the Cantons of the Innerschwyz to be the main venue. Especially "Der Weg der Kantone" round the Urnersee will go ahead as planned, finishing at Brunnen where the Swiss abroad will have their headquarters on a prime site at the lake.

Question time followed the excellent presentation and the informative evening was nicely rounded off with cakes and coffee. Many thanks to Minister Fetscherin, the Charge d'Affaires, Mr Wyss, all the participants - and the bringers of goodies.

L.N.

Forthcoming Events

January 31: Swiss Society Shooting Competition.

February 6: Training Jassen and Kegeln.

February 7: Swiss Society Shooting Competition.

February 13/14: Cowbell Competition in Taranaki.

February 27/28: Outdoor weekend.

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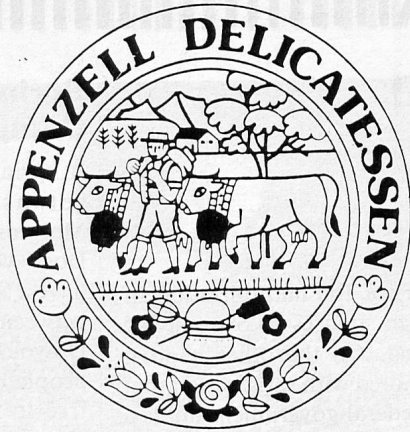
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