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HELVETIA



Monthly Publication of the

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
in New Zealand

Group New Zealand of the N.H.G.

WELLINGTON.
JULY, 1943.

VOL. 10, 8th Year.

SWISS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BROADCASTS

over the New Zealand National Broadcasting Service.

- (A) SATURDAY, 31ST JULY. About 6.40 p.m., short address by the Swiss Consul in Wellington over 2 YA and main National stations.
- (B) SUNDAY, 1ST AUGUST. 3 p.m., short talk with music from Studio 2 YA, Wellington, "Switzerland, Citadelle of Freedom".
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We gladly take this opportunity to express to the Minister in charge of National Broadcasting and to the National Broadcasting Service, in the name of the Swiss Community in New Zealand our gratitude for giving us such generous support in the celebration of the 652nd Anniversary of the Swiss Confederation.

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CELEBRATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND OF THE 652ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

TARANAKI DISTRICT.

We herewith wish to inform members and friends, that the Swiss Community in the Taranaki District will celebrate this year's National Day with a dance in the MANAIA TOWN HALL. This event will take place on MONDAY, THE 2ND AUGUST, and will start at 8 p.m. An entrance fee of sh. 3/- and 4/- will be collected. We are sure that the Swiss Community and their friends will turn out in force and will make this evening a success, as everyone will look forward to spend a few hours amongst countrymen and to have a real good dance to the music of "Ä zügige Ländlerkapälle". The arrangements are in the hands of Miss Dorcen Engelberger and Mr. M.J. Sattler.

From Wellington, the Swiss Consul, Dr. W. Schmid and family, Miss Hornlimann and Mr. E. Dickenmann have so far promised to be present.

For further information please watch the advertisement which will appear in the "Taranaki Daily News".

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AUCKLAND.

The 1st of August is coming around again and the Auckland Branch are preparing a bonzer programme for the evening - one that you will be sorry to miss.

The chief attraction for the evening will be the picture gallery of - "Just the little streets where old friends used to meet" - photos of your old home town, the little church you and Hubby were married in, the shops where you used to spend your pennies on lollipops and so on. They are worth seeing. Items will be rendered by the more talented members among us and a well known personage will be

straining their vocal chords in an effort to entertain you.

Supper will be provided and the small charge of 2/6d for admission will be made to cover expenses.

It is to be held in the Overseas League Rooms on the 3rd Floor of the Queen's Arcade, Queen Street.

If any of those intending country visitors have a "Handoergeli" it would be appreciated if they would bring it along.

B.R. HALTMEYER, SECRETARY.

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WELLINGTON.

We have the pleasure to inform members and friends, that they are invited to a Social Evening on the occasion of the celebration of the Swiss National Day. As the 1st of August falls on a Sunday, this gathering will take place on SATURDAY, 31ST JULY in the clubrooms of the New Zealand Educational Institute in the "Evening Post Building", Willis Street, Wellington. These are the same rooms where we celebrated the 650th Anniversary in 1941.

In order to give members and friends living near Wellington a chance to spend some hours amongst their countrymen, and still catch their last trains, if they cannot make arrangements to stay the night in town, we shall start at 7 p.m. and we would ask everybody to come on time.

The ladies have been good enough to consent to provide the supper, and sh. 5/- will be collected from every man towards the expenses for rent and drinks.

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652ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION 1ST AUGUST 1943.

On the occasion of this 652nd Anniversary of the Foundation of the Swiss Confederation, I propose that my fellow-countrymen in New Zealand imagine they have returned to Switzerland on a radiant winter day in order to spend a few weeks in the homely village of Engelberg amidst the majestic winter splendour of our Swiss mountains. At the termination of these happy holidays, one of the Federal Councillors would arrive from Berne specifically to address you on behalf of the country, and to bid you farewell before your return home.

Such a dream came true, in January of this year, for a group of 250 young Swiss from abroad. They were very lucky. The weather was beautiful, snow conditions were excellent, and when their stay came to an end, a Swiss Federal Councillor arrived from Berne accompanied by the Adjutant of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, to take leave of them in an impressive address. Federal Councillor Kobelt of St. Gall spoke to his young listeners at an open-air meeting in the main square of Engelberg, in an address unexcelled for clearness of expression and formulation.

In anticipation of our celebrations in New Zealand of the 652nd Anniversary of the Foundation of the Swiss Confederation, I should like to convey to you this recent message of one of our highest federal officials: -

"You have returned from afar to Switzerland for a short time to our mutual homeland for this is also your country, your heritage. You have sensed how much you belong to this country, when you met again people of your own kith and kin, people with the same spirit of loyalty to your Swiss homeland. It is this spirit which unites all your fellow-countrymen, and makes them deeply conscious of the fact that they are members of a free nation in which the mental and spiritual forces of man can develop freely and unrestrainedly. It is true Swiss tradition, to recognise that man is not merely body but contains a Divine spark. In the spiritual life of man lie the sources of those forces which value humanity and justice more than power, money or possessions, and which form the basis of a true community.