

News of the colony

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **21 (1958)**

Heft [6]

PDF erstellt am: **22.06.2024**

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SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

President's Report, 1958

Dear Compatriots,

On the end of every year one is looking back and is having a review of the successes and failures of the past year. On the success ledger we can record two outstanding events: The formation of a Swiss Club in Wellington as a branch of our Society and of equal importance is the joining of the Auckland Club as a branch also. I must not miss expressing, in this place, my highest admiration and sincerest thanks to all those who helped to bring about this important step forward. On the bad side of the ledger, however, we have lost some valued members who have passed away, amongst them a worthy foundation member, Mr. John Steiner from Auckland. As far as helping needy cases of Swiss people we were very lucky, we had to assist an old friend to a minor extent only.

Referring to the improved financial position of the Society, this is no doubt to be credited to our retiring Treasurer, Mr. A. Loetscher. It was he who tackled the situation in a business-like manner and achieved very worthwhile results. To the Secretary, Mr. A. Biland, must go the credit for the successful re-organisation of the Helvetia. I must bow to his outstanding abilities. To the rest of the committee I wish to express my thanks for the willing co-operation and help whenever I wanted it.

Looking into the future I sincerely hope that in due time every Swiss in New Zealand belongs to our Society: "A United Folk of Brethren," using Schillers words. For the future tasks of the Society I have given it a lot of thought during the last few months and I came to the conclusion that, provided we can raise the money, that our own old people's home, coupled perhaps with a home for short periods for new arrivals would be a fitting monument to our aims.

—Walter Risi, President Swiss Society.

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Obituary

MR. EMIL SATTLER.—Died in Morrinsville on the 30th April last. He came to New Zealand in 1912, originating from Baar Ct. Zug. Mr. Sattler is the 4th of 5 emigrating brothers who passed away, survived only by brother Hans. He also is the third Baarer who died within the last six months. Mrs. Sattler, nee Miss Rosa Schmiediger came to New Zealand in July 1914 and they married in the following September. The marriage was a very happy one, blessed with 2 sons and 3 daughters. —W.R.

MR. FRANZ AUGUST WYSS.—Died (aged 82) at Hawera on May 6th last. Mr. Wyss arrived in New Zealand from the Ct. Zug in 1903. He took

up farming in Manaia and went home for a holiday trip to Switzerland in 1914 where he then married and arrived back in New Zealand in 1922. From the marriage there were two sons, Mr. Charles Wyss (Inaha) and Mr. August Wyss (Ngaere). Mrs. Wyss died 8 years ago. —J.St.

NOTICE FROM THE CONSULATE

The Consulate has been asked, in connection with the winding up of two estates in Switzerland, to endeavour to ascertain the present whereabouts or to supply some details as to what has become of the following persons, both of whom could be beneficiaries in the estates in question. The Consulate would be most grateful if among our compatriots someone is in a position to give information which may be of help in tracing:—

MR. JOSEF ALOIS KELLER,
born on June 30th., 1879, originating from Feusisberg, who came to New Zealand approximately forty years ago,
and

MR. ANTON ZBERG,
who, it is understood, worked at one time in the Port Waikato, and later in South Head, Hellensville.

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SWISS CALENDARS FOR 1959

To enable our compatriots to procure a pictorial calendar from Switzerland for 1959, the Consulate is prepared to pass a collective order. Any persons interested should write to the Consulate, G.P.O. Box 386, Wellington, and at the same time remit the amount in question.

The following calendars are offered:—

"THE ALPINE CALENDAR," 1959 (Stehli), price 10/-.

"SWITZERLAND," 1959 (Novos), price 10/-

Orders for these calendars will be accepted UP TO JULY 1st.

News of the Colony

PUBLICATION ITEMS

All "NEWS" for publication in the HELVETIA must be in the hands of the Secretary 2 days before the end of the month (i.e., for the July issue on the 28th of June). Also please make sure that all contributions are PROPERLY SIGNED. If so desired initials only will be printed, but the press-committee must be informed of the proper name of the sender. —A.B.

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Corrections . . .

In last month's issue we forgot to mention the name of the writer who sent the report of the annual meeting of the Auckland Swiss Club. It was Charley Ding.

We also regret, due to a misunderstanding, the reported recommendation from the Auckland Branch to make a donation to the Saint Joseph Old People's Home. This recommendation came from members of the Auckland Branch and not from the Auckland Branch as wrongly stated.

—A.B.

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Reminder . . .

A REMINDER that our competition for a "new look" of the HELVETIA closes on the first of July. Please send your idea to the Secretary.

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AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The Auckland Swiss Club evening on Tuesday, June 3rd., was attended by a very good representation of local members and quite a number of others from as far afield as Taranaki and Bay of Plenty. The highlight of the evening was a surprise donation of a handsome gift, a Barometer-Compass combination, to the retiring President, Max Bachmann and Mrs. Bachmann, in recognition of their services to the Club. The new president, Mr. Ch. Ding, said that he was particularly proud of the fact that he was able to hand to Mr. Bachmann the first honorary life membership document. Max Bachmann and Mrs. Bachmann were very moved by all this affection to them and he said that everything they have done they were proud to be able to do it. He also said that so far they have not made any plans to leave Auckland in the near future and would like to help when and where ever possible.

W. Risi who was a guest visitor, then said that he was sure that when Max finally is going to leave his beloved Auckland, we in the Waikato hope that his new Compass would guide him in that direction. A surprise announcement from W. Risi, as president of the Swiss Society, to Messrs Tony Peyer and Fred Steyer informing them of being elected as honorary life members of the Society, was received by all with loud applause. It was a very pleasant evening, Aucklanders, keep going, you are doing very well.

—W.R.

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SHOOTING

In the season just past, the Hawera Rifle Club was successful in bringing home New Zealand's most coveted trophy, the "Collins Challenge Shield." Not since 1926 came this trophy to Hawera, and the difference in points was quite remarkable: 1926, 459 points; 1958, 485 points. The most points (101) gained by any competitor of that club however was by our compatriot, Mr. J. A. Kaiser. Congratulations. —W.R.

TARANAKI SWISS SOCIAL CLUB (Inc.)

President's Report for year ended March 31, 1958

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in reporting to you the closure of another highly successful year.

Membership:

14 new members this year shows a satisfactory increase to a total now of 318.

Banquet and First August Celebrations:

No open dance was held this year, members however, were able to invite friends to the banquet, which this year, due to the large attendance, was held in the main body of the Kaponga War Memorial Hall. The evening was an unqualified success. Before the banquet commenced, early arrivals were entertained by a screening of coloured slides taken by Dr. A. Russell of Napier at the Club's Picnic in 1957.

Guest of honour, Vice-Consul Mr. Walter Sollberger, addressed the gathering and read a message from M. Henri Aubaret, Consul General, who was at the time in Korea. Other guests, all of whom spoke, were Mr. E. L. Abbott, chairman of the Kaponga Town Council, Mr. Walter Risi of Ngaruawahia, Club Patron, Mr. A. Biland of Hamilton, President of Waikato's newly-formed Swiss Club, Dr. A. Russell of Napier, Mr. E. Zinsli of Waitara, who had just celebrated his 103rd birthday, Mr. Ben Zurcher of Palmerston North and Mr. Len Chamberlain of Kaponga.

The Annual Picnic:

The Picnic at Te Ngutu was again held on a Sunday and the attendance again showed an increase on previous years. All events were well patronised and although we were unable to welcome any members of our Consulate, we were pleased to have a large number of visitors with us from as far afield as Hamilton.

During the year one of our early members died and the Club was represented at his funeral by a wreath from members.

The ladies, to whom I must pay a tribute, carried a major part of the burden at all functions conducted by the Club.

May I now, in conclusion, extend my sincere thanks to my Secretary and to all members of the Executive, and also to all members generally, who helped in no small measure to make my term of office as President a happy and pleasant one. May the forthcoming year be one of even greater achievement.

Committee Elected for 1958/59:

President: John Steiner; Vice-President: D. Luond; Secretary: B. P. Frank; Committee: Messrs M. Steiner, T. Napflin, L. Kuriger, A. Kalin, W. Waldvogel, J. Dettling, J. Fohn, L. Chamberlain; Ladies: Mrs. M. Steiner, Mrs. C. Schuler, Mrs. J. Fohn.

—JOHN STEINER

QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

My answer to the question in last month's issue was not quite clear enough and as it is rather important, I wish to repeat and enlarge on it.

Question:

I am told that if I marry a New Zealander, or any other man of a different nationality, I can still keep my Swiss Citizenship. Is this correct?

Answer:

YES — if BEFORE your marriage you make a formal declaration stating your wish to retain your Swiss Nationality. (Schweizerbuergerrecht) This declaration must be made in writing to the Swiss Authorities wherever you may be. Here in New Zealand therefore to our Swiss Consulate in Wellington who will supply the necessary forms on application. —A.B.

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INVITATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

If you want to book for a Ski-weekend, the Auckland Tramping Club can give you accommodation in their Mt. Ruapehu Hutt at very low prices.

Accommodation including food for 2 days 25/-;
Accommodation without food for 2 days 12/-.

Sorry we can't arrange transport.

Write to the Secretary, Auckland Tramping Club, P.O. Box 2358, Auckland, C.I., or to the Secretary, Auckland Swiss Club. Please let us know about 2 weeks ahead.

—M.B.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Hamilton Swiss Club:

The Hamilton Swiss Club is holding the regular monthly evening every third Sunday in the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton. Next evening: 15th June. All welcome. Fuer Unterhaltung wird gesorgt.

Wellington Swiss Club:

We would like to draw your attention that our General Meeting will be held on June 14th., at 8 p.m., at the Community Hall, Brooklyn. (Please note change of date). Everybody is most welcome. Please be early!

Members wishing to take part in our Ski-Trip are requested to put their name down and to pay the fee not later than this General Meeting. After that applications may possibly have to be rejected. —R.M.

Anybody knowing the whereabouts of Mr. Arnold Niederberger, late of Stratford, please inform the Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE!

Please address to the Secretary:

MR. A. BILAND,

R.D. 8 —::— Frankton Junction

All Subscriptions to the Treasurer:

Mr. Hans Oettli, P.O., Whatawhata

(HANS MEISTER)

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