

News of the colony

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Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

For the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society, which was held in Normanby, Taranaki, on 9th June, 1962, a most impressive number turned up. The most pleasant surprise was the presence of the Consul-General, Dr Rossetti, and Mrs Rossetti, and Mr and Mrs Schaerer and Miss Buchler, from the Consulate in Wellington.

The president, Walter Risi, opened the meeting, welcoming the delegates from the affiliated clubs, members and guests and thanked all for the interest they are showing in our Swiss Society. The Treasurer, Hans Oettli, presented the Balance Sheet, which showed a satisfactory surplus. On his recommendation the subscription was fixed as previously, namely 10/- for members of affiliated clubs and 15/- for members not belonging to an affiliated club. As there was no special business the election of officers was the most important part of the evening. They resulted as follows.—

President: John Steiner, Taranaki. Vice-President: Hans Schaerer, Consulate, Wellington. Secretary-Treasurer: Louis Kuriger, Taranaki. Editor for the *HELVETIA*: Arnold Biland.

A vote of thanks for Taranaki's splendid hospitality was recorded, as well as for the services of the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer.

The election of Walter Risi as a Life Member of the Society was loudly acclaimed by all members present. Dr Rossetti brought the thanks of the authorities to Mr Risi as past-president of the Society.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ngaruawahia, 9th June, 1962

Undoubtedly the day of the year when we sit down and think back over the past 365 days of the life of a Society and try to evaluate the achievements and setbacks, this is the most profitable day of them all. If we had a successful year we don't use this as a sofa to lay on, but as a springboard to greater achievements. If it wasn't so successful we try to adjust our plans in order to do better next year. This year past now was a comparatively quite one, with no spectacular events. We were called upon for support at one occasion and the Swiss people can be proud to have a Society with such noble aims, as to be prepared to give moral and active support and assistance at a moment's notice, irrespective whether the person in need is a member of our Society or not.

In regard to the Society's financial position, the Balance Sheet shows a satisfactory surplus which was, however, mainly due to the efforts of our Treasurer to press for payments of arrears. Here is one place where a lot of us could do better in assisting to pay the subscription promptly. The Treasurer's job is a tedious and entirely honorary one and it becomes very frustrating when he has to send out notice after notice.

We mustered our courage to give our little monthly paper, the *HELVETIA*, a more modern look. This will call for extra expenses and we could not carry on with it for long without either raising the subscription or recruiting more members—the latter being the better course to adopt. I appeal to all of you to persuade your Swiss friends, if they are not already members, to join. We want to move to strength united; through unity achieve goodwill toward all.

Again we have lost a number of loyal friends who have passed on. To express our deepest sympathies to their next-of-kin I want you to honour them with a moment's silence. May we pray with Saint Francis: O Lord grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, give us the courage to change what we can and the wisdom to know the difference.

For me this is the end of a five-year period in office as your President. I am very proud to have enjoyed your confidence—although I was expecting to achieve more when I first took office. However, everything I have achieved, I must say *we* have achieved . . . your Secretary, your Treasurer, your Committee—all of us.

I thank all of you on this occasion, especially the Secretary, Arnold Biland, and the Treasurer, Hans Oettli, and the other member of the press committee, Ernst Studer. Without their loyal help I could not have done the job. I would like to appeal to you to give the same loyalty and confidence to my successor who will take office from today. I hope that he will be able to muster a team of helpers as good as I was fortunate to enjoy.

—WALTER RISI

Auckland Swiss Club

The "Tessiner-Abig," all agreed, was a tremendous success, attended by a record crowd and quite a few celebrities—the Star of Stage and Screen, Duncan MacRae, Moiro Anderson, Jimmy Warren, Mrs Kenneth McKellar, also Dennis playing the saxophone and Doreena singing and playing the accordion. The ladies, wearing colourful costumes and glittering cocktail dresses, gave this social event a sophisticated and international appearance. Our President, Mr Fitzi, and Mrs Fitzi did the honours with grace and elegance and the "twist" exhibition, done so elegantly by Mr Fitzi, was another item of great amusement.

Our Swiss band must have had a special jinx in their fingers that night, as everybody was whirling around and around, Mr and MrsENZELER giving us an extra show of a "luepfige Laendlertanz" applauded by all. Our big attraction, the Latin-American band "Los Tres Flamincos," were great. To hear Carlo singing made you wishing to see Mexico, Spain, Italy, the whole Continent and to dance to their music was exhilarating. The jodel group, Doris Peyer, Hanny Mueller, Hans Fitzi and Peter Buechler, as usual enchanted everybody by their jodelling and

Mr Baenziger from Schwyz, visiting his daughter here in Auckland, was delighted with the true atmosphere of Ticino and thought it could not have been nicer back home. The decoration of the hall brought you in fact, right back to those enchanting grottos alongside the shore of Lake Lugano and Locarno.

Our special thanks to Loui Mueller and Arthur Lussy, who spared no time and efforts to decorate the hall so beautifully and expertly with punge ferns, bamboo, festoons of wine branches, Chianti bottles with corn-cobs and lampions. Sincere thanks to Mr Baettig, Chef de Cuisine, for cooking the enormous amount of spaghettis; Miss Therese Bitschman for doing the flags of Ticina and being also so helpful with the decorations; and lastly, to K. Glauser and Heather for getting the hall in ship-shape again. The Basler-Laeckerli from Mrs Kaeppli were a delicacy and as usual the various cakes and pasteries from Mrs Flueckiger a feast.

Again, many thanks to all who helped so much to make this evening a great success, it will be remembered for a long time. —H.M.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club held a Cabaret evening in the Kapuni Hall on May 31st. A big crowd enjoyed music for dancing played by J. Fohn, A. Engelberger, P. Amstalden (accordeons), F. Imhoff (clarinet) and Mrs L. Chamberlain (piano). —M.T.S.

John Schaefer, a highly esteemed and respected member of the Swiss Society, died in Pukekohe on May 23rd. Also, just received, the sad news of the death of Mrs Emil Studer, of Auckland. To their relatives and friends our deepest sympathy. Obituaries in next issue.

● RECIPE

Fish Fillets in White Wine Sauce

Place any kind of fish fillets in a fire-proof dish. Sprinkle with salt, some fennel and dill herbs (herbs can be bought in many delicatessen shops), and with some lemon juice. Pour white wine over fillets, to the height of about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Cover dish with lid or aluminium foil and leave in medium hot oven for about 10-15 minutes. In the meantime prepare a white sauce (not with milk)—Maggis mushroom is also very nice made as a sauce. When cooked add 4-5 tablespoons white wine from the liquid in which the fish was braised. Finally, add a pinch of saffron, if you have any (also obtainable from larger delicatessen shops). For serving, crisp some sliced bread golden brown in a frying pan with butter. Place bread in individual plates, pour some sauce over it and place fish on top with rest of sauce over fish.

—NELLY'S KALENDER