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News of the Colony

● AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

The **Santa Claus Picnic** was once again held on Frank Reichmuth's Farm at Henderson on Sunday, 8th December, 1968. Quite a large number of our friends came along with their children to get a "Klaussack". Many thanks to Mr Bachmann for the delicious Bratwurst vom Rost and specially to Frank Reichmuth for the opportunity of having been able to arrange this picnic again on his property.

Opening of Swiss Library in Auckland. This library to be formed for all the members of the various Swiss clubs requires your assistance and help for a good start. We would kindly ask you to send all the books which are no more required to:

Kurt Hirzel,
25a Aramoana Ave., Takapuna, Auckland 9

Further details will be announced at a later date. Thank you for your support!

—U.B.

AUCKLAND SHOOTERS' EVENING

The day started about 6 o'clock in the morning with preparations for our annual (fling) to Auckland; babies bundled off to relatives and we were on our way. A few hours later we were at Frank's farm and with handshakes all around we got down to the business of shooting. With the beautiful medals in the backs of our minds we peered down the barrels and blazed away.

After firing many rounds down the range (some accurate and some not) we all rose triumphant. Then off to the party . . . and what a beauty it was!

With flowing music and selected wines and ales from the corner table the evening burst alive. After some terrific yodelling and alp-horn tunes to soften the hearts of the old Swiss folk, Hans Enzler began presenting the proud winners of the shooting trophies.

A full year of competitions behind, four carabiner and four smallbore events, some seventy medals and twenty spoons were proudly accepted by the marksmen (and markswomen). Also many floating trophies were awarded, not to mention the latest addition donated by the Hamilton shooters.

Then came the best part of the evening. Paul Wuetrich really turned it on again this year with mouth-watering trout, crayfish, oysters, salads, etc. We all want to thank you Paul, everything tasted just superb!

Then back to the dancefloor and finally in the early hours of the morning, foot-sore and tired, we wended our way home. But we will be back in the new year that is for sure!

Thank you once again Auckland shooters.

—Mervyn Pratt, Hamilton.

● HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

On Sunday, 15th December, we held our **Christmas Party**, which was well attended by young and old alike. The feature event of the evening was the Christmas story read and played by children, under the direction of Mrs Fluhler and Mrs Waldvogel. The talent of the young ones was also shown in other items — a ballet dance by Belinda Fluhler, a volks-dance by Odette Waldvogel and songs by Max Muller — enjoyed by everyone.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, Father Christmas, who personally came to distribute presents to all the children. Supper, consisting of hot sausages, coffee and cakes, was very much appreciated.

Sincere thanks of the Club go to all those who helped in any way to make the evening such a success. —T.R.

● WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

On Sunday, 10th November, a **Tramping Rally** (Orientierungs-Spaziergang) for our Juniors was organised. Meeting place was the Railway Station and a train journey to Khandallah provided the first excitement to the youngsters. A short walk led through the Domain, which was to be the starting point. The participants were organised into groups of two children as leaders and the parents were the escorts. Over 20 Swiss flag arrows pointed the way to the little trampers — aged 4 - 12. A few sideway posts had tasks ready, usually to be solved at the next stage.

When the highest point on Mt. Kau Kau was reached, the magnificent view and lack of breath made them almost sit and linger, but luckily by then the full blast of Wellington's winds had started which made us hastily follow the steep track down to a very secluded picnic spot behind Ngaio.

The prize-winners received in true Olympic style a Gold Medal for first (Philip Erb), a Silver Medal for second (Adrian Frick) and a Bronze Medal for third (Bernard Messmer).

A special word of thanks go to Mr Eschmann and his team of helpers. There was a lot of work to prepare and organise this rally and even the beautiful medals were made by Mr Eschmann.

—R.M.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The Community Centre at Brooklyn was the venue for the Christmas Social held on the evening of December 6th, an evening which will long be remembered by those of us who attended. A large Christmas tree added the final touch to attractively-

decorated hall, which emitted a true Christmas atmosphere.

A cocktail hour which began at 7.30 p.m. was followed by a delicious tea, and it wasn't very long before the inviting tempo of the five-piece band, plus vocalist, had many of us up on the floor.

The hours to 1.30 a.m. slipped away very quickly in dancing and talking and all too soon time put an end to what was a most enjoyable and memorable evening. —J.W.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, 8th December, the Wellington Swiss Club held its annual Christmas Party for all the children at the Brooklyn Hall at 6 p.m. To start off the evening some of the children gave items, then when Father Christmas entered the Hall some of the children began to scream with joy.

During the receiving of presents from Father Christmas there was a rather noisy atmosphere and several times Father Christmas had to ask the children to be quiet. Then, before he left all the children gathered around him and sang carols. When he had left, drinks and biscuits were served until 8 o'clock. Everybody enjoyed themselves, especially the children who were very pleased with the presents they had received.

On behalf of all the young Swiss children present, I would like to thank the Committee, sponsors and helpers for the pleasant evening. —H.P.

Hedy's Corner

Harking back to when I was a new New Zealand - Swiss, information about churches in New Zealand lacked the local precision. You too may find it so. I requested the following notes on the main churches here, given to me by an authoritative source.—

Roman Catholic Church: Like the Church in Holland, the Roman Catholic Church in Switzerland is slightly more 'progressive' than its counterpart in N.Z. Nevertheless, the results of Vatican II are making themselves felt throughout the Church here.

Anglican Church: This Church in N.Z. stems from the Church of England and has a very large following. This Church came into being through separation from the Papacy during the reign of Henry VIII. Broadly speaking, for your guidance, it could be termed the Catholic Church without a Pope, and it is almost identical with the Old Catholics in Germany and Holland.

Presbyterian Church: This Church was brought to N.Z. by the early Scottish immigrants. It is Calvinist in Theology. (As the Swiss Zwingli Evangelic-Reformed Church is not represented here, Swiss of this denomination will find the Presbyterian Church