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News of the Colony

Hamilton Swiss Club

Our members who helped with the broadcasting of 'Swiss Christmas' have received a very gratifying letter from the N.Z. Broadcasting Corporation. It states that Wellington Headquarters wish us to know that they were very pleased with our contribution and the local Station added that the careful preparation of our programme had proved very worthwhile. —H.B.

Our Christmas party, held on Sunday, December 14th in the Eureka Hall, proved a great success for young and old. The tables were suitably decorated and of course a large glittering Christmas tree held pride of place. Father Christmas walked up and down between the rows of tables, talking to the youngsters. In due course he invited the children to come to him at the foot of the stage and receive a gift from his near-inexhaustible large sack; some 150 boys and girls from babyhood onward returned to their parents well satisfied with their gifts.

Adults were invited to join in with a group of children, singing well-known English carols. A teenage boy entertained us with songs, accompanying himself on a guitar — quite an expert performance.

The highlight of the Christmas programme was the 'live' repetition of our share in the N.Z.B.C.'s broadcast, "Christmas in Many Lands". It was a well-balanced presentation of unison, solo and four-part singing, interspersed with small children each reciting a short Christmas verse, nativity chapter reading from the German Bible, and church bells.

After all these treats for the ears, an equally fine treat for the appetite concluded this evening of goodwill. —H.B.

Wellington Swiss Club

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This year the Christmas Party was insofar something very special, as it fell on December 6th, the "Chlausertag". The members too, found something very special:

In the afternoon, the children were greeted by Father Christmas. It was very nice to see how many of the children contributed to the celebration with a song, a verse or a play or an item on an instrument. Like always, they were spoiled by the Swiss Father Christmas with gifts and a bag of nuts and fruit. There was even

a large basket full of "Bänze" — those nice, soft Bread-Men — of which every child received one too.

In the evening, after having put the children to bed, we met again for a happy time. All had to bring a Christmas Parcel, which was put into a bag. Later, to everyone's surprise, Father Christmas came for the adults. We realised that we too had been naughty at times. Fortunately we all are too big to be put into the bag and taken away, but, you never know all the same . . . Santa Claus distributed the parcels, in which we all found a little surprise. Later we danced, ate "Bänze" and enjoyed ourselves a great deal. But Father Christmas had to go back to Switzerland — to be on time for the "Chlausertag" over there. —M.H.

Forthcoming Events

Auckland Swiss Club

Picnic.—To be held at the Swiss Club Farm. 14th February (afternoon): Preparing for Picnic, cards and tramping, etc. 15th February: Main Picnic Day. Visitors welcome.

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Hamilton Swiss Club Picnic and Society Shooting Competition will be held on Sunday, 22nd February, at the usual place in Ngaruawahia.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

Picnic: Te Ngutu Park, Okaiawa, Sunday, 8th February. Friends and visitors from other Clubs especially welcome. —R.W.

My Name Is . . .

The Society's Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs Messmer, has received a Subscription from Kaponga for \$2.00 with no name or address attached. Date: 9th October, 1969