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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND IN AUCKLAND

To travel from Wellington to Auckland for the AGM is quite an undertaking. This year, we (Andre Schleicher, Hans and Paul Scherrer, Joe Hangartner and I) decided to join the Taranaki Club for the bus trip. This made good economic sense, but what really swayed us was the rumour that the Taranaki-ites knew how to enjoy themselves on such trips. And how right that rumour was!

To start with, there was the singing with just about everybody having a go, accompanied on the accordion by Marianne Benkert. There was some wine tasting, the telling of the odd joke, a couple of parlour games. All good clean fun! On the way up we stopped at Rainbow's End, a kind of New Zealand Disneyland, and on the way back at the Auckland Aquarium. The planned visit to the Museum of Technology could not take place because it only opens at 10 am, on holidays - be warned. This was too late for our tight timetable.

Between arrival and departure we were excellently fed by our Taranaki friends, taken by them to Hess' place for Saturday night's entertainment where the guests soon gravitated to their own level; the bowlers to the basement, the card players to the first floor, table football enthusiasts and general ravers stayed on the ground floor as did the square eyed brigade who watched the video of the Jodlerfest in Brig.

Sunday morning saw us re-assemble at the same place to witness the Cowbell Competition. And what a cliffhanger that turned out to be! Hamilton won the Steinstossen and the Jassen, Taranaki the Shooting and the Kegeln. To get a result, the four best bowlers of each team battled it out on the bowling alley. Taranaki won with the very last ball bowled. Congratulations to both teams, they were both splendid.

The president of the Auckland Club, Mrs M. T. Melville-Schoepfer, and her committee did an excellent job organising the venue for the AGM and the evening's entertainment. The buffet dinner was delicious and the Yodel Group (including the Alphornblaser) were quite superb. After watching the video of their performance in Brig the night before, to hear them "live" was a real thrill. Many thanks to them, the committee of the Auckland Club, the people who put us up for three nights, and the Taranaki Club (especially the Benkert family) for providing not only transport but genuine conviviality.

Lotti Napp.

Forthcoming Events

Hamilton: August 6 - National Day Celebration at 8.00 pm, Eureka Hall, Swiss Laendler music (Jay Es Band).

Wellington: July 30 - National Day Celebration.

August 20 - Fritz Adams Cup (Jassen).

September 10 - Fondue Evening.

Vercorin, which was a commune in its own right up to the 17th century but today belongs to Chalais in the Rhone Valley, has many buildings of historical interest. Close to the "Chateau", which was built in 1777 and has belonged to the de Chastonay family for over a hundred years, stands the Baroque private chapel of St. Louis, of almost the same age, with a porch supported by Tuscan columns (our picture).