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AUCKLAND

The Farmers Parade this year drew a crowd of around 200,000. It made us feel pretty proud to take part and represent Switzerland by showing our beautiful Trachten, Sennechuteli, Flags big and small, "Barri" (Vreni Hess), Cowbell and especially our youngest members who literally danced all the way down Queen Street. Both Guggenmusik Bands joined in too and played to the crowds delight, who probably appreciated the change of tune. After we finished, Remi Zibung had the great idea to invite us ALL to the Pan Pacific for afternoon tea. We bet he was quite surprised to see the Guggenmusik turn up still fancy dressed and playing a tune of thanks in the hotel's cafe.

Not as many people as last year turned up to this year's Working Beeeee ... But the ones who turned up did their best. Cleaning the hut, cutting and burning gorse, chopping wood, fixing drains, building a wonderful fence around the shooting hut etc. made us very hungry which in turn kept Presi Chris very busy catering. The cuisine Swiss or maybe the after dinner drinks inspired some to sleep like Willi's chain saw. Because it was quite hot some felt like needing a hair cut ... and believe it or not an open air Hair Saloon got established too. But nevertheless we all had a good time up there. Go and see for yourselves. Now you can again go for a nice gorse free walk right to the Ruetli, the very end of the farm. Many thanks to all you "Slaves" who made it all happen.

Our last event on December 9, 1990, the Samichlaus party on that warm and slightly cloudy Sunday has sur-

prised us very much. About a hundred kids from very small to school age turned up with their parents. We did not count but there must have been well over two hundred people all together. A lot of new faces were among them and we hope to see them all again. There were plenty of drinks and the food was just enough to feed the unexpected number of Samichlaus fans but everybody appeared to be very happy. A lot of people who haven't been up to the Farm for a while were quite astonished to see all the small and big changes up there. Not to mention any names but there are a few "Hainzelmannchen" who voluntarily spend many hours up there in order to improve the Farm. All of a sudden, just before two o'clock a noise in the sky caught the folks' attention. A helicopter approached the farm and ended up hovering above the curious eyes. Old Samichlaus dressed in red and holding his white beard in the windy height was leaning out of the plane waving to the kids and us. Just before landing in the grass he surprised the young ones with a real lolly scramble from the chopper. A flying donkey ... what a way to come up the farm for our Samichlaus!! He received a big welcome by the young Dance Group. Nearly all the kids ended up sitting around Chlaus patiently waiting until he called them by their names. It surely was a big job for the well dressed Chlaus on a hot summer day! For the many years of service we would like to thank him very much in the hope that he will find us again in the next years. It was a wonderful day full of surprises. Thanks folks, keep it up that way.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

It looks as if the fondue of the Hamilton Swiss Club has become a crowd drawer. Around one hundred and forty people turned up on October 6 in anticipation of a happy and enjoyable evening, and I am sure nobody went home disappointed. The Jay-Es Band tried to bring the people on to the dance floor but the Swiss need first a bit of encouragement until they swing their legs.

Our Ambassador Dr. von Schenck was only too pleased to give out the medals to our sports champions. There was quite a surprise when our distinguished guest presented Henry Guisan medals to A. Imlig, W. Unternahrer and W. Zuber.

The fondue was excellent, the homemade bread and baking delicious. Those who didn't dance had a good chat with their friends, while enjoying the music. It was only too quick time to go home. A big thank you to the busy bees, who left us all in a cheerful mood.

Forthcoming Events:

February 23/24 1991: Sports competition and Annual Picnic at Villiger's farm in Kiwitahi. Members and friends all most welcome.

E. RUFER.