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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SOCIAL PART in celebration of the 700th Birthday of Switzerland.

We have booked the venue including the buffet dinner and a band. We hope that you will ALL come. Costs will be kept low, round about 20 dollars per head.

If you have one - wear your Swiss costume - and bring your musical instrument - we rely on our compatriots to supply the 'Swiss' content of the entertainment.

Please book with your Club President or with the President of the Wellington Swiss Club.

## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS      AUCKLAND — PICNIC 1991

The Sunday started pretty normal. A little overcast, reasonably cool and many birds chirping their morning songs. It's about 9.00 am up at our Farm in Kaukapakapa. The helpers, the food, the drinks, slowly turn up and things start to take shape so when you turn up everything will be ready. But all of a sudden the grey clouds lost their height and started pouring down the water, we and some farmers desperately needed for weeks. But why today! The close to 20 helpers all ended up inside the hut where a discussion started what to do with all that food if nobody turns up in this horrible rain. It did look very grim outside but still was very good fun and we all sort of accepted this fact of life caused by Mother Nature. But what's that? Car noise!? It sounds like. We nearly missed that the clouds have slowly disappeared up in the sky looking, rather than pouring down on us and you folks started arriving. We stopped counting after a short while but guessers estimated somewhere between 200 and 300 young and older ones turned up.

You surely changed our day and kept us busy alright. People from as far as Switzerland, USA and Christchurch were among the crowd. Welcome to: Ruth Buchman, Lilliane Stocker, Trudy Fehlman, Mimi and Max Ruedi, Hans Preisig, Maja Heiniger's mother - from Switzerland; Franz Werner and that young lady who especially came down from the Maugaturoto - from the USA; Walter Dale and Ernst Gubsa - from Christchurch; and the many more who remain unmentioned.

The day was full of expected and unexpected activities. Apart from all the games and competitions we and some young members organised we also had surprise shows. The Children's Dance Group, the Guggenmusik and the Bandomonium gave us unexpected shows. Osci Roggen suddenly appeared with his Alphorn and Buechel as well as Walter Mueller the famous New Zealand resident Basler Drummer. Thanks a lot folks for making that tremendous effort to come up with all your dresses, instruments, masks, costumes, etc. to entertain us in such a tremendous way.

The Kids Competition had about 50 entries and was won by: Justin Shields 1, Thomas Pfenniger 2 and Melissa Hochuli 3.

120 rounds were fired at Foerster's shooting range for the Picnic Shooting Cup. The happy winners were: Hans Fitzi 30 pts 1, Marcel Ruedi 29 pts 2, Remi Zibung 29 pts 3. Untold numbers of people tried their luck with Kegeln for the EZIO Cup. The happy winner in this competition is Emil Tellenbach.

There were many more lucky winners especially with the Lucky Wheel raffles but we think that all of you who dared to drive through that rain and came up there had a good time. Thanks for coming and even more thanks to all the ones who spent their time helping us to make that day an unforgettable success.

## DUNEDIN

Yes, although you don't hear from us much, we do have a few get togethers during the year.

August 1 - We all had a most enjoyable evening at the home of Ross and Brigitte Hudson. About 35 people attended including the Swiss Charge d'Affaires and his wife, Mr and Mrs Rudolf Gauhl. A highlight of the evening was a performance on the Alphorn by Eddie Walthert.

St Nicholas Day was celebrated by 16 children and their families at the home of Alan and Susanna Hanson. The children had a wonderful time and St Nicholas appeared himself, bearing gifts, he said, "all the way from Switzerland."

A family picnic day was held on February 24 at Warrington Beach, organised by Elisabeth Haggie. The pleasant weather attracted 19 adults and 12 children, and with the Swiss flag flying overhead and traditional Swiss music playing, a lovely time was had by all.

ANNABEL WHINAM-GFELLER

## HAMILTON

Picnic — A slight cool wind greeted us first around 11 am for the start of our picnic day. But this changed fairly soon to a lovely warm and sunny afternoon. Children, parents, grandparents and friends arrived in anticipation to enjoy a good bratwurst or servela barbequed by our always smiling cook, Walter Zuber. The kegeln was as popular as ever. This year it was a young lady, La Verne Bosch who showed everyone how it was done. She scored the highest points of 26, won the overall cup and the ladies teapot. Herbert Staheli was second and Kasper Kopp third. Both won a bottle of whisky which had been donated to the club by our Ambassador Dr Von Schenck. The children were also catered for and kept busy with games and a lolly scramble. Coffee and cakes sold well to our customers and were enjoyed tremendously. Many thanks to all the good people who helped in any way towards the success of the day. Auf Wiedersehen, nachstes Jahr!

### Forthcoming Events:

1990 Special Medals Day Out - A midday walk around the Hamilton Lake to commemorate 700 years independence by Switzerland. Special medals will be on sale at \$5 for club members and \$15 for non club members. Family and friends are invited to join the club on Sunday, April 7 at Innes Common playground. We will start the walk at 11 am and afterwards have a shared barbecue lunch. The club will provide barbecue facilities for members to use. We hope as many of our members as possible will attend.

Hamilton AGM - Saturday, April 27, 8 pm, Swiss Craft premises, Frankton.

Card Evenings - May 11, Putaruru (plus medal competition); May 25, Eureka Hall (plus medal competition); June 8, Putaruru; June 22, Eureka; July 6, Putaruru; July 20, Eureka First of August celebration, August 3, 8 pm, Eureka Hall.

E. RUFER.

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## WELLINGTON

Visit to Wellington of the GROUPE FOLKLORIQUE FRIBOURGEOIS.

This talented group of amateur singers, dancers and instrumentalists visited Wellington as part of a cultural exchange. A Maori group from Wainuiomata will travel to Fribourg later in the year. The performers were billeted with Swiss and Maori people. They gave two evening performances, one at the Teachers Training College Hall in Karori and one at the Mungavin Community Hall in Porirua. Both functions were well attended and very much enjoyed. Maori and Pacific Island groups also entertained at both venues and their exuberant style contrasted nicely with the more stately ways of our compatriots.

What a terrific way of celebrating the 700th Birthday of Switzerland.

Forthcoming Events:

April 13, AGM.

May 4, Swiss Society Jass Competition.

## OBITUARY

Mary Hiestand, wife of Joe of Oeo Road, Awatuna, passed away on December 26th, 1990. Joe and Mary were married for over 51 years and the marriage was blessed with 10 children. Over the years Mary's life centred around her family, home and garden of which she was very proud. In later years she spent many hours knitting soft toys for her grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

To Joe and his family we offer our sympathy.

LK.



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