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their tour was a 2 day stay with Swiss families in Taranaki. The visitors were shown 2 farms in our area and later saw the big rotary shed (62 cows) in action. On the second evening we arranged a pot-luck tea in the Clubhouse. The spread was magnificent and well enjoyed by guests and hosts alike. After a few short speeches and an item from the Alphorn, Peter and Zeno played "ländliche" dance music which even tempted some of the older ones onto the dance floor. Too soon the leader of the group called for an end of the merry-making and with a lovely Polonaise we finished the evening. The next morning we sent our new found friends on their way. We enjoyed their stay and we hope they will keep a fond memory of the Swiss in Taranaki. V.K.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Father Christmas could have been forgiven to think he was back at the Southpole and not in sunny Kaponga. But at least he didn't feel so uncomfortably hot in his red robe. About 30 children waited at the Clubhouse to greet Father Christmas. Under a beautifully decorated Christmas-tree he handed out all the presents and a few lollies and then went back to the Pole. We hope to see him again next year. After the children had their ice-cream it was time for a nice cuppa for the parents.

**CHRISTMAS SHOOT:** The weather was a lot better the next day and 50 people turned out to try their skill at Kegeln or shooting. 26 played skittles, 24 went shooting. After a lovely pot-luck lunch which was enjoyed by everyone, Walter Seifert read out the winner of the two previous shooting competitions. The Trudy Ott Belt was won by Rachel Kull and the Ted Näpflin Shield was also won by Rachel Kull. Then came the prize-giving for the Christams Shoot. The shooting was won by L. Nolly and the skiddles by Zeno Hospenthal and Leo Auf der Maur. Paul Suter won the mystery prize and John Hermann walked away with the Booby-prize. 118

## WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

**XMAS PARTY REVIEW:** The Christmas Party of 5 December 1992 in our Clubhouse was attended by more than 60 members and friends. While enjoying a glass or two of Sangria or fruit juice, people socialised and caught up with old friends. In the background Karl SIGNER arranged the beautiful buffet. It looked so lovely nobody wanted to destroy the nice picture. Our president, Roland SCHUETZ, had to ask the people and he also organised the sequence or tables for accessing the short queue. Everybody enjoyed the presented variety and there was also plenty of food for seconds. Many thanks to Karl for all the efforts and also to Roland for supporting him. Together with the Swiss Choir we sang a few Christmas carols. Thanks to your support we were

able to collect \$150 for the St. John's free Ambulance Service. Many thanks also to all the willing helpers for tidying up in the kitchen. The committee is always grateful and appreciates every pair of hands. Have a good holiday break and we will see you again in 1993. WH

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** On Sunday afternoon, 6 December, the families and children celebrated Christams at the Clubhouse. Everybody joined in with singing carols. Aunty Ursula read a story, the candles on the tree were burning, the right atmosphere for Father Christmas to arrive. Most children knew a verse or a song for Father Christmas. In return they all received a gift. You should have seen the sparkling eyes and the happy faces. A lovely afternoon tea spread, contributed by everybody, was enjoyed and a friendly gathering came to an end.

## REMINDER

Please keep the following dates free:

**31 January 1993:** Society Competition Shooting, 1pm at Hans Scherrer's place, Whiteman's Valley Road, Upper Hutt.

**4 February 1993:** Jodelclub Bärgglöggli, 7.30pm at the Little Theatre, Lower Hutt.

**13 February 1993:** Practise Kegel and Jass, 7.30pm meet at the Clubhouse. Please bring a plate for supper.

**14 February 1993:** Society Competition Shooting, 1pm at Hans Scherrer's place, Whiteman's Valley Road, Upper Hutt.

## OBITUARY

Unexpectedly and suddenly we were saddened to learn of the passing of **ERNST JOSEF KELLER** of Porirua in his 48th year. Ernst immigrated to New Zealand in 1967 and married 2 years later. The couple was blessed with six children, four sons and two daughters. Having spent 1991 in Switzerland with his family, a long dream of his became reality. Beginning of this year the whole family returned and settled again in their home. The Requiem Mass was celebrated on 27 November at the Holy Family Catholic Church, Porirua. The large church was filled with his many friends and Swiss compatriots. Ernst was an active member of the Swiss Club "Chörlin" and was a real pillar with his beautiful strong voice. Before departing from church, the "Chörlin" sang the Swiss Anthem. We shall always remember Ernst as a happy, kind and helpful friend. To Marie-Rose and her children, we convey our deepest sympathy.

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## COUNTRY MUSIC

Many Swiss people have a special love for country music. This is not surprising when you consider that the Swiss Alpine folk music and its yodeling played an important part in the early Western and Cowboy music of the USA. Apart from the USA, Switzerland stages the largest number of country music festivals in the world. The similarities between the sound of a country and western band and a "Ländlerkapelle" are quite evident. So it seems logical that as long as the Swiss continue to favour their own folk music, country music will also remain popular in Switzerland.

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