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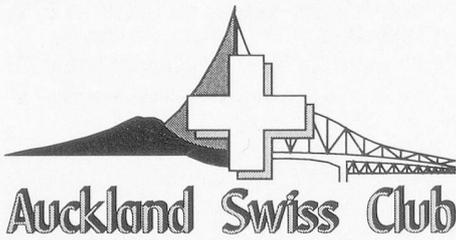
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# New Zealand's Swiss Club News



Auckland  
Christchurch  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington



Im Novämber, im Novämber  
da dänkt mer z'rug an Sep-  
tämber!!

Theorie ist, wenn man alles weiss  
und nichts klappt.

Praxis ist, wenn alles funktioniert  
und keiner weiss warum.

Bei uns im Schweizer Club sind  
Theorie und Praxis vereinigt, nichts  
klappt und keiner weiss warum!

*The Sommer is just around the corner  
and we bet you are ready to make the best  
of it.*

*A women wanted to visit her family in  
Switzerland the first time after 30 years so  
she rang Henry, our travel agent. "How  
long will it take to fly to Switzerland?" she  
asked. "Just a minute," Henry said, and  
went went to consult the timetables. "Thank  
you," said the woman, and hang up.*

### JASSABIG, 17 SEPTEMBER 1993

Many thanks to **Simi Hartmann** who do-  
nated the first & second prize. And would you  
believe it... he won the first price him self - a  
fourquarter of a deer, but he let it go to the  
second prize winner, **Toni Manser**. Third  
was **Hans Iten** and won a packet of venison  
steaks. The spot price went to **Antoinette  
Nelson** - a packet of Sauerkraut made by  
Hans Iten (*by the way you can buy it for \$4/  
kg*). Unfortunately by checking the records  
next day we found out that the third round did  
not match the total sum and discovered that  
Hilda Iten short changed herself by 90 points.  
It was just negligent writing. Instead of 600 it  
should have read 690 points which takes her  
ahead of Simi Hartmann by 4 points. Regard-  
less, Simi was declared champion of the day  
and it can not be changed any more. Hilda  
was very annoyed with her self that she has  
missed that first prize.

The score listis: 1. **Hilda Iten 3368**, 2.  
**Simi Hartmann 3364**, 3. **Tony Manser  
3342**, 4. **Hans Iten 3327**, 5. **Toni Mathys  
3199**, 6. **Oscar Roggen 3072**, 7. **Julia  
Moors-Roth 2979**, 8. **Antoinette Nelson  
2957**, 9. **Ruth Wallimann 2899**, 10. **Köbi  
Glaser 2873**

### FINAL JASSABIG, 15 OCT. 1993

Quite a crowd turned up for the final  
Jassabig this year full of curiosity who will win  
the "Schüpbach Jasscup".

The score list for this evening is as  
follows: 1. **Elisabeth Meyer 3653**, 2. **Simi  
Hartmann 3503**, 3. **Toni Manser 3392**, 4.  
**Oscar Roggen 3309**, 5. **Julia Moors-Roth  
3297**, 6. **Marie-Theres Melville-Schöpfer  
3268**, 7. **Kurt Leutenegger 3184**, 8. **Hans  
Iten 3181**, 9. **Sid Melville 3153**, 10. **Monika  
Eggenschwiler 3130**, 11. **D. Leutenegger  
3035**, 12. **Hanna Manser 2984**, 13. **Peter  
Eggenschwiler**, 14. **Ruth Wallimann 2869**,  
15. **Hilda Iten 2642**, 16. **Doris Binder 2521**

The overall score list and the  
cup winner is:

1. **Toni Manser 13'513**
2. **Simi Hartmann 13'258**
3. **Hans Iten 13'151**
4. **Hilda Iten 12'907**
5. **Toni Mathys 12'571**

This is it folks. Once  
more many thanks to **Peter Schüpbach** the  
cup donor, all the generous sponsors of the  
prizes and most to **Osci** for letting us use his  
"Gasthof Prost Ethnic". See you all again at  
our next years Jassabige. **Hans Iten**



### LOST & FOUND

On the 1. August party at 'De Vines'  
in Henderson **Thomas Pfenniger**  
found a nice brooch. Nowbody has  
claimed it yet. If it is yours or you know  
the unhappy loser ring **Thomas** on  
09/420-8517 so he can give it back.

### WORKING BEE 1993

Welcome to our yearly Working Bee  
on **27/28 November  
1993**. Nun langsam  
aber sicher wird der  
Boden wieder trocken  
und bis zum Working  
Bee sollte unser "Äpli"  
in Kaukapakapa O.K. sein. Folgende  
Arbeiten sind geplant:

**Unterhalt und ausbessern der  
Hütte. Weiter arbeiten an den Bunks  
im Schützenhaus. Allgemeine Unter-  
haltungsarbeiten rund um die Hütte.  
Gute Wochenendstimmung kreieren.**

Bitte bringt allgemeine Handytools und  
gute Laune. Gemeinsam gehts besser,  
schneller und leichter. B.Y.O. Food - Drinks  
are available. Auf ein baldiges Wieder-  
sehen auf unserem Äpli.

**Markus Bühler & Farm Trustee Team**

### SAMICHLAUS PICNIC

On Sunday, 5 December at our "Äpli  
Farm" in Kaukapakapa it is **Samichlaus**  
time again. We bet  
your kids can hardly  
wait to tell him how  
well behaved they  
were throughout the  
year. Starting time  
will be around 10-  
11am. The **Sami-  
chlaus** will appear  
shortly after Lunch,  
sun or rain, he told us! Food, drinks, cafe  
and cakes will be provided for you at a  
reasonable cost. All you need to bring is a  
good mood. Each Auckland Helvetia  
should have a **Samichlaus** form enclosed  
to take along filled in with your kids names,  
age, praises, etc. This way **Samichlaus**  
can call each kid by the name. Just make  
copies if you need more then one.

(P.S. To all the early arrivals... please park  
your car sensibly up on the main car park  
or down in the flying fox paddock.)



### DATES

- 06 Nov. **Fondue Abig**  
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 27 Nov. **Working Bee Stage 1**  
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 28 Nov. **Working Bee Stage 2**  
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 05 Dec. **Samichlaus**  
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 31 Dec. **New Years Ball with  
Guggemusik** at de Vines,  
130 Lincoln Rd. Henderson
- 06 Feb. **Picnic**  
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

Bundesamt für Industrie, Gewerbe und Arbeit  
To whom it may concern

### TRAINEE EXCHANGE SWITZERLAND - NEW ZEALAND

The arrangement in regard to the exchange of  
trainees between Switzerland and New Zealand  
show a successful result for the initial years of their  
existence.

Due to the considerable unemployment in  
New Zealand, the relative immigration authorities  
could in many instances no longer grant temporary  
labor permits to foreign nationals for improving  
linguistic knowledge and professional skill. Through  
the aforementioned arrangement, a limited yearly  
quota may be provided with a labor permit for 1  
year (or 18 months notwithstanding the situation  
on the labor market.

The trainees shall not be over 30 years of age  
and shall have successfully terminated their stud-  
ies or apprenticeship. Workable knowledge of the  
language spoken in the host country is also re-  
quired. Remuneration shall amount to normal  
current rates as they prevail in the profession and  
area.

The arrangements are on reciprocal basis i.e.  
the same yearly number of New Zealand nationals  
will be granted a labour permit in Switzerland. It is,  
however, not up to the individual trainee to secure  
a position for a trainee of the partner state since  
this is done by the authorities operating the ex-  
change.

If possible, the prospective trainee should  
provide a letter of employment by his own initiative  
through private or professional channels, since  
the operating authorities have limited means to  
assist in tracing vacancies.

**FEDERAL OFFICE FOR INDUSTRY AND LABOR**  
Emigration and Trainee Exchange Section

Dear Sirs

we are two students majoring in Business Information Systems. Both of us will finish our studies this coming December with a Master's degree from the University of Zürich, Switzerland.

In order to broaden our professional as well as our cultural horizon we have the intention to work and live in your country for one year, starting about February 1994. An exchange of this sort is made possible through an agreement between New Zealand and Switzerland. For this reason, obtaining a work permit is no problem, provided one can procure an offer of employment.

Since the two of us have working experience abroad, we have learned the lesson that one gets to know much more about a country and its people by working there than just by visiting the sights as a tourist. Moreover, we are convinced that the chance to work for your company would be beneficial for both you and us, since we can offer a wide range of knowledge based on a sound education.

A brief survey of our study subjects should give you a general impression:

In the first three semesters, lectures about statistics, mathematics, programming, accounting, economics, business management, and law, prepare the students for advanced studies. In the subsequent seven semesters the students turn to specific academic fields and study them thoroughly. We decided to take the following classes:

**Computer Science: Computer architecture, operating systems, software engineering, algorithms and data structures, advanced programming, database systems implementation of database systems, non standard database systems, information systems, project management, project organization, computer graphics, language and sound processing.**

**Business Administration: Financial and cost accounting (several levels), corporate finance, investment theory, marketing, organization theory, management, industrial and trade management.**

**Operations Research: Linear programming, non linear programming.**

Besides, we had to write several papers and deliver various speeches.

Of course, many of the lectures mentioned above are divided into several components.

As you can see, our studies focused on computer science as well as business administration. As a result of this, we are looking for a situation in either of these fields, or in a combination of both.

Due to an agreement between Switzerland and New Zealand, we shall be granted to get a 12 month exchange visa, extensible to 18 months. Thus, we would like to emphasize that normal work permit conditions concerning economic situation and labor market do not apply. Please find enclosed a copy of a circular letter issued by the Swiss Federal Office for Industry and Labor describing the agreement in short.

We are well aware that you might have an open job opportunity for one person only. Of course, we do not expect your company to hire both of us.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and remain

faithfully yours, **Beat Attinger & Peter Büchi**

c/ Peter Büchi, Schlossberg, 8608 Bubikon Switzerland. **Phone: 0041-55-381618**  
**Fax: 0041-42-210787**

## CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

**WELCOME... ..to another edition of "News and Views" of your Christchurch Swiss Club!** I am sorry to say, that I haven't received **ANY** contributions from anybody out there. Is it really true that you haven't got anything to say - no news from the old home country, a poem, a song, a story, maybe something that happened at a recent Swiss Club outing, etc., etc.??! Or are we all just simply too busy?

I would really love to receive your contributions, or even just comments, suggestions, or whatever, for future inclusion in this magazine!

Please contact your Secretary of the Chch Swiss Club, **Jürg Hönger, 58 Hackthorne Rd, Chch 2, Ph. (03) 3326 211** Thank you and happy reading!

### PROGRAMME

Here is an update of the exciting events planned for the coming months. We would love to see you all joining in - the ones who do usually enjoy themselves very much.

**Sunday, 5 Dec. 93 Samichlaus Feier,** from 2 pm (Samichlaus at 3 pm), again at Othmar and Noeline Kenel's place, Sutherlands Rd, Christchurch. The year is fast coming to a close, with the festive season soon upon us again, including hopefully some warm and pleasant summer days. One such lovely, and festive day is to be had for all on this traditional SAMICHLAUS FEIER. So come along. As in previous years we will be having a barbeque, with some of the drinks provided by your club (softdrinks, and some wine and beer). We need another one or two barbeques, so if you can, please bring yours along. Also please provide your own meats, fish or whatever you fancy to barbeque, and a salad or two to share. Don't forget your own picnic gear/utensils, drinks, coffee or tea, and some Christmas Gützelis to share. Extra hot water will again be available. Father Christmas will be arriving around 4pm, and will have a small present for all the children under eleven. Please ring me and enroll your children before Tuesday, 30 November. Phone (03) 3326 211 - if we aren't home, please leave the names of your children on our answer phone (Shirley's voice will sound).

"DER SAMICHLAUS LUEQT Z'FRIEDE DRY,  
WIE SETT'S OU ANDERSCH SY.

DIE SCHÖNSCHTI CHUTTE LEIT ER A  
MIT GLÄNZIG WYSSE PELZLI DRA.

ER STAMPLET QMÜETLIG DUR E SCHNEE.  
DÖRT STOHT ES HÄSLI, DÖRT ES REH.

UND'S BÄCHLI SPRINGT SO SCHNÄLL ASS MAH  
I ÜSEM CHLAUS VORA.

SCHNEEFLOCKLI DROHLE WEICH UND ZART  
GANZ LYSLI, LYS I CHLAUSEBART...

DIE ERSCHTE HÜUSER SY NÜMM WYT,  
S'ISCH CHLAUSETAG, DU LIEBI ZYT!"

BEAT JÄGGI



### !! WANTED !!

At last year's Samichlaus Feier two **Saw-Horses** suddenly sprang into live and mysteriously disappeared from Noeline and Othmar's property. Should you happen to know of their whereabouts, please gently encourage them to return to their rightful home, maybe at this year's Samichlaus Barbeque, or simply contact Othmar, phone (03) 3266 277, and he will fetch them for you.

**! No Questions Asked !**

**Sunday, 6 Feb. 94 Ride and Picnic on the TUHOE;** she's a restored, lovely old boat, that travels through Kaiapoi on the rivers Cam and Waimakariri. We will meet at the wharf in Kaiapoi at 11 am. The sailing trip takes approx. 1.5 hours, and costs \$8 per adult (\$4 for school age children). Bring your own Picnic. We are currently thinking of staying on in the saloon of the boat after the trip, for a chat, a drink, maybe some (Swiss?) music & dancing, or whatever. Interested? For details watch this spot in the HELVETIA editions closer to the time of the trip.

### Monday, 2 May ChCh Swiss Club AGM

There are still some activities in the pipeline, i.e. have not been confirmed as yet:

**Date to be advised Group Booking at a Christchurch Theatre**

**Ditto A Trip to Arthur's Pass, or Peel Forest**

**Ditto The Film 'Männer im Ring'**

Again, should you want to organise any of them (or any others for that matter), please get in contact with myself.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Samichlaus Barbeque, or at any of the other events coming up! Please mark your diary or calendar right now - remember we will NOT ring you anymore as a reminder (as we used to do in the past).

### CLUB RESOURCES

Your club's secretary is in the process of compiling a list of our resource materials, like books, cassettes, videos, records, CD's, flags, kitchen utensils, or whatever. Can you please inform me a.s.a.p. of any materials you may have, which either belong to the club, or that you are willing to donate. Of course you are welcome to hang onto whatever you have. We would simply like to set up a library/loan system, with which we know who has what, so that anybody interested in a particular item has at least a chance to locate and borrow it.

### CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Our club is regularly being approached by various organisations, inviting us to contribute and take part in cultural activities, in and around Christchurch. Examples lately have included yodeling, traditional costume displays, market stalls, traditional dances, flower festivals, etc. Should you be interested in taking part, or help organising such events, please get in contact with the secretary. It's a crying shame about the number of opportunities we currently simply miss out on!

### GREETINGS FROM 'HOME'

We have had the pleasure of receiving very detailed, interesting and funny 'reports' from Odermatt's (Rita & Heinz, and children Nicole, Fabian and Tania) recently. Remember Odermatt's? Yes, of course, they went back to Switzerland last year, after years of living here in Christchurch (and making many good friends!). Judging by the style, and contents of their diary-like letters, they really love "life, work and play" back in their old home country! I couldn't help but smile when reading of their "Kiwi-Weekend" they attended, together with another 240 people (!) up in 'Rosenlauri' (Berner Oberland), complete with a Hangi. Rita writes: "Yes, you have read properly. We belong to the Kiwi Club now. And together with Sally's family and Hanspeter Weber (he flattered with us in Christchurch for two years), we enrolled for that weekend. The committee with two maori ladies in original maori costumes sang maori songs, and the other older maori lady even performed a lovely poi-dance. The Hangi with chicken, NZ lamb, onions, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, pumpkin, turnip, and mint sauce, was superb. The dessert too, fresh fruit salad and ice-cream, coffee, tea and many cakes was

delicious. One even was in the form of the North- and South Islands, with shells, kiwis and seals made of chocolate. Beautiful. One had the chance to buy NZ honey and T-shirts..." Just imagine, all this Kiwi-mania high up in the Swiss mountains!! Anyway, the Oederstatt's send all their love and best wishes to all their "dear friends from far away". They very much hope that "we are all fit and well" and "don't mind if they get a long letter from any of us to read!".

Their address in Switzerland is: **Rita & Heinz Oederstatt, Seebacherstrasse 171, CH-8052 Zürich-Seebach, Switzerland**, should you feel like writing to them.

Kind regards,

*Jürg Höniger (Secretary for the Chcb Swiss Club)*

## HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**Gemütlicher Abend: Saturday 20th November, 8 pm.** Swiss Craft Premises, Frankton. Social Get-together for the end of the year. An evening of cards, music, bowling or just a friendly chat. Supper will be provided.

**Picnic and Sports Competition:** Sports competition (shooting) **Sat. 26th. Feb. 1994.**

**Picnic and Sports Competition:** (bowling, shot put) **Sun. 27th. Feb. 1994.** Venue: Villigers Farm, KIWITAHİ.

### Fondue Evening

Our popular fondue evening which a number of Hamilton Members would not miss was held in the Eureka Hall on the **18th. September 1993**. An extra enticement for the members was the presentation of a large number of medals. For example, Peter Rust earned himself a triple medal while others like Wiletta Stäheli and her school aged son Peter earned their first medal this year - well done to all those who gained a medal! Over 100 members and friends enjoyed an evening of good music from the Jay Es Band. Thanks goes to the cooks of the fondue which was served with homemade bread and Aufschnitt. A cup of tea or coffee with Swiss baking including Fasnachtschüechli made by Doris Worth and Helen Stäheli were simply delicious. We hope to see all our members at the forthcoming picnic showing their enthusiasm in competing for the medals. **E.C.**

### ETHNIC FESTIVAL AT THE ART MUSEUM, 18 SEPTEMBER

As this invitation clashed with our ever pleasant "Fondue evening", the President asked some Swiss "Grey Power" Ladies to the rescue. At our stall, we had one table with a colourful display of small traditional Swiss items such as Fondue sets, Boccolinos, Trachten Dolls, Cowbells, Flags, Swiss balloons, etc. On the other table we had self-produced Chräbbeli, Mailänderli, Schenkeli, Leckerli, Nidelzältli, etc. for people to try and to buy. By lunchtime all these delicious Guetzli and Gugelhöpfer were sold and so would have been all the display items, yet for us the sentimental value was too high to put a price on these. A big thank-you goes to Sepp and his willing hands and feet for erecting the stall and to Helen, Marty, Lina, Therese and Ruth for all the baking and smiling behind the tables. Well done young Oldies! **R.E.W.**

### JAKOB VON HOLZEN

**Jakob von Holzen**, who died on August 30 of this year at the age of 94 was one of the earlier immigrants to New Zealand. Herewith the copy of the eulogy read at his funeral at St. Josephs Church in Te Aroha.

Jack von Holzen was born in the village of Ennetbürgen in Switzerland, on 1 September 1899. He was the third son in a family of five children (three boys and two girls). He grew up in the family home "Breitholz" and was educated at the local convent school. His father died when he was a young lad, and he and his brothers and sisters helped their mother run the family farm. Jakob continued farming after he left school. This included taking 40 cows and pigs into the Alps in the summer, living in Alpine huts for months at a time, and then bringing the animals down to be housed during winter time. While in the Alps, the cows were milked and the milk was used to make cheese.

During this period, a local man and friend of Jakob's had visited New Zealand and came back with glowing tales of a young country filled with opportunity. So Jakob, together with six friends decided to go and see for themselves.

Jakob left his home and family in June 1920, travelling with his friends in a group of sixteen Swiss nationals, planning to emigrate to New Zealand. The group met in Lucerne and travelled together to France, sailing from the port of Le Havre, on the Italian ship "Tuscany" bound for Quebec - along with 1500 Italians seeking a new life in the USA.

The first leg of the journey was not a happy one for Jakob, as he suffered from severe seasickness. His friend Luis Zimmerman wrote home to Jakob's mother saying he doubted whether Jakob would ever live to see New Zealand. Indeed, Jakob often told the tale of having tea when he left Le Havre - and his next meal 11 days later in Quebec. Happily Jakob found his "sea legs" on leaving Canada and was able to complete the journey without any further illness.

The group crossed Canada to Vancouver by Canadian Pacific Rail - a journey which took six days and six nights - then boarded the well known ship "Niagara" for the last leg of the trip to New Zealand. This group of law abiding Swiss managed to create an uproar in their hotel during their 11 day stay in Vancouver while waiting for the Niagara to leave.

One of the party, who was a detective by profession in Switzerland, had brought a shotgun with him. He was sitting in his hotel room, loading and unloading the gun, when it suddenly went off, shooting through the wall into a sitting room next door, which was occupied by some ladies. When the culprit went down to the reception desk to confess, two terrified ladies were already there, baggage packed and checking out.

After landing in Auckland, Jakob took a train to Taranaki, where he commenced work for Kaspar Herman in Manaia, milking 110 cows, for six months and from there to Oeo, working for Werner Frank for twelve months. His next job in the Taranaki Swiss community was milking 80 cows for Mrs Schicker, a widow with six children.

Yet another season in dairying saw him looking for a change. Each summer he would travel to the South Island, to work on the threshing mills near Washdyke. The job involved forking stooks of wheat, oats, barley and peas onto wagons, then transporting and forking them into a stationary combine harvester, driven by a steam traction engine. Finally, he worked at bag sewing.

On returning to Taranaki after spending one summer in Washdyke, he was walking from Manaia to Hawera, a distance of some 9 miles, or about 14 Kms, when a car stopped and the driver offered him a lift. During the journey, the driver offered him another farm job. His first duty on the new job was to cut 1½ miles of Box Thorn hedge with a slasher, this was then to be forked into

heaps and burnt. The hedge was approximately 15 feet wide and 12 feet high. The job also included milking 70 cows with help. He stayed about 16 months getting the equivalent of \$4.30 a week, and had two days off in the 16 months.

Jakob moved to the Waikato in 1928, sharemilking with a friend, for Mr Joe Arnet, on Alexandra Road, Hungahunga. After one season, he took over the contract on his own account, employing a married couple, and staying in this position for the next 8 years.

He married another Swiss, Berta Steiner in St. Josephs Church, Te Aroha, in 1930. The couple had two children, Jacob and Berta.

After looking at various properties, Jakob bought his own farm at Manawaru in 1936, which is still farmed by his son today. Jakob was a naturalised New Zealander, becoming a New Zealand citizen in 1928, but was always a Swiss at heart, enjoying the company of his fellow Swiss. He travelled back to Switzerland three times, visiting his family there, where he was held in high esteem, especially by his nieces and nephews, several of whom have travelled to New Zealand to visit him.

He was a foundation and life member of the Hamilton Swiss Club, holding the position of treasurer for 13 years. Before becoming incapacitated by a stroke, he was a regular attendee of Swiss Card evenings and picnics. He was also a keen player of both Indoor and Outdoor Bowls, and a long time member and past president of the Te Aroha Orphans Club.

His last years were spent in the Kenwyn Home Te Aroha, which he affectionately regarded as home, often expressing his contentment and gratitude for the care he received from the staff at the home. Jakob was known to be a very hard working and honest man, who will be remembered with love and respect by his family and friends.

### OBITUARY

**NICK ERNI** It was with great sorrow that we heard of the sudden death of Nick Erni on 17th July 1993 in Hamilton. Nick was born in Rheinfelden and, at a young age, moved to Zürich where he did his apprenticeship as a boiler maker. He arrived in New Zealand in 1957, worked in Wellington for 18 months, then Auckland, Tongariro, Hastings, Turangi, Clyde Dam and finally Hamilton as a welding tutor at the Waikato Polytech. Nick was a hard worker, full of fun and well-liked by his many friends, fellow workers and students. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow Anni, son Tony and daughter Kathryn of Hamilton. Also his sister and brother in Switzerland.

## WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

About 20 people attended our Club Evening on **21 August**. The film "**Männer Im Ring**" was enjoyed by all. We learnt about some traditions and customs of which most of us had known very little.

The committee thanks everybody who entered our logo competition. Our new logo and the winner's name will be published in the next Helvetia.

16 people took part in the Swiss Society Jassen Competition. The first five names on the winners' list are: 1. Max Fuhrer 1550 points 2. George Westermayer 1540 points. 3. Peter Graf 1534 points. 4. Hans Glauser 1421 points. 5. Esther Widrig 1314 points.

## A SUNDAY EXCURSION WITH THE WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB WALKERS

Have you ever been to the Wrights Hill Reserve? From the summit you get the most magnificent outlook across Wellington, from Petone to Pencarrow Head. On a fine day you can see the South Island with views of the Kaikouras. To the north one can spot Mt. Egmont and greet friends in Taranaki... Take your next visitors from Auckland or Switzerland up there, you won't regret it. The Wellington Swiss Club Walkers explored that area on Sunday, 29th of August. Starting the trip in Campbell Street, Karori, we began walking up the road to the base of Wrights Hill. On the way we passed the homes of two Swiss families, the Kellers and Hangartners who greeted us enthusiastically. The Kellers' pet-dog decided to tag along with us on our four hour expedition.

In 1935 Wrights Hill was chosen to house a heavy gun battery to defend Wellington from seaborne attack. Starting in 1942, gun pits to house the three 9.2 inch guns were constructed and linked by tunnel complex. The tunnels and bunkers, built in concrete, include an engine-room, magazines, plotting

room and observation post and are regularly reopened for visitors (Waitangi Day, Anzac Day, Queens Birthday and Labour Day afternoons). So unfortunately, we didn't see the insides of the tunnels or bunkers, but learnt that when one gun was test fired in June 1946, the blast was so strong that it shattered windows in Karori.

When we arrived at the old Karori Reservoir (dam) we were surprised by the beauty of this area. An attractive carpet of orange and gold flowers covered the hills. It is here that a wildlife sanctuary is proposed, which will house protected birds as well as waterfowls, eels, fish, lizards and native invertebrates.

After a well deserved tea and coffee break in the Begonia House in the Botanical Garden, we found our way to the Student Union Hall of the Victoria University. A lively and spirited Swiss woman, Margrit Siegenthaler-Reusser, lawyer and manager of the Alliance of the Swiss Women's Organisation, spoke to us about the history of Women's suffrage in Switzerland. It was interesting and absorbing to compare events over the last 100 years. We all felt it was a well spent Sunday.

MBG



*André Schleicher, Kathi Trachsel, Murray Hughes and Christine Staudenmann on the look-out point on top of Wrights Hill.*

## NEW APARTMENTS IN SWITZERLAND

Last year 15143 new apartments were put in use, which was 583 fewer than the year before. On the other hand, the number of building applications for apartments has increased last year by 5332 to a total of 23752. Taking an average of 3 persons per apartment, this will mean that 71250 people will be provided with new accommodation. What the report does not say is how many old apartments were demolished, particularly in the big cities, to make room for some new housing.

## A MEAL BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

The Weggis-Rigi Kaltbad aerial cable railway is celebrating its 25th year of operation. Since its beginning the company has carried over 6.25 million passengers on 240.000 trips. As a present, it took charge of its brand new cabins which have a capacity of 77 passengers each. The management of the company has always had a great spirit for new ideas and gimmicks. A most novel idea are the "PANORAMA TRIPS" whereby the cabin is transformed into a party room for 20 persons. While attractive hostesses serve a specially prepared dinner from the St. Gotthard Hotel in Weggis, the aerial cable-car travels very slowly between 19.30 and 21.30 to Kaltbad and return. While eating, the guests can enjoy a most fantastic view of the setting sun behind Mt Pilatus followed by the "Lichtermeer" around the lake of Vierwaldstatten.

