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Island, north of Auckland, but Wellington has some of the most populated wintering areas in New Zealand.

A strong and vigorous walking group took the last Sunday in June to visit such a seal colony on the Turakirae Heads on the Wainuiomata coast. In 45 Minutes we reached the seals, the sight was tremendous and well worth the battle against the northerly wind. Some scarred and exhausted bulls were laying lazily around, the younger generation could be seen dancing in the huge waves of the ocean. We could even observe a few pups trying out their independence, which will help them survive the long swim back to the south in September. We found the seals to be placid and composed creatures, but we made a point of keeping a distance so they wouldn't feel threatened. During the 18th century fur seals were hunted to near extinction, it is only since the 1950s that populations have returned to normal. We are indeed lucky to be able to admire these delightful animals in such close proximity. It was a remarkable walking tour and a superior lesson in natural history. **MBG**

EVEN THE "WELSCHSCHWEIZER" LIKED IT

As all Swiss citizens know, the Fondue originally comes from the French-speaking part of Switzerland and not from France (Haute Savoie) or the North of Italy (Val d'Aosta) as I have heard from some confused people...

Therefore being the only "Suisse Romand" present at the fondue evening (it is not a bad average taking into account that we number only 6 in the whole Wellington region!) I was especially amazed and surprised how good the Fondue was. Yes, I have honestly to admit that although it was prepared by Swiss Germans, this was the best I have had since I have lived abroad!

Congratulations to Monika and all the people who helped her.

After this delicious meal, the President, Walter, welcomed some German guests (among them the President of the German Club in Wellington), gave a brief talk about what happened during the AGM in Hamilton and gave the result of the last votation in Switzerland. Some were thrilled with the result, some not at all (guess on which side the "Welschschweizer" was?). Then came the raffle. Some were too lucky, winning two prizes while others, as always seems to be the case, won nothing. I was particularly pleased to see how many young people were present during this enjoyable evening. I really hope those people will come again. Swiss Clubs, not only in New Zealand, need some young blood to continue and to perpetuate our traditions. It was clear to me during the evening and in comparison with other Swiss Clubs I have been to, the one in Wellington is thriving! **Francois**

MIDWINTER WALK

Sunday, the 25th July was a fine and glorious day, not a cloud in sight. The sky was an intense blue, the sun was warm and invited us to our organised hike. What luck and chance in the middle of the winter! Our goal was to do the Eastern Walkway, a track which extends along the southern end of the Miramar Peninsula from the Pass of Branda to Tarakena Bay.

Eleven eager and lively members climbed the trail to the Beacon Hill. One lucky girl, Sonya, 18 months, got carried all the way by her plucky and resilient father Murray. From the Beacon Hill Lookout we enjoyed contrasting views - Cook Strait, Baring and Pencarrow Heads in one direction, the eastern suburbs, airport, Evans and Lyall Bays in the other. We learnt that the Beacon Hill Signal Station has been in operation since 1864 and played its part in the shipwreck disasters of the Devon, Wanganella and Wahine.

The geological formation of the Miramar peninsula, coupled with the diverse local history (from our path we could see terraces and ditches, which were ancient pa sites) gave the area added interest. What now exists as a peninsula was a separate island named Motu-Kairangi by early Maori. The island was isolated from the main land mass by a shallow channel. In 1460 a severe earthquake raised the island to form the peninsula. Another earthquake in 1855 caused a second uplift which created the peninsula we see today.

Finally we arrived at our lunch destination, the Atatürk Memorial Historic Reserve. The Memorial commemorates Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, defender of Gallipoli and first president of modern Turkey. Beneath the memorial is a container of soil from Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. Before we descended to Tarakena Bay we admired once more the exquisite view: the South Island and the snow covered Kaikoura Ranges.

A 20 minute walk along the quaint and whimsical houses of Breaker Bay brought us back to our cars. We all felt the same: Wellington must be the most interesting and appealing city in the universe and that we wouldn't, for all the money in the world, live anywhere else.

This was a lovely Sunday, spent in good company. The 2 hour walk was easily managed by everybody and could be recommended to everyone, young and old. **MBG**



Walter Hartman, Lina Sutherland and Vreni Madgwick overlooking the Eastern Suburbs.

A reminder to all members and friends who enjoy walking: We meet every last Sunday a month at 10am. The walks last 3-4 hours, including time for a pic-nic lunch. The walks are easy and suitable for all ages. For more info. phone Maya on 479-7503.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Hans Glauser** who won the Fritz Adams Cup competition!

We read the happy news that Margot Pfister and Greg Ross have announced their engagement!

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

80 members and friends gathered at the club house to celebrate Switzerland's birthday.

On arrival a glass of Glühwein warmed

us up and we were ready for a long and enjoyable evening. Many thanks to all the helpers who made this evening a memorable one. A special thank you to Karl Signer who prepared the delicious buffet dinner and also to the Swiss Choir for their entertainment.

1ST OF AUGUST BONFIRE AT PETONE BEACH

It is always amazing to celebrate the Swiss National Day in the middle of the winter! This year the day fell on a Sunday,

so many people were able to participate.

The day before Ruth Messmer was interviewed by a ZBZ journalist and was so able to give an excellent description how Swiss people celebrate their National Day. As a result of this advertisement we expected many visitors from the general public to make a pilgrimage to Petone foreshore!!

A sunfilled and calm day had come to an end when Hans and Paul Scherrer built an gigantic bonfire on the Petone foreshore. The trees and branches had been collected from the mountains above Upper Hutt and dried a few weeks beforehand by Vreni and David Madgewick. Undeniably a great team effort!

The young children loved holding the traditional lanterns and warmed themselves up to the glow of the fire. Paul Scherrer, born and bred in New Zealand, but at heart a real Swiss, gave us a very reflective speech. He reminded us of the "Rütli Schwur" of 1291. It was then when it was decided the Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden wanted to get rid of their Austrian governors and bailiffs. It was Wilhelm Tell who killed Gessler in the "Hohle Gasse" and according to the legend we became a free nation.

After a hot snack we sang many of the songs we all remembered so well from our childhood National Day Celebrations.

We all enjoyed a few hours of togetherness. As one young Swiss-New Zealander, Susanne Sorensen, said: may these lovely traditions be kept alive for a long time to come.

SUMMARY OF MEDAL WINNERS FOR 1993

(Report from H. Scherrer)

Jassen J, Kegeln K, Shooting S, Shotgun P

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Büss Hans	1J
Jordan Theresa	1S
Signer Karl	1K
Züst Many	1J
Jordan John	1S
Graf Peter	1K
Scherrer Hans	1J
Scherrer Paul	1P
Küng Hans	1S
Westermayer George	1K
Fischer Peter	1J
Scherrer Michael	1S
Fuhrer Rosina	1J

56 Participants at 23% = 13 Medals

Junior Cup Winners

1st	Keller Eugene	69 Points
2nd	Keller Joseph	63 Points
3rd	Keller Hugo	57 Points

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Wildhaber Vicky	1K
Wallimann Louis	1S
Mauser Anton	1J
Werffeli Henry	1K
Enzler Sylvia	2K,S
Priore Roman	1P
Wolf Hansruedi	1J
Enzler Hans	3K,S,J
Pfenniger Vreni	1S
Fitzi Hans	1J
Hochueli Christine	1S

Müller Eveline	1K
Hess Ueli	1P
Knechtle Erwin	1K
Melville-Schöpfer Marie-Th.	1S
Müller Franz	1K
Sage Peter	1P
Wolf Paul	1J
Hartmann Simi	1S
Pfenniger Willi	1K

87 Participants at 23% = 20 Medals

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Benkert Ruedi	3J,K,P
Monti Guido	2J,K
Kaiser Joe	1S
Neuburger Fred	1J
Seifert Mathis sen.	1K
Füglistaller Edi	2K,S
Seifert Heidi	2J,S
Kiser Sepp	2K,S
Kiser Erwin	2K,S
Zimmermann Bertha	1J
Bischof John	1K
Dudli Ruedi	2J,K
Kiser Angela	1S
Seifert Walter	2J,K
Schuler Charles	1J
Mächler Bert	1K
Mathys Holdi	2J,S
Sidler Joe	1K
Seifert Mathias jun.	1P
Benkert Marianne	1P
Meier Frieda	2J,K
Kiser Mark	1S
Stutz Maya	1J
Nolly Lou	1S

101 Participants at 23% = 24 Medals

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Leuenberger Heinz	1K
Steiner Walter	1J
Rust Peter	3K,S,P
Fässler Werner	1J
McGowan Ross	1K
Rufer Roland	2K,S
Stäheli Joe	1K
Worth Doris	1J
Achermann Vitus	1K
Morgentaler Franz	1P
Rust Evelyn	1J
Stäheli Herbert	1K
McGowan Beatrice	1P
Kennel Joseph	1K
Blättler Robert	1J
Häslä Fritz	1K
Schicker Hilda	1J
Leuenberger Beatrice	1K
Alpiger Ivo	1S
Stäheli Peter	1K
Rust Gritli	1J
Brunner Nick	2K,P
Kennel Theresa	1J
Unternährer John	1K
Leuenberger Heidi	1K
Steiner Lou	1J
Zuber Walter	1S
Tellenbach Irene	1P
Bösch Aaron	1K
Rust Theresa	1J
Tellenbach Markus	1K
Poppe Margrete	1K
Baggenstoss Alois	1J
Flühler Bert	1S
Stähli Willetta	1K
Studer Ernst	1J
Burch Hanspeter	1K
Arnold Maria	1K
Kreuz Wolfgang	1J
Unternährer Walter	1S
Flühler Josie	1J
Boesch Nerida	1P

177 Participants at 23% = 42 Medals

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WOMEN'S EQUALITY STILL NOT ON EVEN KEEL

Female employees in Switzerland still lag behind their male counterparts when it comes to wages. For the same work women earn around 8% less than men. This inequality increases with seniority and in higher positions requiring more qualifications. This is the result of a survey made amongst 421 companies employing over 55.000 staff.