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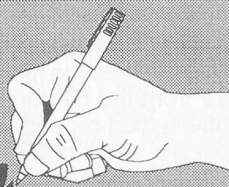
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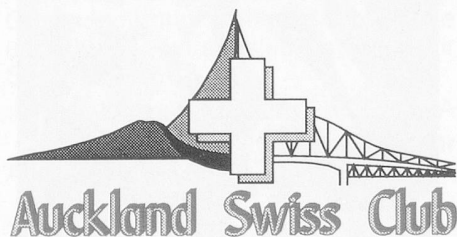
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New Zealand's Swiss Club News



Auckland
Christchurch
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington



"Hans-Peter, weisst du wie der
Schutzpatron der Glöckner heisst?"
"Natürlich, der heisst doch 'Heiliger
Bimbam'!"

Sali zäme...

and hello to our News Letter of this issue of the Helvetia Magazine. We trust you all had a good summer. Lets hope the weather stays warm and dry for many more weeks to come so we all can continue to have a good time. If you have not had enough BBQ's why not have one up at the little Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa? After all we should now use the new tables up there!

THE SWISS ARE POOR MATHEMATICIANS...

...so we were told by a careful reader. On page 5 of the Feb./March issue of the Helvetia is an article called "Dearer Fines". Is it a printing error, are the members of the Federal Council that bad in maths or is it really a 30% increase? If you can't work it out either... may be you should become a politician too!

ONCE UPON A TIME

there was a Swiss Picnic up at the little Farm. Many people played for the **EZIO CUP** and many for the **PICNIC SHOOTING CUP** and we completely forgot to tell you who won. On that 6 February 1994 the EZIO CUP was proudly won by Köbi Glauser with 40pts. closely followed by Emil Tellenbach and Köbi Imholz with 38 & 35pts.

The PICNIC SHOOTING CUP was won by Mike Preisig with 36pts. On his toes with a little less points were Yvonne Bühler & Simi Hartmann.

...and they live happily ever after!

Man stirbt nur einmal,
aber davon hat man
lange was.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

...to our Swiss
Bakery, Patisserie
& Café in Milford.



On 26 February **Eveline, Franz & staff** celebrated their 1st year in business and they would like to thank all their customers for the support.

The Auckland Swiss Club wishes them all the best and many more successful years to come.

THE WEDDING

What better way to start off the year 1994 than to have a wedding - especially of such a popular young couple as our Vice-President **Edi Brändli** and our ex secretary, **Rita Helfenstein**. The spot too, for the ceremony was a first also, this being held up at the Swiss Farm at Kaukapakapa. With the day being fine the guests began arriving from about eleven thirty onwards. Everything was very tastefully decorated in typical Swiss style with Cantonal flags and bunting etc. and, the tables were set most delicately with red and white checked table cloths. It was obvious certain people (and we all know who) had gone to a great deal of trouble to make things just right. As time wore on and, with one half of the wedding party already in their places, everyone's eyes turned to the clock which said after one, but still the bride had not yet arrived. But why worry/ on such occasions it is tradition that the bride is late. One only had to look at little Mario Brändli being held all this time by his grandmother Paula Brändli to know that there was nothing amiss. Mario knew that Mummy would eventually appear. And appear she did, to make her entrance to the strains of not the usual wedding march but to "La Donna e mobile". Different I grant you, but to my way of thinking very commanding and I liked it.

A hush fell over the guests as the bridal parties assembled. The bride looked lovely in her white picture hat and white straight slim line dress. She was accompanied by the Matron of Honour, her cousin from Switzerland. The groom and his best man Chris Hochuli were dressed most appropriately in their Swiss costumes as this was a real Swiss occasion. A very nice but simple ceremony followed and finally Miss Rita Helfenstein and Mr. Edi Brändli were joined as one. Congratulations to you both Rita and Edi and little Mario. Festivities began in earnest after

this and I have never seen a happier couple. There was abundant food and drink for all, plus Swiss music etc and all that goes with such an occasion. Even the children were catered for, having their own tent in which they could sit down and eat and get on with doing their own thing. Once again congratulations to Rita and Edi on your great day and thanks to you both for allowing us to join in and participate on your great day. Our thanks also to all those people that helped behind the scene and worked to make Rita and Edi's day a special one.

DTB

Soll vorkommen. Frauen, die in der Ehe die Hosen anhaben, müssen oft feststellen, dass ihre Rivalin den Nerzmantel trägt!

CHILDREN'S DANCE GROUP



On a beautiful day the Dance Group held their annual Pick-nick and fun day up at the Swiss Farm. The BBQ. was greatly enjoyed by everyone due to the very generous and tasty contribution. With bowling, shooting, ball throwing, Cricket and a fast ball game (Völkerball), in which almost everybody joined in, the day was over before anybody realised it. **Thank you all for your help.**

The Dance Group is now in its 5th year and is a bigger success with more performances every year; e.g. Festivals, School Galas, other Clubs, Rest-homes etc.

The group is unique and keeps the Swiss Club young and is also a big inspiration to other European Clubs to start similar groups.

But if we want the Swiss Children's Dance Group to continue we need more dancers **URGENTLY**, boys as well as girls. It is not a very big commitment: Practice is every two weeks on a Saturday afternoon in West Auckland during the winter months leading up to the 1. August. Children can join in from the age of five. **For more information contact Julia on 832-3518.**



ESI NEWS

The AGM was held at the Holland House on the 3 of march 1994. The new Committee is as follows:

President:	Herbert Romaniuk
Vice -President:	Wolfgang Leonhard
Secretary:	Rüdiger Hoffmann
Treasurer:	Harry Sangl
Representatives for the Swiss Club:	Heidi Black-Gogel Julia Moors-Roth Adolf Amstutz

The **Hungarian Club** plays Chess at the Remuera Bridge Club every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) at 1.30pm. Everybody is welcome: adults, children, masters and beginners. The cost is \$2.00. **For information phone Frank Galantai: 575-5777, or 818-9558**

COWBELL COMPETITION

On Sunday, 1 May, starting at 10am at Edith Hess's place, 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield, Phone: 444-6972. Once more we have to beat the Hamiltonians in Kegeln, Steinstossen & Jassen to qualify for the finals which will then be held at the **Swiss Society's AGM** on Queens Birthday weekend 5/6 June in Taranaki. The number of entries are not limited but only the best results will count. The more of you turn up the bigger the chance to win but please let us know so we can tell the Hamiltonians to be prepared to loose. For any information phone **Presi Chris** on 838-9894

DATES

- 17 April **Feldschieszen *)**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 01 May **Cowbell Competition Semi-Finals Auckland vs Hamilton**
5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield
- 06 May **AGM - Auckland Swiss Club**
224 Hobson Street, City
- 15 May **Hamilton Shooters Open Day**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 29 May **Ausland & Eidgenössisch Shooting Day**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

**) Please note change of of date!*

All shooting events will start at 9a.m. promptly. Please be on time,
Roy Spillman

THE VISIT OF SWISS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ROLF BODENMÜLLER

About 100 people came to listen to **Mr. Bodenmüller** at Osci's Café 'Prost Ethnic' on 16 March. The following are a few pieces of information we picked up that evening.

4,500 registered Swiss in NZ - 16,000 in Aussi - more than 500,000 Swiss away from CH - 120,000 in France - 200,000 (5.5%) unemployed Swiss - 1.8% inflation & dropping - every 2nd Swiss Frank comes from abroad - 17 Billion gross National Deficit - 8 Billion Government loans dropping to 7 Bio. - 60 Billion Social Welfare cost per year - AHV cost will increase by 50% in next 20 years - more retired then employed folks - Less murders in CH - Petty & drug related crimes on increase - more than 50% of the females are worried to go out in the dark - drastic reduction in Farm subsidies - 1000 Farms close down or are integrated in big farms per year - an estimated one third of farms will disappear in CH - 1.2 Million (18%) foreigners in CH (highest % quota in Europe - Armee 1995, 15 weeks RS (instead of 17) - WK only every 2 years - army retirement age 42 (was 50) - Army still compulsory for men (optional for women) - general army reduction from 600,000 to 400,000 men - all old weapons will be abolished - hottest topic at present is 'European Union' to join or not to join - a survey shows that Swiss in general do not approve of the EG - 600 blue helmet men approved - Winter Olympic games brought 11 medals - no more young skiers in Swiss teams (the snow nation will be left behind) - after 28 years the 1st time in soccer world champion.

AHV for Swiss abroad costs more than 100,000 Mio. - Bill to abolish AHV for Swiss abroad in preparation - Dual Nationals are not expected to claim welfare from CH - 6.9% of NZ Swiss take voting right in CH - 1995/96 Radio Schweiz will broadcast via Satellite - Book "Ratgeber für Auslandschweizer" full of tips is free of charge (contact Embassy) - Swiss going home will be assisted to find work (ask Embassy for details) - a spouse of a Swiss can apply for Swiss citizenship after 6 years of marriage. **EGB**

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

Welcome to another edition of news from your Christchurch Swiss Club. For

any suggestions, comments, or even contributions, please contact your Secretary of the Chch Swiss Club,

Jürg Hönger, 58 Hackthorne Rd, Christchurch 2, phone (03) 3326 211.

Thank you and happy reading!

RIDE AND PICNIC ON THE TUHOE

On a beautiful summer's Sunday in early February this year, a significant number of club members and their families enjoyed a ride on the TUHOE. We met for a picnic lunch at the wharf in Kaiapoi, from where the lovingly restored old boat then took us for a leisurely ride out to the sea. Initially the boat traveled along the Kaiapoi river, which slowly winds itself through sweeping willows, green farm land and some rather swampy looking wilderness towards the sea. Just before she got there, the Kaiapoi river joined the much bigger Waimak. And its out there where the scenery became really spectacular (at least for my taste) - approaching the wide open sea, on an amazing river, blue sky, lovely beaches, good atmosphere on a great boat, fisherpeople showing of their catches....

All too soon we were safely back at the wharf in Kaiapoi. We decided to stay on the boat, for some afternoon tea and a chat.

I certainly enjoyed the day, to meet up with old friends, and make some new ones, while enjoying a great outing!



Swiss club people and others enjoying the lovely views from the TUHOE

CURRENT AFFAIRS BACK HOME

On Saturday night, 12 March 94, in the old Riccarton House here in Christchurch, we were fortunate enough to hear some of the latest news and views from our old home country. Minister Rolf Bodenmüller, Head of the Unit for the Swiss Abroad in Berne, and our new Ambassador, Ernst Thurnheer, addressed the about 40 people who gathered for this occasion. Mr Bodenmüller's speech was very informative, presenting a vast amount of interesting facts and figures in a clear and concise manner. It again brought home to me just how much simpler life in New Zealand really is, and how much more I am in control of it over here. Particularly the issue of 'foreigners' in Switzerland still seems a problematic one, if anything is getting worse. The uneasy response of Mr Bodenmüller to some related questions, seems symbolic for the position of Government and people to this rather difficult issue. The Swiss Government,

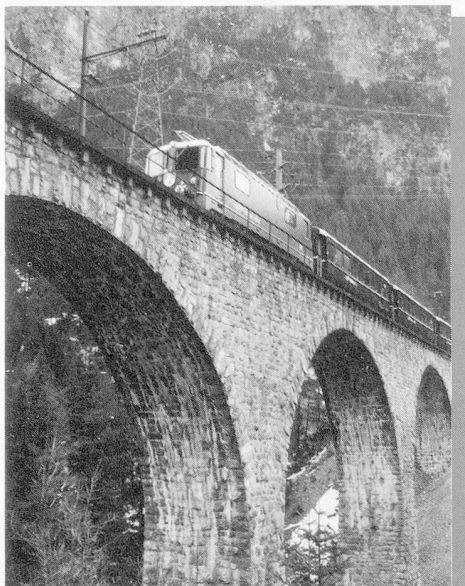
and particularly Mr Bodenmüller and his Department must be congratulated to go out and meet the people they represent back home. Especially so in those "hard" (economic) times Switzerland is currently going through. Things apparently are "pretty bad back home, but still on a high level", as Mr Bodenmüller half jokingly admitted.

PROGRAMME

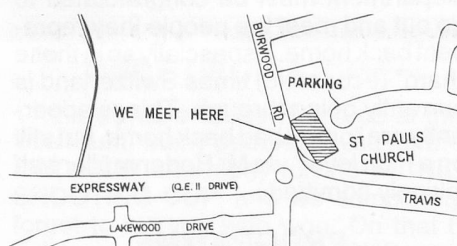
The club year is slowly, but surely coming to an end. What about you bring along your ideas for our next year to the AGM (see below for the date). We always appreciate new and exciting suggestions for things to do, outings, festivities, etc. You are even invited to help organise any such events! Anyway, here is what is happening next:

Sunday, 10 April 94 Austrian Choir Melbourne; we have been invited by the Christchurch Austrian Society to listen to this well known choir, on tour from Melbourne. They will perform at the Ngaio Marsh Theatre, at 2:30pm. \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children.

Tuesday, 19 April 94 "Swiss Railway Society" Evening; This society, or better their local affiliated group, "Swiss Rail Christchurch", meets regularly every 2 months to share their love of the Swiss Railways. They watch, and generally enthuse over videos, slides, movies, model railways, or anything else to do with Swiss Railways, and the landscapes, villages and towns they travel through. We are fortunate to having been invited to attend a very special evening, organised just for our club! We will meet at 7:30pm at the St. Paul Lutheran Church (Cnr Travis Rd & Burwood Rd, Christchurch - see map). You are invited to bring any of your own slides, photos or videos of your last trip to our home country - and not necessarily just of railways either. Of particular interest would be interesting architecture, villages, trees, old parts of towns, etc. Bring a plate to share for supper. See you there, for a bit of nostalgia....



A rather unusual view of the 'Rhätische Bahn' somewhere in the Engadin



Monday, 2 May ChCh Swiss Club Annual General Meeting, to be held in the Sydenham Community Centre (Hutcheson Street), Christchurch, at 7:30pm. You are warmly invited to take part. Your ideas, suggestions, or whatever are most appreciated. The agenda has not been finalized as yet, but will look something like this:

1. Welcome to members
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last AGM (3 May 93)
4. Matters arising therefrom
5. President's report
6. Financial report
7. Election of Officers and Committee
8. Subscriptions 1994/95 (now due!)
9. General Business

A free apero will await you. Please bring a plate to share - after the formalities have been completed we will have some supper.

Further activities There will be an International Day held in Greymouth later this year (probably on Saturday, 19 November 1994). We have been invited to take part in this festival, i.e. in a procession through Greymouth, a 20 minute show on a central stage (alphorns, singing, ??), and/or run a stall to sell some Swiss goodies. If you are interested please contact myself as soon as possible.

Along similar lines, the Christchurch Ethnic Council is looking for interested people to help organise a Euro Festival, to be staged sometime in October this year. They are currently forming an organising committee - if you would like to be part of it please contact Mrs Tini de Winter, phone (03) 352 5317.

This Ethnic Council is also currently putting together an Ethnic Story Book, so they are very keen to receive any legends or stories, including any recipes of traditional foods mentioned in the stories, etc. Again if you can help, contact Mrs Tini de Winter, at the phone number above.

If there are any other activities you would like to see happening, even want to help organise, please contact myself. Thank you. Kind regards, **Jürg Hönger** (Secretary for the ChCh Swiss Club)

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

PICNIC.

We could not wish for a better day with sunshine and a cool breeze to make it easier to participate in the sports events. So many second and third generation Swiss came along to enjoy a good family picnic. Two large earth balls kept some children entertained and the eagerly awaited lolly scramble never goes amiss. Men and ladies participated in great numbers in bowling, shotput and shooting for medals. What excitement when Yolanda Villiger won the ladies cup for bowling and also the overall bowling cup for the highest score.

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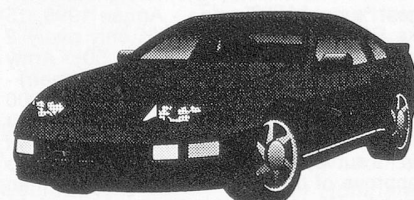
Many thanks to Walter, our smiling Barbecue Chef, who was very busy cooking the sausages. A big thank you to all the ladies who made the home baking and helped to serve the food. Last but not least we appreciate the hard work of those involved in setting up and cleaning up. Forthcoming events Hamilton Swiss Club AGM Sat. 30 April 7.30 pm for drinks, 8.00 pm meeting starts. Swiss Craft premises, Frankton, Hamilton. Interclub Semifinal: Semifinal between Hamilton and Auckland, 1 May at Auckland. Card Evenings Sat. 14 May 7.30 pm sharp. Tirau Memorial Hall (+ medal competition). Sat. 28 May. 7.30 pm. Eureka Hall (+ medal competition) Sat. 11 June 7.30 pm. Tirau Sat. 25 June 7.30 pm. Eureka Sat. 2 July 7.30 pm. Tirau Sat. 16 July 7.30 pm. Eureka

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Report which missed the last Helvetia issue: Christmas-Shoot 1993 (5 Dec. 1993) We held our Christmas Shoot today. The weather was perfect and we had a very good attendance. We had 52 competitors in all. There were 29 shooters and 23 skidders taking part in the competition. After a lovely pot-luck lunch, we handed out the trophies for the **Trudi Ott Belt Shoot** and the **Ted Näpflin Memorial Shoot**. The Trudi Ott Belt went to L. Nolly with a top score of 100 points. Runner-up: R. Mathys with 99 points. The Ted Näpflin Shield was won by Miss R. Kull for the second year in a row with a top score of 100 points also. Runners-up: D. Kull, L. Nolly, R. Mathys, E. Füglistaller, all with 99 points. While the grown-ups were busy talking, the kids enjoyed themselves outside in the sunshine. All in all it was a very pleasant

(continued page 9)

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We will not be beaten.

day. I would like to thank everyone who came along and took part in this year's Christmas shoot and I hope to see you all again next year. A very special thank you to all the ladies for the good food and all the help in the kitchen afterwards. The top score for the Christmas shoot 93 was achieved by Mr. L. Nolly (50 points). Runner-up was Mrs. E. Kiser (49 points). Lucky draw prize winners: 1st prize (mystery) Mr. R. Benkert 2nd prize Mrs. A. Riebli 3rd prize M. Kiser 4th prize Mrs. D. Fitzgerald 5th prize Mr. P. Rohrer (visitor) 6th prize (booby) Miss I. Braun (visitor) I would like to congratulate all the winners and wish everyone a very happy new year 1994. Rifleman Smallbore: W. Seifert.

RESULTS 1994 COWBELL COMPETITION (SEMI-FINAL).

Taranaki vs. Wellington 12 Feb. 1994 About 20 members of the Wellington Swiss Club turned up for the Cowbell Competition. I would like to thank the Wellingtonians again for their fair and friendly competition. The Taranaki club won 3 out of 4 games and I congratulate them for their good effort. The overall scores were: Shooting: Wellington: 409 points (7 shooters each) Taranaki: 503 points Kegeln: Wellington: 191 points Taranaki: 177 points. Steinstossen: Wellington 77,30 m Taranaki 101,55 m Jassen: Taranaki won the first 5 games out of 8 games. Thanks again to everyone who took part in the competition. Rifleman Smallbore: W. Seifert

COWBELL-SEMIFINALS AND PICNIC.

We were ready to do battle against our friends from Wellington, all in good fun, for the honour of competing for the "Cowbell". The weather was perfect, a warm and sunny day. After a light lunch it was time to start the competition. The Steinstossen and the Shooting went our way. On the Skittle alley there developed a mighty battle. And with their last throw, Wellington won this section. So it came down to the cards and Taranaki won the game. Thank you Wellingtonians for a nice game! On Queen's Birthday weekend, we will defend the cowbell against the winner of the "Northern Semifinal". The lovely trees around the clubhouse ground provided welcome shade for the folks turning up for the Annual Picnic. The early morning mist promised another scorcher of a day. The beer-tent and the ice-cream parlour were very busy all day. By three o'clock even the Dairy in town ran out of popsicles and trumpets. The children races proved again popular and so did the lolly-scramble. By 12 o'clock the lovely smell of Bratwurst or Cervelats made people come out of the shade to buy a sausage or two. Fishing

is a very popular sport in New Zealand and instead of trout, the children fished for bottles, the winner of each round went away with a can of coke. While the adults amused themselves with Steinstossen, the children opted for a bikeride around the grounds. The big attraction was again the Schwingen. There were only 6 senior competitors and Urs Hofer won first prize. In the junior section, the final ended in a draw between Nicol Ruchti and Joshua Peters. Thirteen midgets fought for a prize. Janick Ruchti came first with Sämti Werder a close second. The raffle of the day was won by L. Zehnder.

ROTARY EVENING

Our new ambassador, Mr. E. Thurnheer was special guest at a pot-luck evening of the Hawera Rotarians and the Taranaki Swiss Club. After a delicious buffet meal, we listened to the speech of the ambassador in which he talked about Switzerland's problems in the new Europe and also explained the "Referendum" and the "Initiative". It was most informative. After the formal part of the evening was over, Ruedi Dudli played a few tunes on the Alphorn, accompanied by Zeno. Our little choir sang a few songs and to the "Iüpfge" music by Zeno, Peter and Othmar, we started to dance. It was nice to see some of the Rotarians dancing to Swiss tunes. It was a lovely evening and a chance to mix with our Kiwi friends. AGM. 1st March 1994. The President R. Dudli welcomed 33 members to the meeting. In his report he thanked his committee for the help during the year. He mentioned all the events that took place and said it would be nice if more of our younger members would take a more active part in the running of the club. The President thanked the outgoing members of the committee and welcomed the following new ones: R + E. Zimmermann, Marcus Rufer and our new treasurer Marianne Benkert. The two rifle masters and the Kegelmater gave their reports also. They reported on a very active year but would like to see more younger members. Supper concluded the AGM.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April 10 and 24 Cards at the Clubhouse.

April 17 Shooting **May 1** Society competition at the Clubhouse **May 7** (Saturday) cards

May 21 Fondue evening and Preis-kegeln

May 22 Cards. Important to all members of the Swiss Society. The AGM of the Swiss Society will this year be held in Taranaki on **Queen's Birthday Weekend 4-6 June**. To be able to book motels, arrange for billets and cater for everyone on Sunday evening after the AGM, please let **Ruedi Dudli** know by the 20th of May of your intentions. His phone number is **(06) 274-5624**.

OBITUARY

Waitara man lived for skiing and mountain climbing. Mountain man Don DORFLINGER has died, aged 74. The Waitara man's life revolved around his family and mountain activities, especially skiing. Close friend Bob Stokes, New Plymouth, said Mr. Dorflinger was a member of the New Zealand ski team in 1950 and 1953. He had also been a Taranaki and North Island ski champion. His talent on the snow came from humble beginnings, with his first skis made from barrel staves. Born in Eltham to Swiss parents, Mr Dorflinger's interest in mountains probably came from his ancestry, said Mr. Stokes. Mr. Dorflinger first began climbing on the mountain in the mid 1930s and he was an early member of the Stratford Mountain Club. He was also a long-time member of the Hawera-based Mt. Egmont Alpine Club. During World War II, he fought in the Pacific and on his return worked as a sheet metal worker in Stratford for a few years. In the late 1940s he became a dairy farmer at Mahoe. "That was as close as he could get to the mountain", Mr. Stokes said. A past club captain of the Stratford Mountain Club, Mr. Dorflinger was the president from 1963-1965 and was made a life member in 1969. He was a very enthusiastic person as far as the mountain was concerned. He was a serious-minded person and he had a great sense of humour when he liked to show it. In his later years, Mr Dorflinger spent a lot of time helping with improvements to the East Egmont ski field. Even in recent years he would be digging out the (Manganui) gorge track when younger skiers would be coming up for the day. He was also a member of the Egmont National Park Board in the late 1960s. About that time, he also retired from farming and moved to New Plymouth for a short time and then on to Waitara. Mr. Dorflinger is survived by his wife, Eileen, and children Marie, Robert, Annette and Clare. L.K.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

As soon as the summer holidays were over and people returned from their breaks at the beach, the Swiss Society held their shooting competition at the Scherrer's Farm in the Whitemans Valley. Many women and men assembled to try their fate and fortune under the watchful eye of Rifle Master John Jordan. Vice Rifle Master, Hans Glauser taught the newcomers very patiently the tricks of the trade. All the shooters were complacent about their achievements and then quietly relaxed under the fig trees with a game of Jassen and a delicious afternoon tea provided by Theres Scherrer. Wellington Anniversary Day, Monday the 24th. of January

was celebrated with an International Carnival. Unfortunately it was rainy so the event had to be changed from the Civic Square to Shed One on the Waterfront. But no enthusiasm was lost: more than twenty nations participated in the procession, the old and the new world mixed wonderfully. The colour symphony of all the different national dresses was superb and the craftsmanship was admired by many. Wellington indeed has a cultural richness and diversity found in very few other places in New Zealand. The Swiss Club sent a group of seven, many cantons were represented. Peter Canziani got greatly applauded for his amazing and astonishing performance on his Alphorn and Accordeon. Kathi Trachsel staggered and startled the crowd with her great jodeling voice. The whole afternoon was taken up with dancing and singing acts by the different cultural groups. Many ethnic food stands helped to entertain the visitors' taste buds. Indeed a marvellous effort by everybody who participated. On the 29th. of January it was time for the Society's Schwingen, Kegeln and Steinstossen Competition. Luckily we didn't have to throw the traditional Unspunnen Stone which weighs in at 83 Kgs, but nevertheless the stones, one for the "strong" men and one for the womenfolk, felt pretty heavy. We were amazed what goals were achieved and this without the help of a sports psychologist. Mani Zuest organised the Kegeln with flair and skill... and soon it was time to enjoy the barbecued sausages. But the highlight was still to come! The men tried out the new Schwinger trousers and gave us a unrivalled performance of how to use their strengths and cunningness! May long live our beautiful traditions. *François*



Schmidt and Hans Glauser trying out their luck.



Roland Schütz and Walter Hartmann in full swing.

Botanical Trip through the Kaitoke Regional Park. A sparkling February Sunday invited us all to explore the famous Kaitoke Regional Park. We escaped the city pressures and spent the day wandering along the bush tracks. We chose the Swingbridge to cross the Hutt River, then followed the trail downstream through the blossoming rimu and rata forest. It was an amazing sight! Many native trees and bushes had signs

which not only explained the Maori and Latin names, but also the medical uses in historical times. The Park contains actually four main plant communities. Rimu/rata/hinau/kamahia forest is found in the more fertile river flats, ascending into the Red beech/rimu/kamahia forest on the lower slopes. Black beech forest tends to be restricted to the dry spurs, ridge tops and poor soils of the area. Some of the hardy walkers elected to do a more strenuous version and took the 3 hour Ridge Track to the Te Marua Lakes. We others enjoyed a leisurely picnic lunch under age old trees. From not too far away we heard the happy voices of young people who rafted and kayaked through the Hutt Gorge. Refreshed, renewed and stimulated by the grace of this beautiful park, we returned to our everyday lives. A trip to be recommended to everyone.

ATTENTION

All members are invited to attend the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Saturday, 16 April 1994 at 7 pm at the clubhouse. Agenda: **1.** Welcome **2.** Election of scrutineers **3.** Minutes of last year's meeting **4.** President's report **5.** Treasurer's report **6.** Rifle Master's report **7.** Election of new committee and auditor **8.** Subscription increase, Helvetia **9.** Miscellaneous. Suggestions.



Mr. and Mrs. Ross outside Old St. Pauls in Wellington. Congratulations to Margot and Greg on their recent wedding. May you have a long and happy life together!



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