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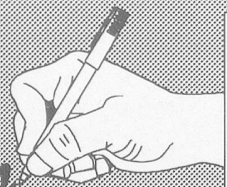
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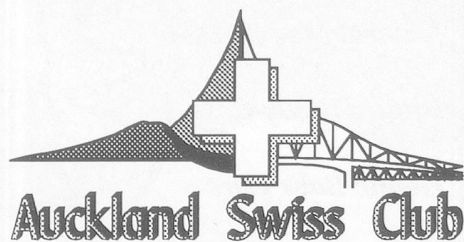
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New Zealand's Swiss Club News



**Auckland
Christchurch
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington**



AGM 6 MAY 1996

Present: 41 members

The committee is as follows:

President: Peter Schüpbach

Vice President: Arnold Andres (new)

Treasurer: Vreni Pfenniger (new)

Secretary: Annegret Wolf

Committee: Doris Binder, Hans Iten, Toni Manser, Fredi Röthlisberger, Yvonne Bühler, Julia Moors, Werner Willi, Heinz Matysik (new)

Farm Trustees: Markus Bühler, Chris Hochuli, Ueli Hess, Heinz Matysik, Willi Pfenniger, Harry Moors, Fredi Röthlisberger

Riflemaster: Henry Werffeli

Hon. Auditor: Syd Melville

A special thank you goes to the committee members who are retiring, our vice president Edi Brändli and our treasurer Marie-Therese Melville-Schöpfer, Alfred Tobler and Renata Thomas. Their contribution to the club is very much appreciated, especially Edi and Marie-Therese who served the club for a very long time. We hope that their successors will be just as dedicated and wish them well.

JASSEN 1996

The dates are as follows:

21 June	20 September
19 July	18. October
16 August	

7.30 pm at the Gasthof "Pros Ethnic", 224 Hobson Street, City Every 3rd Friday of the month. It is always a lot of fun with a price for the most points of the evening. We also have a cup to be won



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by the best "Jasser" of the Year. So come along to play the most favourite game (sport!?) of the Swiss.

DATES 1996

June 2 AGM Swiss Society
Queensbirthday Weekend

OBITUARY

Knowing that he will pass away soon, Ernst wrote his own biography. After spending a short while in the hospital he died in peace on 24 April 1996. The Auckland Swiss Club would like to extend their sympathy to Yvonne, Emma and Karl Zürrer.

I, Ernest Robert Zürrer, born June 10, 1932, in Zürich, Switzerland, was the first of 2 children born to my parents. My sister Melanie and I, grew up in Meilen, a medium sized rural town situated on the shores of lake Zürich, where our father, electrician by trade, had his own little business. -The marriage of our parents wasn't a happy one, and they got divorced in 1942. Mum got the custody rights. The three of us moved to a simple flat in an old farm house, the rent of which mum could barely afford. She worked in a factory during the day, did the washing and ironing for other people at night and weekends, went cleaning flats. - Though poor, and often having to wear other people's clothes (father didn't pay his dues for us) we never went hungry. -After our schooling, though in great need of more income, mum did not send us working in a factory. We were apprenticed, and allowed to learn a trade. -Early in my youth, I had developed a great yearning for far away, strange countries. It was common among young men during those years in Switzerland, to talk about emigrating to South Africa, the United States, South America, Canada and Australasia.

Having grown up fairly unrestricted, I had become rather strong minded, and wanted to get away from home. I opted for the farthest away place from Switzerland - New Zealand. In 1957, 25 years old, I arrived in Wellington on board the ship Captain Cook. Tool-maker by trade, the Labour Department had a job waiting for me in Dunedin. After nearly a year there, I worked a year in Wellington. In April 1959, together with another two Swiss immigrants, I made it finally to Auckland, the city I always had wanted to live in.

Rather withdrawn and introverted by nature, contacts with the fair sex

were few and seldom. Loneliness often a burden hard to bear, I was resigned to remain a bachelor for the rest of my life. -However, life's lottery one day presented me with the top price. In 1964 through wondrous circumstances, I met the loveliest girl in the world. No, not love at first sight for either of us. But this developed gradually as time went on, and barely half a year later we were married. A Swissy with a Dutchy! Two people, from greatly differing backgrounds and own sets of hang-up's! -In 1967 Karl, a lovely baby boy, followed 1968 by Emma, a lovely baby girl, were born to extremely proud parents. How utterly marvellous this was for me, I had a loving wife, lovely children -my own family!

In 1968, New Zealand's economy had worsened, many houses were for sale, unemployment high and increasing. Yvonne and I decided to sell up and leave for Switzerland. I found an excellent job with an expanding company. And we managed to buy our own house eventually - not a common thing in Switzerland. -Karl and Emma grew up in Hombrechtikon, a small rural town above lake Zürich, finishing their education with apprenticeships, to become qualified tool-maker and insurance specialist, respectively. -Our fine children, no doubt due to our prompting, left subsequently for New Zealand.

After 23 years with my firm, Yvonne and I looked at ways of early retirement. We also wished to live closer to our children. In 1991 New Zealand accepted us back, allowing us to be reunited with them.

Thank you, sweetheart, for over 31 lovely years of knowing you. You are a wonderful mate and wife, a very caring mother for our children. More years of bliss were not meant to be. I beg for your, Karl's and Emma's forgiveness for the hurt I caused all of you on occasions. -I am immensely proud of you children, I may never have told you so. I know you will be there when mum badly needs your comfort in the coming months.

I love you all. Bye. Ernst Robert Zürrer

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CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

Note from the Editor: We received a letter from the previous Secretary advising us that, until further notice, the Christchurch Swiss Club will no longer publish its reports on past and forthcoming events in the Helvetia. Although the Swiss Society regrets this move, we have to accept the decisions made by each individual Club. We trust that one day, news items from the Christchurch Swiss Club will reappear in the Helvetia as they are not only read by the members of their own club, but by members of all other clubs and non affiliated members and readers as well.

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Card Evenings:

Saturday 8 June, 7.30pm, Tirau Memorial Hall

Saturday 15 June, 7.30pm, Eureka Hall

Saturday 29 June, 7.30pm, Tirau Memorial Hall

Saturday 13 July, 7.30pm, Eureka Hall.

First of August Celebration: Saturday 27 July, 8.00pm Eureka Hall.

AGM:

The club's AGM was held on 20 April at the Swiss Craft premises. Numbers were much the same as other years - between 25 and 30 people. Two existing committee members handed in their resignation on the evening - John Unternaher (riflemaster) and Erica Clarkin (secretary). The club appreci-

ates the work they did over the years and wishes them all the best in their future commitments. The club was very happy to assign two new committee members: *Walter Zuber* (new riflemaster) and *Hanspeter Burch*.

The new committee members are: **Herbert Staheli** (President) **Doris Rust** (Vice President) **Heidi Fransen** (Secretary) **Beatrice Leuenberger** (Treasurer) **Walter Zuber** (Riflemaster) **Bill Miles**, **Peter Rust**, **Hanspeter Burch**, **Erika Elmiger**, **Heidi Leuenberger**.

As from the next financial year, the Hamilton Swiss Club will be responsible for the administration of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. We are happy to report that people are available to fill in positions in the Society committee and in the Editing committee. We can also report that a Society president has been found, so things are well under way!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Trudi (née Flühler) and Bill Miles on the birth of their bonny son, Simon Lewis, at home in Hamilton on 17th April 1996. A brother for Natalie and Rachel.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

June 9, Cards at 1.15pm.

June 16, Championship Shoot at 1.00pm followed by a committee meeting of the Shooting Club.

June 23, Cards again at 1.15pm.

July 7, Our annual Sauerkraut meal, which is a delicious menu, is held on this day. The anniversary shoot/championship commences at 11.00am to 3.00pm

July 14, Cards at 1.15pm

July 21, Cards at 1.15pm

July 27, National Day Celebration (all members will be contacted soon) to be held at the Swiss Club with happy hour at 6.30pm. Supper to be provided with excellent entertainment throughout the evening by our talented musicians.

TRIP TO HAMILTON

On the 23rd of March, just over twenty members of the Taranaki Swiss Club ventured north to take part in the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Hamilton Swiss Club. We all travelled in groups and many of us stayed at a nearby motel so that we could walk home!!! We arrived in the late afternoon and around 5.00pm we were joined by several members of the Swiss Kiwi Jodel Group who joined us in happy-hour. From there we went to the function, which was absolutely wonderful...

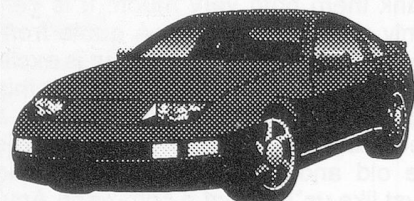
from the delicious dinner, to the speeches, to the great entertainment... and much to our dismay the evening was over all too soon!! It will be an evening we will always remember fondly and we all have the souvenir book as a reminder (this was very interesting and well compiled). To all our friends at the Hamilton Swiss Club, we would like to thank you all very much for your generous and warm-hearted hospitality. And to the Jodel group, many thanks for the great musical entertainment. Our congratulations to Joe Egger for the Fahnenschwingen and ... wow... was that Zugerkirchtorte absolutely delicious. Thanks Werner!! Several members stopped at Chocolate Fellmann on their way home and purchased some delicious chocolates/pralinés, and Ruedi left no choco-heads for Emmi to buy when they returned south a few days later!! Very sorry, but our President, Walter, had ordered a few too!! Their chocolates are very tempting and certainly mouth-watering.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB SINGING GROUP

As the theme for all Women's Division of Federated Farmers is Switzerland, our singing group has been asked to perform for the three different areas in Taranaki. It is amazing to see what ideas these clubs come up with - from displays made by themselves, borrowing souvenir items from Swiss members and some even trying to bake Swiss recipes... and succeeding well!!

Our group is fortunate to have some very talented people and our entertainment is very varied. Ruedi blowing the Alphorn, Remigi throwing the flag, Zeno and sometimes Leo playing the accordion, together with our singing and dancing!! Many audiences have remarked on the colour provided by our costumes and our jovial and cheerful expressions. It is very gratifying performing for these

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Members of the Taranaki Swiss Club Singing Group in full dress.

organisations and the audiences are very attentive and interested in our presentation. In our last few performances, we have explained the meanings of our songs and this is very much appreciated by our listeners. The photo shows our group after having performed in Hawera, with a few other club members joining in. We had great pleasure singing a song for our late Patron, Don Luond, when he was in hospital and we extend our sympathy to all his family.

CARDS

Over the last few weeks we played cards, both euchre and jassen, at the Swiss hall. These afternoons have been well-attended and it is great to see a few new faces. Our president, Walter, had a terrific start to the season gaining 22 out of 24 points!!! But... I do not know what happened after that run of good luck!!! These card games are played in good spirits (even though a bit noisy!!!) and are well-run by our secretary, Doreen Schuler. Also our keen raffle seller, John, is a great asset and we thank them both very much. It is certainly an enjoyable day. A quote from Rös the other day was "Jassen is exciting" and her face certainly shows this expression!! I was playing euchre a week later and said "Gosh, these cards are old and thick", and Charlie said "Just like us"!!! What a comment! Anyway, just shows that we do have a great time and plenty of laughs. Hope to see a few more of you... MB

SWISS SOCIETY COMPETITION

On May 5, we held our annual Swiss Society Competitions. It was very pleasing to see a few new faces and a big increase in overall competitors for these events (Shooting, Shotput, Kegeln and

Jassen) Great sportsmanship prevailed and many people took part in competitions they knew they would not receive a medal for... good to see Josie trying her best at shotput and Erna playing cards (even though she needed a whisky later!!) and both doing very well. Congratulations to all participants for supporting these events and making it a most enjoyable day for all. Many stayed on for a few drinks or more games of cards (or both) and a pot-luck tea was held at 6.00pm. This always has great variety and is most pleasant. MB

OBITUARY

WE REMEMBER, 125425 DANIEL EDWARD BUTLER - 5 FLD ARTY WWII.

What a man. Born at Tarata 75 years ago. 26.2.96. Died in Hawera Hospital after a fall about a month before. Went to Waitara Convent from Arthur Jones farm at Lepperton, left school at 14 and worked for his father at Ohaki and then on Sheperds farm at Ratapiko and at his uncle Joes farm before going in the army. Was Sheps boxing champ. The next few years were very trying for all concerned, Dan was reported missing - wounded, believed killed and then prisoner of war. He escaped and took 3 weeks to get back to his own troops, returned to front line and drove over a mine. His two mates were killed and Dan was in hospital for ages. The doctors took 40 pieces of shrapnel from his body as well as having steel wires for sinews in the back of both knees and one ankle. On returning home, he worked in cheese factories and married a war widow, Myrtle with one daughter. From there they had 3 more daughters and one son. Farmed in Cambridge for some years and returned to

Woodbourne Est sharemilking and then to Lowgarth. Dan and Myrtle then bought a house in Eltham. During this time he was a member of the Taranaki Swiss Club plus a committee member and worked hard on all aspects for a lot of years. Dan was head stockman at Huttons as well as 2 terms President at Eltham RSA and master of the Buffalo Lodge for a number of years. Dan also did years of part-time barman at several hotels. Dan played outdoor bowls, played a mouthorgan (over the years he owned some 28 different models). Don sure had a full life. As the old saying goes: Soldiers never die, they simply fade away". God bless you Danny Boy, we all loved you.

(Written by his brother Eddie and supplied by Lou Kuriger).

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

NEW COMMITTEE:

President: Maya Beddie-Geiser
Vice-President: Christine Hughes
Secretary: Trudi Brühlmann
Treasurer: Ruth Messmer
Committee members: Peter Fischer, Roland Schütz, Rosmarie McKinney, Denise Nassenstein, Elisabeth Hynes.
Riflemaster: Roland Schütz.
Deputy: Hans Glauser
Skittlemaster: Max Fuhrer.
Auditor: André Schleicher
Patrons: Max and Rosina Fuhrer.

EVENTS 1996/1997 FOR THE WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB:

26 May	Jassen/Games, 2pm at the Clubhouse
1-2 June	AGM of the Swiss Society in Auckland
22 June	Tessin Evening
27 July 1	st August dinner and medals 1 August Bonfire, Petone Beach
25 August	Jassen/Games, 2pm at the Clubhouse
28 September	Fondue evening
12 October	Working Bee at the Clubhouse
9 November	Society Competition Jassen
24 November	Society Competition, Kegeln, Steinstossen, Ambrustschieszen?
8 December	Children's Christmas
14 December	Christmas Dinner
26 January 1997	Shooting
9 February	Shooting
22/23 February	Cowbell Competition
1 March	Fritz Adams Cup
22 March	Bicultural Event
12 April	AGM

An exciting new club year was started and we, the new committee hope that with our interesting programme everybody's appetite will be wetted. Our first gourmet night will be on the 22nd of June. Please come along to our traditional Tessiner Abend



Our May Walk through historical Thorndon.

which will start at 7.30 pm in the Ohariu Clubhouse. Our winter walk will be on the 30th of June. Please contact Elisabeth Hynes or Denise Nassenstein to see in which direction we will be going! Have a scintillating autumn.

M.B.G.

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Extraordinary General Meeting Sunday 9th June at 3pm at the Ohariu Swiss Clubhouse. The Combined Recreational clubs at Halford Place, Petone, have made the decisions, after lengthy

discussions, to buy the land at Halford Place from the Wellington Regional Council for \$49,000.00 plus GST. Seven large Clubs are involved. The shares will be evenly divided. The Wellington Rock and Mineral Club, the Hutt Valley Rock and Mineral Club and the Wellington Swiss Club would be one Unit. Together we would need \$7000.00 plus GST, a total of \$8500.00. The question now arises: does the Club want to be a purchaser? If yes, how much will the club be able to spend? Please come and help us make this vital decision. People who are not able to attend could send in a proxy vote or could ring any

committee member. Wellington Swiss Club Committee.

MAY WALK

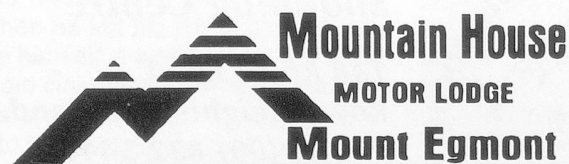
□ We met on a beautiful autumn day at the Norsewood Rosegarden for our historical walk through Thorndon. This is Wellington's oldest suburb and well known as the birthplace of Katherine Mansfield. Our first stop was at the Bolton Street Cemetery, consecrated in 1840. On to Ascot St where we admired the small workers cottages, some of them beautifully renovated. The first school in the area (founded by Granny Cooper in 1867) was on the top of a very narrow street (just wide enough for a horse and a cart). The area is rich in history and well worth a visit. Just to mention some places of interest: This-tle Inn: 2nd oldest pub in New Zealand (1866). Old St. Pauls: one of New Zealand's loveliest churches (1866). Ministerial House, 260 Tinakori Rd. (circa 1860) Rita Angus Cottage (lived in by artist in residence) Basilica. If you would like some more information about the walks, the Katherine Mansfield Society is selling an excellent booklet (\$2.35) with full details about the historical places in Thorndon. Address: 25 Tinakori Rd, Thorndon Phone 04 473 7268.

OBITUARY

With regret we note the passing away of DAVID MADGWICK. We offer our sincere condolences to Verena and her family. Wellington Swiss Club.

Swiss Chef Berta Kiwi Host Keith

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