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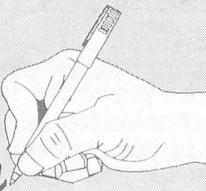
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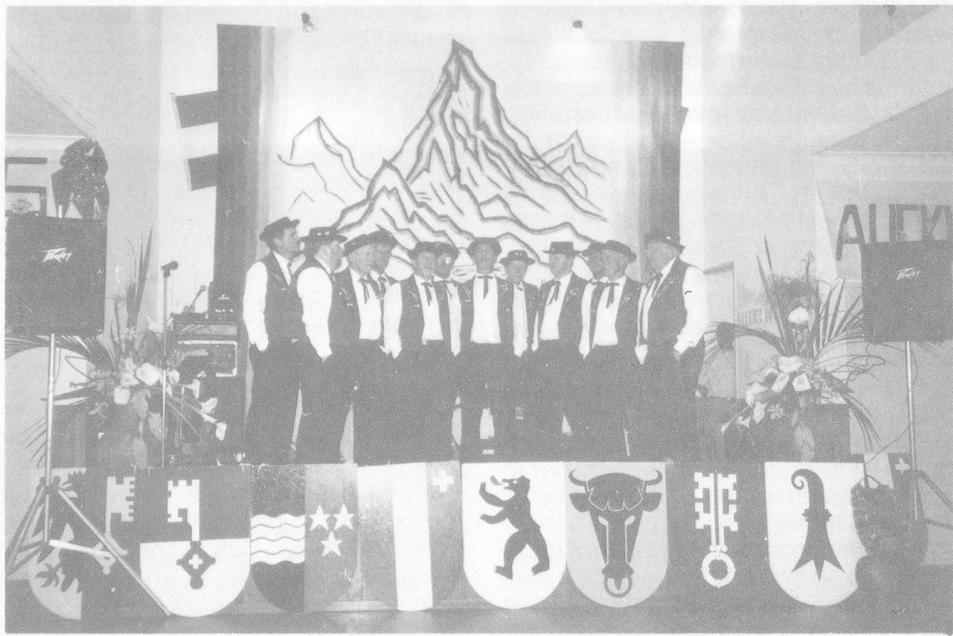
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New Zealand's Swiss Club News



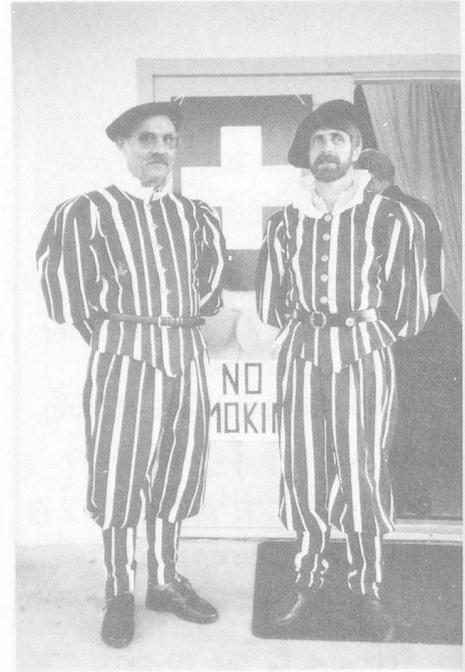
Auckland
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40TH Auckland Swiss Club ANNIVERSARY



What a delightful evening this was! It was good to see so many older members and founders of the club. Old stories were told and many had a great time looking at old photos arranged on a board. The Hall and tables were beau-

tifully decorated by Yvonne Bühler with some flower arrangements created by Edith Hess. The sound of the alphorns opened the programme of the evening. Arno spoke some words of welcome and then the children folklore group got



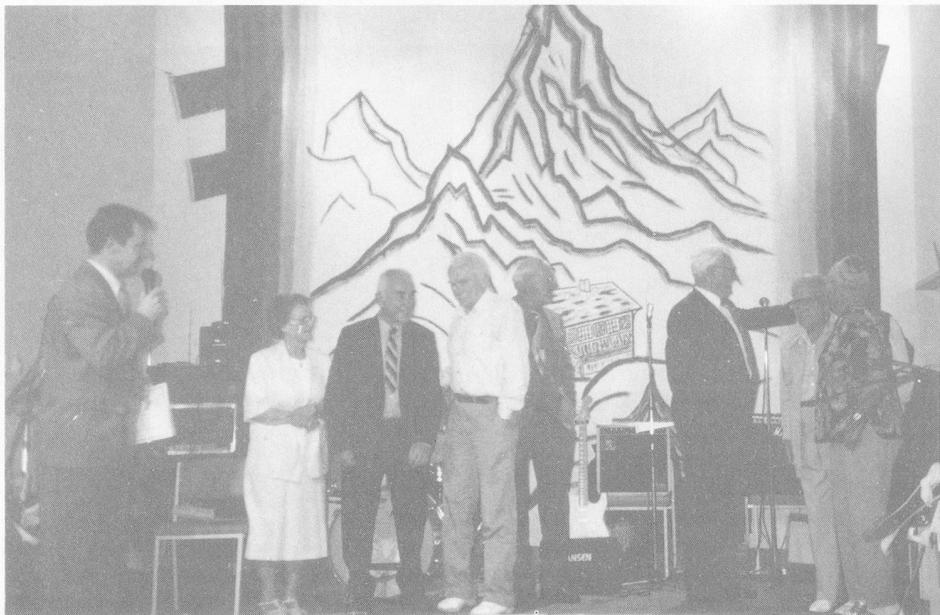
on stage to show us one of their latest items. This was followed by songs of the Swiss Kiwi Jodellers. Then it was time to serve the delicious dinner organised by Remi and prepared by Markus and Oskar our very talented chefs. Markus made even the big "Chnöpfli" himself. It looked like a "Waschbrett", just full of holes. It worked perfectly, the "Chnöpfli" were really yummy. Some more Swiss folklore entertainment followed by the main course, yodelling, dances, alphorn and a yodel duet by Peter Arnold and Raymar Walker accompanied by Ursula Arnold, very beautiful! Many tried their luck in the tombola organised by Hands and Toni. Thanks to the many sponsors who gave so generously. There were some fabulous prizes, a diamond ring, dinner for four, a suitcase, travelbag and many more.

Continued next page





40th Anniversary of Auckland Swiss Club. Some of the founder members plus presidents of the past and present.





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Max Bachmann, the first president of the club had the honour to cut the cake. All the founders and former presidents were then asked to get up on stage. Peter thanked them and spoke some words about the club. At last it was the turn of the dance band to play right through to the end. Thanks to our Master of Ceremony the evening ran smoothly. I think we all agree, Arno Andres did a great job. So thanks to everybody who worked hard or contributed in any way to the event and to all our guests who shared this special celebration with us. Some came from Switzerland and a number of Swiss came from Hamilton. We hope that everybody had a good time and enjoyed themselves.



MESSAGE FROM PETER DEUTSCHLE

A short history of the Auckland Swiss Club from its beginning until the present time is being prepared. Would anyone interested in contributing towards this project by way of suggestions, pictures, documents and/or oral accounts please get in touch with Peter Deutschle at the Swiss Consular Agency in Auckland.

DATES 1996

8. Dec. Samichlaus. At the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa, Santa will come and see the children. BBQ Lunch and beverages available. See you there.

31. Silvester Treff at the Swiss Farm. BYO Food and drinks.

1997

9. Feb Annual Pic Nic
2. March Kindertag
6. April Wandertag

The committee wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Annegret Wolf

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Torten
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and a great selection of cakes and patisseries



1.	Jakob Preisig	11016
2.	Annegret Wolf	10927
3.	Kurt Leutenegger	10891
4.	Marie Therese Schöpfer	10511
5.	Hans Iten	9903
6.	Henri Werffeli	9844
7.	Louis Walliman	9582
8.	Hilda Iten	9434
9.	Max Bachmann	9105
10.	Hans Wolf	8490
11.	Toni Manser	8712
12.	T. Mathys	7836
13.	Sidney Melville	7832
14.	D. Hess	7471

SCHÜPBACH CUP

1.	Hans Wolf	16463
2.	Jakob Preisig	16309
3.	Hans Iten	16063
4.	Hans Fitzi	15842
5.	Marie Therese Schöpfer	15714
6.	Louis Walliman	15618
7.	T. Mathis	15572
8.	Kurt Leutenegger	15392
9.	Henri Werffeli	15329
10.	Toni Manser	15282
11.	Max Bachmann	16188
12.	M. Gianotti	14993
13.	Hans Iten	14415
14.	Annegret Wolf	13965
15.	Markus Stutz	13832

All the Jassers thanks go to Oski Roggen for being able to use his business premises and to all the different sponsors throughout the Jass season. We hope to see you all again next season, hopefully also new players, starting again sometimes in the middle of 1997.

Hans Iten



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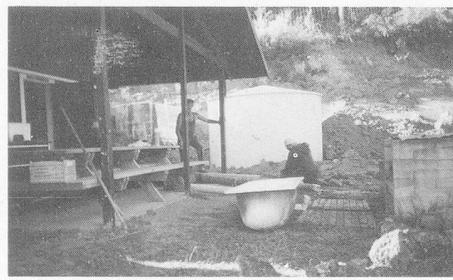
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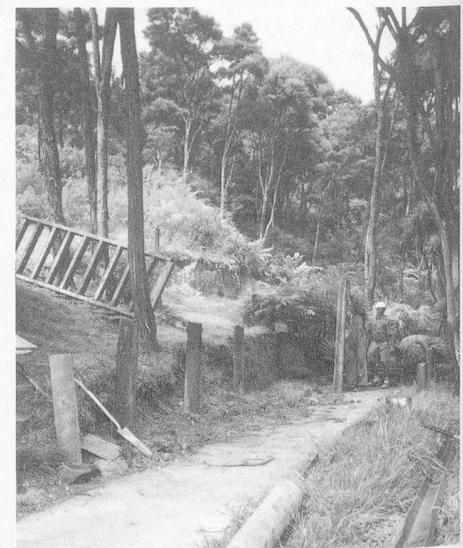
Lamb, Pork and Beef cuts also available
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HARD LABOUR AT THE SWISS FARM



Just to show you all how busy some of the club members get over most weekends at the Swiss Farm. Our new addition of the planed roof is well on the way, keep up the good work. Y.B.



HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

A reminder about the family Christmas lunch which is being held on Sunday 15 December at the Livestock Improvement Centre on the corner of Morrinsville and Ruakura Roads (Ruakura Road is on the left heading towards Morrinsville, just before the cemetery and railway line). The event will start from 11am onwards and should be an enjoyable day for everyone, adults and children alike.

Remember the club will be providing BBQed sausages, bread, cordial, tea, coffee, ice creams for the children and an assortment of Swiss Christmas biscuits. Please bring any other food which you would like to eat on the day.

Parents, please remember to bring a **NAMED** present to the value of \$5.00 which Santa can give to your children.

Remember also to bring your togs, sun umbrellas, picnic mats and, if you think you will be feeling energetic on the day, bring tennis rackets.

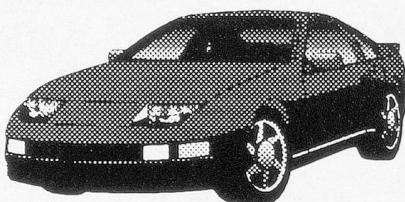
There will be no charge for this function, so please come along and enjoy the day. There will however be raffles on sale and your support would be greatly appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: To help us with our catering, we would ask everyone intending to come to the Christmas Party to contact Beatrice Leuenberger (Ph 07 843 7971) immediately you read this announcement.

OUTSTANDING SUBS

A reminder for any outstanding subs to be paid as soon as possible. These

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can be sent to our Treasurer, Beatrice Leuenberger, 44 Montgomery Crescent, Hamilton.

PICNIC DATE

The date for next year's picnic is **Sunday 23 February**, once again at Villiger's farm in Kiwitahi. This is a lunch time event where barbequed sausages are for sale as well as drinks and various items of Swiss baking. It is also the day for the sports competition in bowling and shotput.

Saturday 22 February is the day for the shooting competition. This will also be held at the Villiger's farm. On this day lunch is not provided.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Peter and Andrea Flühler are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Kate Olivia Flühler, born at Waikato Women's Hospital on 11th October 1996 (3,620g). A wee sister for Matthew.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 8th.

Christmas Shoot starting at 10.00am, followed by Pot-Luck lunch. Everybody brings a prize and everybody wins a prize! Children's activities and games will also be organised. Ladies a plate please for afternoon tea.

December 31st.

New Year's Eve Social. Happy hour starts at 6.00pm. Great fun evening and plenty of entertainment provided! Everybody is welcome! Your Club Committee would be very pleased to see you all there. Let's get together to see the old year out and the new year in. Admission \$5.00 per person. Ladies a plate please for late night supper.

REMINDER:

Swiss Picnic at the Club-House grounds February 9th 1997. Great family fun day.

On the 23rd of October, we held a Pot-Luck dinner which was organised by Ruedi Dudli, Riflemaster for the Karabiner club.

I would like to thank all the ladies for the lovely food they prepared. It was a credit to them all! I am always amazed about the variety and presentation of our Pot-Luck dinners. Top scores for the ladies, you would all deserve a medal!

After dinner, Ruedi and I handed out

the medals and cards for the past Karabiner Shooting season with Lisette Benkert having the task of pinning them all on the men's chests without hurting anyone! She managed quite well except for one or two minor slip-ups. Thank you Lisette.

We had to hand out quite a number of medals and cards, bearing witness for another very successful shooting season.

Congratulations to all the medal winners!

I would like to thank Ruedi for the well organised and enjoyable evening and I would like to suggest that it becomes an annual event for the month of October.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate Ruedi for the medal he received from the Swiss Military Department for his 15 years of service as Riflemaster for the Karabiner Shooting! Being the best man for the job, I hope to see him doing it a few more years yet. Thank you Ruedi.

W.S.

Since this is the last Helvetia for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year 1997.

Regards: W. Seifert.



OBITUARY

PHILYS MEIER 1911 - 1996

A big crowd attended the funeral of a long Club Supporter at Manaia. Philys was the Team Leader in the kitchen for 20 years together with her three sisters: Josy, Lora and Klara. She was born in Hunterville into the big Burkhardt family. In 1933 she married Ted Meier of Inaha Road where they brought up a big family.

A very loyal supporter of our club was laid to rest. May she rest in peace.

To all the families we convey our deepest sympathy.

R.D.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

8 DEC.

Children's Christmas Party. 2pm at the Clubhouse. Bring a plate.

8 DEC.

Carol Singing, Sound Shell, Botanical Gardens, 6pm. The Swiss and German Clubs will sing together. Everybody welcome. There will be a sale of Christmas cookies next to the Sound Shell too. All proceeds go to the Red Cross. Please bring along any baking wrapped in suitable portions ready for sale.

14 DEC.

Adults' Christmas Party, 7.30pm. Members \$18.00, non-members \$20.00. BYO drinks. Please let us know by 11 Dec. at the latest.

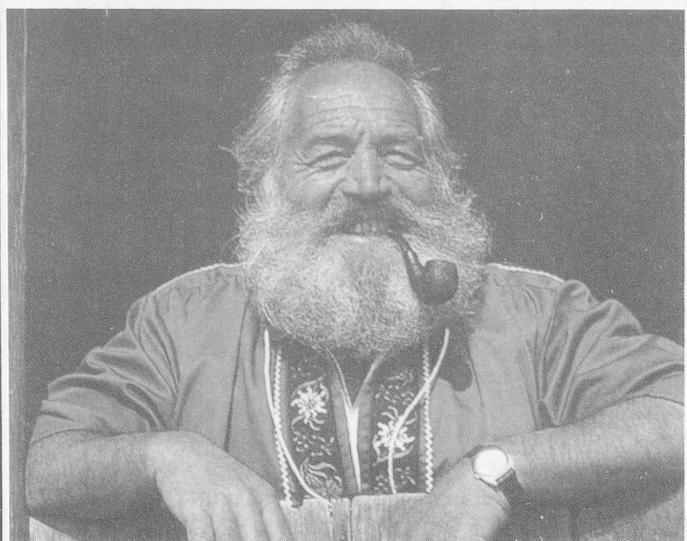
R.McK.

NEW SWISS BEARD KING

After four unsuccessful attempts, Silvio Thöni, 57, "Alphirt" on the Staviala Viedra Alp (GR) at long last became king at this year's "Internationalen Alpenbarttreffen" in Chur.

Silvio Thöni has lived on alps for the past 30 years. He has never travelled outside Switzerland. He only once went to Basle but did not like the noise, the traffic and the crowds. So he packed up his gear the very next day after his arrival and went back to his beloved mountains.

His biggest fans are the nuns from the St. Alberthaus nunnery in Ilanz, and this for a very good reason: he works for them during the winter months.



Silvio is a happy man and he loves to live alone with his animals high up in the Alps, surrounded by peace and beautiful scenery.

SELF-HELP SERVICE

A crafty farmer in Oberwil-Lieli (Aargau) came up with the novel idea of selling the milk from his farm around the clock from this specially designed self-help store built by the main road. By putting SFR 1.20 into the automatic vending machine, you receive one litre of fresh milk. However, you have to be careful to bring along your own container as these are not being provided.

In order to satisfy stringent health regulations, the milk is kept at a strict temperature of 4 degrees centigrades at all times and it is replenished at least twice a day.



The Milk-Chalet in Oberwil-Lieli where fresh milk is available 24 hours a day seven days a week.

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the *Helvetia* magazine: FEBRUARY 1997. All contributions must be in by 15 January. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

MAD COW DISEASE

In order to restore confidence into the badly hit beef market, the Swiss Federal Council has decided that no cow born before December 1990 is allowed to enter the meat market. This decree affects 230,000 cows which must be destroyed before 1999. The loss in revenue for the 50,000 affected farmers amounts to some 320 million SFR.

By these measures, the Federal Council hopes to counteract all the negative feelings against beef generated by the mad cow disease. Farmers will receive a compensation of SFR 1000.- for each affected cow. A further SFR 400.- per cow will be paid by the Swiss Government for the transport, killing and disposal of the animals.

In the meantime a meat scandal has erupted in Switzerland. Some meat producers have tried to get rid of some beef by mixing it in with porc mince. There is at present a huge outcry amongst unsuspecting customers who realised afterwards that they might well have eaten some meat that could have come from some diseased animals.

PIANO PLAYING, A BIG HOBBY IN SWITZERLAND

In 17% of Swiss households there stands a piano, and in every fifth household, there is someone who can actually play the instrument (this means that in around 3% of the households there is someone who can play the piano but hasn't got one!!). These statistics indicate further that there are about half a million pianos in Switzerland of which 83% are in actual use.

An other surprising discovery was how intensive the Swiss are at playing the piano. One third of all piano players play every day for an average of one hour. Most of them do it mainly for relaxation. Most popular amongst the Swiss piano players is classical music with jazz, pop and country music only amounting to about 20%.



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