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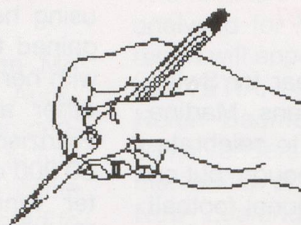
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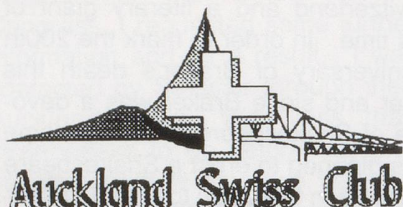
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings



**Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington**



E-mail: swissclub@hotmail.com

Forthcoming events

15 February

Our annual picnic at the Swiss farm Kaukapakapa!

Make this day a priority. Here is a chance to mingle and meet old and new members. Drinks and a good lunch will be available. We look forward to seeing you there.

15 March

Wandertag (full instructions in next issue of HELVETIA)

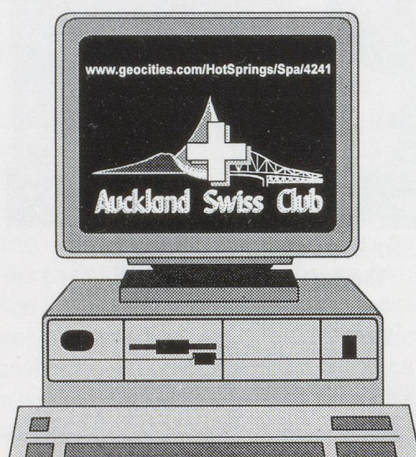
4 May - AGM.

Santa at the Swiss Farm

On 7th December, a beautiful day the young and the old Swissies of Auckland made their way up to the "Aelpli". The long awaited extension now almost complete was a pleasant surprise for the members who had not been up there for a year. The men and also the ladies worked hard to have the building ready for Santa. After a delicious lunch, barbeque, swiss sausages and strawberry pie, enjoyed by all, everyone was scanning the sky. Sure enough a dot appeared getting closer and bigger. Santa had done it again..... No more reindeers for him, he used a helicopter to be more efficient. No sooner had we waved to him and Santa waving back to us and he already touched down safely. He had lots of helpers to escort him up the bank. Considering his busy schedule, he showed no sign of being tired. He managed to say a few ho-ho's and settled on a chair to commence his duties. All the children were seated in a semi-circle

around him. One by one he called their names to come forward and receive a present. He seemed to know each child individually. He praised their good works, also telling them where improvement was needed. He took a long time to deal with all the children. We counted 220 people including 60 children who all enjoyed their day at the farm.

AR.



The Auckland Swiss Club is on line...

Take a look at our new Internet Web Page on <http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Spa/4241/> This Web Page is supported by the Committee, the Farm Committee, the Swiss Society, the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group, the Guggemusik, the Auckland Shooting Section and the Children's Dance Group. Please feel free to come forward with your suggestions. **EGB**

Great News

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The sad news of the death of **Peter Eggenschwiler** has reached us. An obituary will appear in next month's HELVETIA.

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Hamilton Swiss Club

Forthcoming events

22. February, ANNUAL PICNIC

The picnic will once again be at Villiger's farm in Kiwitahi. This year we understand there is a crop in the paddock which we use for the picnic, so we will have the tent set up in a nearby paddock. There will be flags etc. showing the way, so come along on Sunday 22 February and enjoy a tasty lunch of Swiss sausages and baking. As usual this is the day to compete in bowling and shotput.

The shooting competition will also be held on Villiger's farm on Sunday 21 February beginning at 11 am. Please bring your own lunch for this occasion.

Hamilton Club News

By the time the HELVETIA is issued to everyone, January will already be over, which brings us well into the year 1998. We hope all our club members had a happy Christmas and have had a safe and

healthy start to the new year.

The family Christmas party on 14 December was an enjoyable day for everyone who attended. Once again the Livestock Improvement Centre was a great venue with wonderful facilities for both children and adults. As it was such a hot day, it was wonderful to have the pool available, and there was also plenty of shade from umbrellas and trees to make the day a pleasant and relaxing one.

Barbequed Bratwurst were provided for lunch, followed a bit later with a selection of Christmas biscuits for afternoon tea. A magician kept the children in awe for half an hour, and even some adults were watching the show intently! Santa then came and distributed gifts to the children, which of course was very exiting for them.

Two children's prizes and four adult prizes were raffled, and we thank everyone for the support they gave to these raffles. A special thank you to Hans and Vreni Vetsch for making up three raffles at such little cost to the club, and also to Helen Staheli

for donating a blanket as the fourth raffle.

As with all club functions, the committee worked hard on the day to make it enjoyable and successful for everyone. Thank you to those people who did the organising before and on the day. I hope the Christmas break has given you all a chance to rekindle the energy and enthusiasm it will take to continue the organisation of club functions for 1998!

While on the subject of committee, perhaps **now** would be a good time for club members to consider joining the committee at the next AGM on 25 April. It is always nice to have fresh blood in the committee and it can be fun working together to make each function successful. If anyone is keen to join, please don't be shy in coming forward!

HF.

Santa distributing presents at the family christmas party at Newstead.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Heidi (née Rust) and Paul Fransen, on the safe arrival of their daughter, Amelia Paige, on 4th January 1998. A gorgeous little sister for Brianna and Charlotte.

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Forthcoming Events

5 February

Kegeln recommences ... jassen will be forbidden!!..

no, just kidding. Jass is also played together with pool and table soccer.

7 February

Our friends from Wellington will arrive as we host the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition. Everyone is welcome to join in and enjoy the friendly rivalry against the Wellingtonians. Lunch will be provided, steak and salads will be the dinner menu (Taranaki members please bring salads for the evening meal).

8 February

Our Annual Picnic is held ... fantastic day for socialising and chatting to friends you may not see regularly. Hope all you "Schwingers" have flexed your muscles and are ready to do battle !! Drinks, ice blocks, sausages, chips all on sale. Remember a fabulous tombola is organised for this day ...

so bring plenty of money, but more importantly LUCK !!! Activities for children organised, so come along and enjoy a great days' entertainment.

2 March

Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Club at 8-00 pm. Come and hear how your club is doing.

Christmas Shoot

We held this function on 30 November, as December seems to be a busy month for most people. Everyone brings a wrapped prize and participants either shoot or skittle to

their best ability to receive a prize. This year children were kept amused by making little baskets out of empty milk cartons. These were then filled with lollies and distributed back to the children, with a few lucky adults receiving a basket too. Pot-luck lunch was held before prize distribution took place. Walter had then organised a few mystery prizes and everyone waited in anticipation of their name being called out. A great day with a good attendance many thanks to Walter for organising this enjoyable day.

New Years' Eve

As in the past few years about forty Swissies (several new faces which was great to see!!) were joined by the Campervan Club... thirty-six vans and a caravan in all ... a great sight when I drove to the club house and saw all the vans scattered around the grounds and Swissies and Vanners enjoying happy hour in front of the Club-house ... in fact happy hours might be more like it !! Cheese and crackers were provided for Happy Hours and Doreen had once again organised a most successful Pass-the-Parcel. Everyone organised their meal with the Swissies enjoying a barbeque, cold meats and salads before the evening's entertainment commenced. The

Swiss Singing group sang three items to everyone's delight, then Leo entertained everyone with a story accompanied by actions !! ... Say no more !

... it was very amusing !! A snowball and then a Monte Carlo was held to ensure everyone got a little exercise !!! Then an interesting game was

held.. three teams consisting of the people each got issued with a toothpick ... each team also received a Lifesaver lolly (the lolly with the hole in the middle). Each person put the toothpick in their mouth, then the lolly had to be passed from one person to the other with the quickest team winning. This proved very interesting (and not as easy as you might think!!).. some people were on their knees, some were on tip-toes, while others just couldn't seem to find the hole in the lolly with their toothpick !! What a laugh !!! Next the Seifert brothers showed their skill at "Talerschwinger" ... the campervanners had never seen this and were most intrigued ... great efforts guys ... it sounded wonderful. A raffle was held, which was very well supported many thanks to you all. A delicious supper was held and then all too soon it was nearing midnight, and everyone filled their glass to toast the New Year in ... wow.. hadn't the last year flown by !!! Many thanks to all the Swissies and Movanners who made the evening such a success ... and also to all the organisers and musicians for their work to ensure the evening was pleasant and enjoyable for all. The Taranaki Swiss Club committee wishes everyone all the very best for the coming year, and looks forward to your continued support in 1998.

New Years' Day

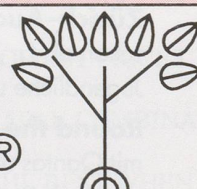
As if everyone hadn't had a late night or early morning ??? well ... some of us decided to go to the Stratford Club to celebrate the first day of the New Year (any excuse will do !!). About sixty people met from

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5-30 pm. onwards for a social drink and a bistro meal. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the relaxation of a chat with a drink or two and a delicious meal at a very reasonable price. The gamblers then took off ... and tried their luck at the gaming machines....Josie's dedication to the Poker machines certainly paid off this evening while others were content just making a contribution to her win !!! For some reason people didn't stay out as late as the previous evening can't imagine why !!! Lovely evening with good company!

MB.

Report from Riflemaster (Smallbore)

Christmas-Shoot 1997 (30.11.97)

This event was held a few days earlier, than other years. We had marvellous weather and a very good attendance. About 80 people took part, including the children. There were also a few visitors from Switzerland. The children were very well behaved! This was probably due to the fact, that they knew, that Father-Christmas was going to arrive any minute! He had only good things to say about them and gave each child a present! The children thanked him by singing him a few christmas-carols, which everyone enjoyed very much.

After Father-Christmas had left, we started handing out the trophies from past shooting-events, followed by the prizes for the Christmas-Shoot.

Results:

Trudi Ott - Belt - Shoot (1997)

Winners:

Miss Helen Freiman 99 Points (Belt)
Mr. Holdy Mathys 99 "

Runner-up:

Mr. Lou Nolly 89 "

3rd Place:

Mrs. Regina Mathis, 89 "

Ted Näpflin -Memorial -Shield-Shoot 1997

Winner:

Mr. Lou Nolly 100 Points (Shield)

Runner-up:

Mr. Edi Füglistaller 99 "

3rd Place:

Miss Helen Freiman 97 "

Christmas-Shoot-Results (1997)

(47 Competitors)

28 Shooters

Topscore:

Mrs. Joan Nolly 50 Points
Mr. Lou Nolly 50 "
Mr. Edi Füglistaller 50 "

Runner-up:

Michael Zimmermann (junior Shooter) 48 Points

3rd Place:

Mrs. Emmi Kiser 45 Points
Mr. Mark Kiser 45 Points.

Skittles (19 Skittlers)

Winner:

Mrs. Kathleen Zehnder 40 Points

Runner-up:

Mr. Ruedi Benkert 39 "

3rd Place:

Mrs. Trudi Breu (Visitor) 38 "
Mr. Bruno Stutz 38 "

Lucky-Number-Prize-Draw-Winners

1st Prize: (Mystery)

Remigi Zimmermann Nr. 32

2nd Prize: Hainsley Mills Nr. 45

3rd " : Erna Zimmermann Nr. 31

4th " : Myrtha Seifert Nr. 7

5th " : Lisette Benkert Nr. 1

6th " : Trudi Breu (Visitor) Nr. 34

7th " : John Herrmann Nr. 13

8th " : Annamarie Schmidt (Visitor) Nr. 28

9th " : Nick Werder Nr. Nr. 14

10th " : Holdy Mathys Nr. 20
(Booby)

In conclusion of my report, I would like to congratulate all the prize-winners and thank you all for your support of our shooting-club!

A special thank you to all the

helpers!

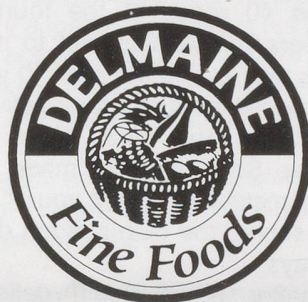
I would like to wish everyone a happy New Year 1998.

The new shooting-season starts on the 15.3. 98 at 1.00 pm. See you there!

R.M. (Smallbore): W.Seifert,
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Santa capturing everyone's attention



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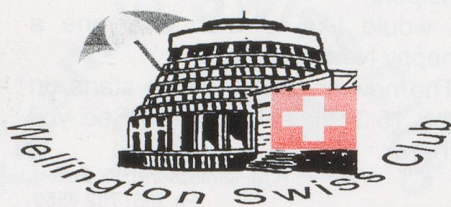
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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AROUND THE COUNTRY!

We hope you had a lovely festive Season!

Forthcoming events

7th March

We are looking forward to the Luzerner Evening, Saturday, at 7.30 in the Clubhouse.

28th March

We hope you will be tempted to compete in the Fritz Adam's Cup Jass Competition, at 7.30 in the Clubhouse.

18th April

We will have the AGM, come and help us shape the future of our Club.

May the lovely summer months
warm you all!

MBG.

Wellington Swiss Club, 40th Anniversary Celebration, 25/26th October 1997

(with editors apologies for incomplete printing
in Dec./Jan. issue).

It could not have been a clearer and sunnier evening on Saturday, October 25, when the first guests, our Swiss friends from Taranaki arrived at the Skyline restaurant in their colorful and elegant traditional costumes. The Wellingtonians, equally dressed up to the occasion, soon joined them and there was much joyous greeting, talking and laughing going on even before our throats were refreshed and appetites whetted with good wine and tasty nibbles.

The restaurant was decked with Swiss cantonal flags, lovely flower arrangements, little flags and red chocolate hearts on the tables made it look even more festive. The view over the harbour and on to the Rimutaka range was stunning - yes, it touched the "Lueged vo Bärn und Tal" spot of our Swiss hearts - quite adequately - on this day, the 40th anniversary of the Wellington Swiss Club.

A wonderful big, red and white flower arrangement, sponsored by the Auckland Swiss Club, decorated the entrance table on which were displayed their framed "Document" congratulating us to our 40th Anniversary, together with the message from the editor of "Helvetia". Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fluhler came as representatives of the Hamilton Club.

Our president, Maya Beddie Geiser welcomed everyone and wished a happy evening, which no doubt it was going to be.

The Basler Clique in their original costumes and masks "drummed and piped" all guests to table and were much applauded. Everybody enjoyed the buffet dinner - some of our guests needed lots of patience until it was their turn, sorry about that!

After the meal, Ruth Messmer, our Treasurer of over 30 years, shared a few memories of what the club was like, when it first started - how modestly it had all begun, and how well it developed. André Schleicher had more stories to tell, and he added a somewhat pensive note by his reflections on the recent Swiss-Jewish/American relations.

However, the mood was quickly revived and brightened by the charming rose-ceremony conducted by Maya Beddie-Geiser: She presented 40 roses to the founding members of the club and to many others who during the past 40 years won special merits for their activities in and for the club. Hans and Therese Scherrer were made honorary members. Thank you all who have served the club in such different ways.

Thereafter, Ruedi Dudli delighted us with his Alphorn - a rare sound that attracted even the curiosity of the waiters of the restaurant, and was well applauded. Walter Simmen, Chargé d'affaires of the Swiss Embassy, addressed words of praise to the committee for their work, and he also encouraged the members to be more enterprising and try to make the club attractive to the younger generation. Thank you, we'll bear it in mind.

Ah, there was again the sound of Basel pipes - and the "Bebbis" came for a second round - this time even with an original "Schnitzelbangg", here it comes:

"Mir sind scho sit velle Joor
In dem schöne Land
Gueten oobe mitenand
Vo der Schwiiz und Neuseeland.

Mir sind do ane kho
Als jungi Pärli
Und s'isch is do vorkho
Wie immene Märli

Dänn hämmer ghüroote,
Händ glaini Bebbis gha
Und de Schwiizer Club aagfange,
Ziit isch schampar schnäll vergange.

Hüt simmer bigoscht scho
Grossmamme und Grossbappe
Und hän halt immer no ne frächi Klappe

Wellington, me sait em die windig Stadt,
Aber mir finde's doo trotzdem glatt
...wänn's numme kaini Zürcher hett !!

Em Aafang hesch nüd emol en guete Kaffi
gfunde
und em sechsi z'oobig händ d'Beize zueg-
macht
und alli Liit sin verschwunde

40 Jöörli Schwiizer Club
Congratulation
Schwiiz-Neuseeland - a super combination"

Lots of laughter - particularly at the Zürcher-rhyme - old "friends" never die!!)

More presentations: Kathi Trachsel yodelled "Niene geits so schön und luschtig" and the Taranaki choir had prepared a medley of Swiss songs which encouraged many to sing along.

The draw of the Tombola prizes was another highlight - everybody wanted to win the first prize: a mystery weekend for two with Ansett New Zealand. It would be nice if the lucky winner, Regina Matthys might send us or the Helvetia a little report on their adventure. We sold 338 lots - not everybody could be a winner, but we thank you for your excellent participation.

Marianne Benkert and Leo Zehnder played "lüpfige Musik" and quickli the dance floor filled up.

Everyone regretted that we had to leave the restaurant at midnight sharp - but for those with enough energy, dancing and partying continued at the Club house.

The celebrations were not over yet. We met on Sunday for lunch at the Wharf, where people were free to choose from the many different catering outlets. At 2 p.m. various sightseeing programmes started - a very interesting and pleasant guided walk with Dennis Hamblin along the waterfront, car drives to the most spectacular Wellington view points organised by Maya, Pat and Fred

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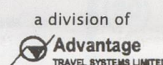
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DANIEL BRANDL & team



Wehrli, followed by afternoon tea at their respective houses. Unfortunately the boat-trip to Somes Island fell into the water, Lotti Napp, cancelled at the last moment. Anyway, it was a very pleasant afternoon, and we hope that our Taranaki friends got yet another view of Wellington this time.

Well refreshed, they and some of the Wellingtonians met at the Club house in the late afternoon for a nice tea catered by Marcel Jäggi, games, talk and dance. A video adaptation of movies showing scenes from past events at the SwissClub was viewed with interest and amusement. Particular mention should be made of Flemming Sørensen: he re-painted the Clubhouse - what a job!. The paints have been **sponsored by RESENE PAINTS**. Thank you very much!

When this last evening drew to an end, everybody went home happily and looking forward to - well, the 50th anniversary celebration. Lots of planning, discussion and work had gone into this weekend - everything worked out well and we would like to thank all the organisers, helpers, sponsors and most of all the participants for their contributions to this memorable event.

Michelle KoeppelSchneider
Secretary, Wellington Swiss Club.
14.11.1997.

FAST 2000

First America's cup Swiss Team

Swiss Challenge with "European flavour" for the America's Cup in the year 2000

Can you remember the introductory articles from Swiss team - AMERICAS CUP in our HELVETIA issues of September/October and November? Now it appears that there is not just one but two Swiss Challengers intent on taking the America's Cup from New Zealand to Switzerland!

Today we would like to introduce Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss team with European flavour:

FAST 2000

First America's cup Swiss Team

We have received a press kit for the First America's Cup Swiss Team, FAST 2000 from the Chargé d'Affaires of Switzerland and quote from the accompanying letter:

In view of the significance of this being Switzerland's first entry in this prestigious sporting event, the Team has requested that the Swiss community in New Zealand be made aware of their home country's participation. The Team will be taking part in the eliminating races in Auckland from November 1999 with the main Cup races being held in February/March

2000. Of course there will be intense interest in the Cup from people in New Zealand in general, and from those from all over the world, but it will be especially interesting for Swiss here with a Swiss entry. (In the meantime we have come to understand that there is not just one but two Swiss entries). In fact, Pierre Fehlmann is involved with the Team and many Swiss, particularly in Auckland, may remember him from the Whitbread Round the World Races when he was in Auckland for that event and made many excellent contacts at that time amongst the Swiss community there. The Team is looking forward to much support from the Swiss community here.

This may be an opportune time to remind us of the history and the significance of the Challenge for the America's Cup and in the March Issue of HELVETIA we will introduce "thé European flavour"; Tactician Enrico Chi-effi, Italy, Skipper Marc Pajot, France, and Jochen Schumann, Germany together with the general crew.

The America's Cup - A challenge to the intelligence of men and of nations !

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