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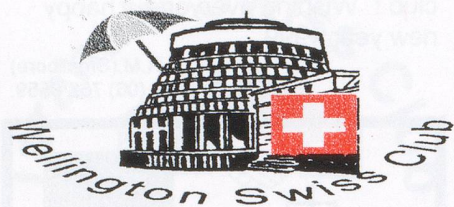
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Forthcoming Events....

All members of the Wellington Swiss Club are invited to the

COWBELL COMPETITION

Taranaki Swiss Club

vs.

Wellington Swiss Club!

at our Club house on

20/21 February 1999.

After Christmas everybody can do with a little exercise - and there is an ideal opportunity to participate in our sporting competition with our friends from Taranaki: We haven't given up hope yet of winning that Cowbell!

- We expect our guests around lunchtime and will have our barbecued sausages and a drink to loosen up our muscles around 1 pm.

- The shooters will go to their rifle range, and we need every strong club member for our shotput competition. Let's try for the magic 8 meters!

- Bowling will start as soon as the shotputting is over, and the Jassers will be in their starting positions.

- Dinner should be ready by around 7 pm. - Sorry, no Christmas ham; it will be mainly salads. We would be grateful for help with the catering - please let Monika Sörensen (Tel. 478 56 49) know if you are available. - And if you can't make it in the afternoon, come in the evening for a gemütliches get-together! The program for Sunday will be announced on Saturday evening - don't miss out!

Past Events...

6. December: Children's Christmas. About a dozen children and their parents came to the clubhouse on 6. December. Michelle Köppel Schneider told a Christmas story under the Christmas tree - and then, knock knock, Father Christmas arrived and was duly greeted. Some children knew a 'Värsli' or a song, and Father Christmas read from his mysterious book and encouraged all to improve/

keep it up before generously distributing nuts and sweets and other goodies.

- Everybody enjoyed the cakes, strawberries and cups of tea before going home; a pleasant, relaxed afternoon in the stressful pre-Christmas time.

12 December: Christmas Party

A record number of over eighty guests came to the clubhouse. It was a most enjoyable evening - plenty of good food; even the bones of the ham found takers! Many thanks to the whole committee for all their work - and many thanks also to the many guests who rolled up their sleeves and helped and made work so much lighter.

tb.

Christchurch Swiss Club

Many and varied events to suit all ages are planned for throughout the year of 1999. The list of activities includes:

- ◆ AGM
- ◆ Easter egg hunt
- ◆ Mid-winter Carnival Party
- ◆ Wild Game evening at René's
- ◆ Fondue evening etc, etc....

On top of the event's calendar is the **Wine Trail on Sunday, 7th March**. By bus, we will visit some vineyards north of Christchurch. Families are welcome. If you haven't booked yet, please contact Werner Schibli immediately, Ph. 332 5525

Playgroup - First Friday of each month, at the home of Nicki Damm, 45 Ramahana Road, ph 332 8520. Open to all mothers with pre-schoolers, from 9am. Call Nicki by the prior Wednesday to confirm.

Stammtisch - Every first Tuesday of the month at René's of Cass Bay, 15 Governors Bay Road, Cass Bay, beginning at 6pm. Magnus's Swiss snacks, sweet and savoury, will be available on the evening.

**A poem full of Wisdom
about advancing 'old age'!
Sorry, only possible to be enjoyed
in the German language!**

Das Alter bringt uns allerlei,
es weist uns in die Schranken.

Dem einen gehen die Haare aus,
dem andern die Gedanken.

Dem einen schwindet das Gehör,
das Augenlicht dem zweiten.
ein Hühneraug und Nasentropf
kann Ärger dir bereiten.

Gar mancher ist ein Puckelmann
und kann sich nicht mehr strecken,
braucht damit er laufen kann,
als drittes Bein den Stecken.

Manch einer hat beim Essen Mühe,
ihm wackeln seine Dritten,
er muss, damit er beissen kann
mit Kuckident sie kitten.

Der eine mag den Vollmond nicht,
den andern plagt der Föhn,
vor Zeiten war er jugend-frisch,
jetzt ist er nur noch schön.

Was einst Du mühelos gekonnt,
was spielend Dir gegeben,
es läuft Dir nicht mehr von der Hand
so verändert sich das Leben.

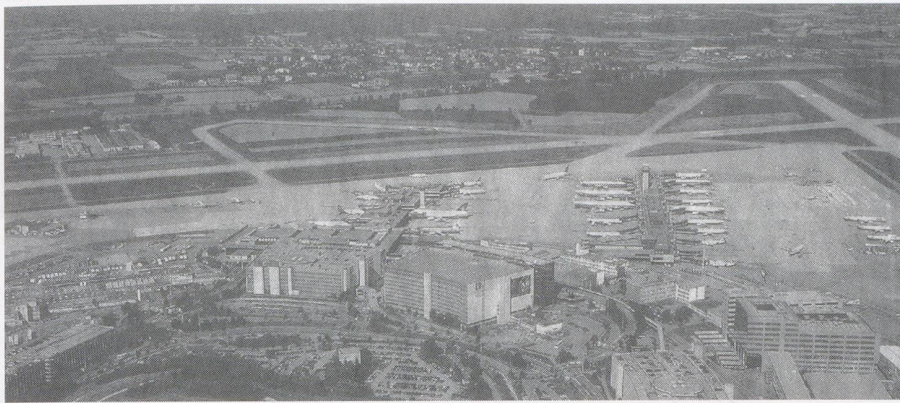
Nimm wie es kommt, verzage nicht
das Alter lern ertragen,
Humor ist wenn man trotzdem lacht,
es hilft Dir mehr als klagen!

thankyou to Regi Mathis for this contribution!

Snippets

Swissair with Heart

Swissair is equipping all its aircraft with new life-saving devices. Flight crews are being trained to use heart defibrillators. The machines are designed to re-establish a regular heart beat after a passenger has suffered a cardiac arrest. Some United States and European airlines already have the devices on board their aircraft.



Airport Kloten/Zürich: Major plans have been announced to expand the country's largest airport - Zurich-Kloten, once its privatisation is approved. The head of the planned airport corporation, Josef Felder, said he expected turnover to rise to one billion Francs by 2003 - double its current level. Mr Felder said he believed another five hundred jobs would be created at the airport. And he said he would press for alliances and agreements with other airports around the worldwide. Kloten's privatisation still needs to be approved by the cantonal parliament and in a local vote.

New Elephants for Basel

Three baby elephants have arrived under police escort at their new home at the Basel zoo in January. Zoo officials said the journey had gone off without any problems. The animals flew in from South Africa to their stopover in the German city of Leipzig on Thursday. Their trip was delayed because of protests from animal rights activists. The three new arrivals will now spend between three and six weeks in quarantine.

More History Uncovered

A Gallic-Roman theatre dating from the first or second century A-D has been unearthed in the city of Lausanne. Local authorities said it was discovered at a construction site near the shore of Lake Geneva. They said it was not yet possible to tell how large it is since the main seating area is hidden beneath a road. It's the fourth theatre of its kind to be found in Switzerland.

Rules on Medical Transplants to Be Part of Constitution

At present, various Swiss cantons have their own regulations governing medical transplant practices; these laws are not only varied, they are sometimes mutually contradictory. Some cantons have no such regulations at all. Given the growing importance of transplant technology, the situation calls for regulation on the national level, as is the case in almost all other European countries.

Consequently, the text of a new constitutional article was made public this week 18/01/99, which the Federal Council and Parliament are placing before voters in a referendum scheduled for 7 February. The article lays down guidelines for organ, tissue and cell transplants and establishes the chain of authority in cases of xenotransplants" (i.e., transplants of animal organs into humans). It also calls for equal treatment of patients, which is of particular importance in view of the shortage of transplant organs. In this connection, the new constitutional article is designed to hinder commercialization of transplants by requiring human organ donations to be gratis and banning all trade in such organs.



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Heavy Tourist Rush in Winter Resorts

Swiss winter sports resorts were pleased with business during the holiday season; vacant hotel beds were a rare commodity. In Arosa (Grisons), some guests had to be put up on mattresses in sauna rooms. Rentals of vacation apartments were also gratifying. As a result, ski slopes, mountain railways and cablecars were crowded. In Engelberg (Central Switzerland), waiting periods had to be instituted because there were too many people on the slopes. Snow conditions, however, were rather less than ideal. Most long valley runs are closed for lack of snow, and everywhere in the Alps people are anxiously awaiting new snowfalls.

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Upcoming Swiss Cultural Events in New Zealand

(As indicated by the Swiss Embassy - Wellington)

The Swiss Embassy in co-operation with 'Pro Helvetia-Arts Council of Switzerland' is pleased to announce the Photographic Exhibition of 'The Patient Planet/So Many Worlds' for 1999.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dunedin | Otago Museum | 27 February - 11 April 1999 |
| Christchurch | Canterbury Museum | 5 May - 7 June 1999 |
| Palmerston North | Manawatu Art Gallery | 19 June - 1 August 1999 |
| Wellington | Dowse Art Gallery (Lower Hutt) | 21 August - 21 November 1999 |
| Auckland | Auckland Art Gallery | 11 Dec. 1999 - 23 Jan. 2000 |

The Patient Planet/So Many Worlds is a remarkable exhibition of photographs which tells the story of the major political and human events of the second half of the twentieth century. Turbulent, yet touching, the 255 images tell individual stories with formidable authenticity, a factor which is frequently overlooked in today's art-directed or manipulated images. Nearly all the renowned names of humanistic photojournalism are represented including Switzerland's Werner Bischof, together with Henri Cartier-Bresson, René Burri, Robert Frank and many others. This is an important exhibition, brought to New Zealand by Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland, and should be of great interest to every age group - it is a photographic history of the world that is our's.



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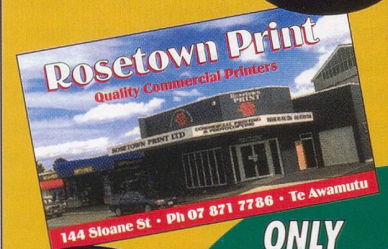
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