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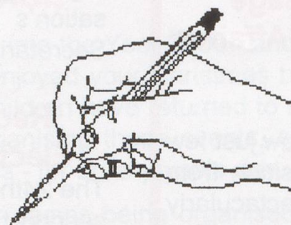
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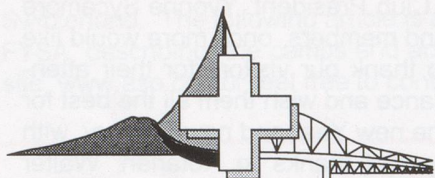
News & Happenings

Web-page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>

E-Mail - society@swiss.org.nz



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Auckland Swiss Club

auckland@swiss.org.nz

Forthcoming Events

13 February Annual Picnic at the Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa. When on Kaukapakapa Rd., turn in to Rapson Rd., keep going to the very end!

- **Make this day a priority!**

Meet up with old and new members!
- Drinks and a good lunch will be available.

- Bowling and shotput competitions will be held.

We look forward to see you there!

15 March 2000; Wandertag

- Full instructions in next issue of Helvetia.

4 May 2000; AGM.!

Shooting on the Farm at Kaukapakapa

Programme and Dates for 2000:

19 Feb	Training
20 Feb	Obligatorisch
5 March	Society Shooting, as well as Kegeln and Jassen
18 March	Training
19 March	Feldschiessen
15 April	Training
16 April	Einzelwettschiessen
13 May	Training
14 May	Auslandschweizer-schiessen
10 June	Training (to be confirmed)
11 June	Hamilton Day

Start Times:

9.00 am	- Briefing
9.30 am	- Shooting Commences

Please be prompt!

For further information, contact the Riflemaster, Henry Werffeli
Ph 09 410 3476, Fax 09 410 3448

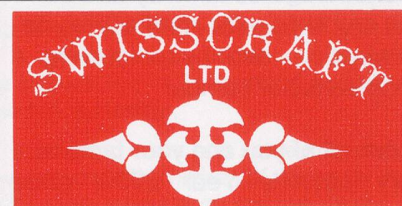
Important: For safety reasons, the Shooting Range may not be used without prior notification to the Riflemaster.

Past Events....

Santa Claus was welcomed by a crowd of 150 young and old, on his

arrival by helicopter at the Swiss Farm. - He was grateful to be able to sit in the shade, as it was very hot. The Children in turn sat with eager expressions in their eyes in a half circle according to their ages. Young-ones in front and very nervous! Soon they all smiled when receiving the 'Chlaus-säckli'!
- Before Santa's arrival everyone had enjoyed the 'Swiss sausage Party', followed by yummy Strawberry pies. The barman was kept busy by thirsty customers.

All in all a happy event! AR.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Swiss Society Shooting Competitions will be held on **Saturday 19th February** at the Elmigers Farm on Chudleigh Road, Te Aroha from 10am to 2pm.

Please bring your own lunch. This event is open to all Society members and has a separate section for women and youth. Further details together with a map will be mailed to all Hamilton members.

Swiss Picnic will be held on **Sunday 20th February**. Please note a new venue for the new millennium: The picnic will be held at the EUREKA SCHOOL, diagonally opposite the Eureka Hall. This venue should be very easy to find, in particular for out of town people as it is about halfway between Hamilton and Morrinsville on the main road. **Time : 11am to approx 3-30pm**. Please bring your umbrellas, picnic mats etc.

There will be the usual bratwurst and cervelats for sale as well as a selection of baking and coffee. Kegel and shotput competitions will be run throughout the day for Society members as well as trophy kegel and prize (sausage) kegel for everyone. The school pool will also be available, but families must be responsible for supervising their own children. Please park along the side road by the school rather than at the hall as it is a very busy road to cross.

If anyone is able to help on the roster for an hour and half, it would be much appreciated. Please ring Anita at (07) 856-2414 before 17th February. **We look forward to seeing you at our new venue.**

PAST EVENTS

The Christmas function was held on the last Sunday in November on what started out to be a very dismal morning with huge downpours. However, we couldn't postpone this

day due to the venue not being available on the following Sunday, so the committee decided to go ahead as planned.

People turned up slowly and by twelve o'clock everyone was feasting on grilled Bratwurst, which seemed to go down very well due to the weather. After lunch the children as well as some adults were entertained by a magician, which seemed to keep everyone intrigued.

Following this, Santa arrived with presents for the children with about forty children lining up for their gift. Raffle tickets were sold and the five lovely prizes were gladly claimed.

Thanks to those people who donated a prize. Not much swimming this year, but still a great venue which we hope to be able to use again in the future.

AZ.

What anticipation, if none other than the Lady- President of the Swiss Society is helping 'Santa' dishing out the presents!



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A First in the Millennium... at Hamilton.....!

Yes, we had a first in the Millennium hype too! -

A group of "young at heart Swissies" turned up at 5.00 am. on New Years day for the world's first Marathon in Hamilton; No - not to run but to organise the Nr. 1 drink stall.

- One large and some small flags, Swiss balloons, posters and music indicated a nice Swiss flair. Nobody felt the Y2K bug here!

- In cloudy and drizzly weather we were ready in 'supplied and keep' Marathon T-Shirts just after 6.00 am. for the first runners. After 30 min. the 'whirlwind' of 2500 runners was

past and the street was littered with cups for about 200 metres. After 15 min. of cleaning up we were ready for a well deserved, nice 'Bubbly Breakfast'. - Out came the Swiss cards; so we had another first!

To all the willing helpers a big Thank You. I hope we will meet again long before the next Millennium!!

(We have donated the remuneration for our work to the "Murray Halberg Trust" in the name of the H.S.C.)

R.E.W.

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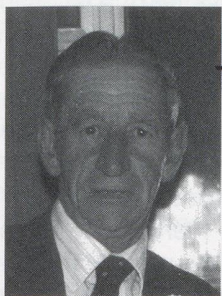
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HELVETIA

Francis Thomas Joseph (Tom) Gisler passed away Tuesday 4/1/00 peacefully at his home- 283 Tui Cres; Te Awamutu.

Tom was born in Thames on 28/5/1920 and was the eldest child of Frank and Katherine Gisler.

Frank Gisler arrived in New Zealand in 1909 from the Swiss region of Canton Uri as a cheese maker and worked in Eltham in Taranaki.

He was transferred to the Thames area to start the Netherton cheese factory. He met and married Katherine Quinn and bought a small dairy farm at Turua.

Tom was brought up on the farm and spent his early working days at the dairy factory. He served in both Egypt and Italy in WW2.

He arrived back in NZ and learned the sheep and beef farming trade on a farm in Miranda and then bought a sheep farm at Ellicotts Block out from Te Awamutu.

He married Pat Henderson and is survived by her and six children and 17 grand children. They retired from the farm in 1990.

A requiem mass was held for Tom at St. Patricks Catholic Church on 7/1/00.

May he rest in peace!



taranaki@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

Christmas Shoot

This was held on 28 November with a small attendance - mainly due to the dreadful weather conditions. Erna organised the children, teaching them to make lovely Christmas hats. The children were keen to give it their best, also making a great effort singing the carols. The presents were then distributed. Hopefully the weather will be kinder next year, so a better attendance will be achieved.

New Year's Eve

Once again this function was held at the Club House. Gates were open from 1.00pm as the Motorhome Club joined us to see in the new millennium. The weather was a bit drab, so Happy Hour...s... was held inside. A BYO barbecue followed, with the evening then commencing at around 8.00pm. We were also grateful to have several members of the Eltham Savage Club with us to help provide

extra entertainment... and what great entertainment we had!! Two Savage Club members played the harmonica with a guitar as accompaniment - it was absolutely beautiful, you could have heard a pin drop! Pat Dyer then sang a few songs which were great - he truly has a beautiful voice. The Swiss singing group also performed a few items which were well received. They have made great progress since their beginning and really appear to enjoy themselves. Several other skits were performed by various members - all great - and laughs were definitely the order of the night!! Miss Millennium was the highlight, with several member of the audience being asked to participate. Compère for this skit was the illustrious Doreen Zehnder... she did a wonderful job introducing the raving beauties - such as Miss Christmas Island, dressed as a Mother Christmas; Miss Chile dressed as a chilli-bin with chillies attached; Miss Canary Island dressed as a bird; and Miss Hungary, who was stuffing her face. It was a great contest, with Miss Aborigine (alias Leo Zehnder) being disqualified due to her tattoos. Doreen and Leo, you did a great job organising this, it was a scream!! In the next skit Doreen showed her true colours - but we won't go into that!!! We also had an unexpected visit from the Teletubbies... boy they looked terrific, and I'm, sure they got warmed up in their costumes. A great effort, ladies!

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All too soon it was midnight, and a glass of wine was given to everyone to toast in the New Year... then the lights went out (unfortunately the street lights were still on) for a short time. Supper was then served, with the delicious spread being devoured very quickly. The entertainment continued into the wee hours of the morning. A terrific evening with excellent participation by the audience. Grateful thanks to everyone who helped provide the entertainment for the enjoyment of all. It was an excellent way to start off the new millennium.

On New Year's Evening, about 40 of us went to the Stratford Club for dinner - a part of our 'tradition' now. We all enjoyed a delicious meal and a chat - going over the previous night's antics!! MB

Forthcoming Events...

February

3rd - Kegeln recommences, remember there are beautiful medals at stake - come along and join in.

12th - Wellington will be up here for the cowbell semi-finals. We'll keep you in touch with what's happening...

13th - Annual Picnic - a great social occasion with the committee putting

in a huge effort to provide entertainment and activities, so come along and give the Club your support. Sausages, drinks and ice cream all for sale. Come and watch the Schwingers - both adults and children participate, and it's always a great attraction.

17th - Kegeln again... with jassers also in attendance - or is it the other way around??

March

1st - AGM - please come along and show your support. Meeting commences at 8.00 pm.

2nd and 16th - Kegeln

RIFLEMASTERS REPORT

Christmas Shoot 1999 28.11.99

Once again we held our Christmas Shoot in late November to prevent it from clashing with other happenings in early December.

- We couldn't have picked a worse day, weatherwise! It was wet and cold the whole time! Only a few of the hardiest members attended! Even Father Christmas was complaining about the weather, when he finally made it to Kaponga! (He reckoned, Kaponga was worse than the North Pole, that day!)

- We had 32 competitors in all (18 Shooters and 14 Skittlers).

Results; (Shooting)

1st. Sepp Kiser 50 Points (Topscore)

Runner-up:

Emmi Kiser 46 Points

3rd Place: all with 45 Points

Mark Kiser

Regina Mathys

Holdy Mathys

Results; (Skittles)

Winner: Heidi Werder 39 Points

Runner-up: Markus Rufer 35 Points

3rd Place: Sylvia Schuler 33 Points

Other Trophys presented for 1999

Trudi Ott Belt

Winner: Holdy Mathys 99 Points

Runner-up: Regina Mathys 98 Points

3rd Place: Mark Kiser 95 Points

Ted Näpflin-Shield

Winner: (with Topscore)

Regina Mathis 100 Points

Runner-up:

Edi Füglistaller 99 Points

3rd Place:

Holdy Mathys 97 Points

Lucky-Number-Prize-Draw- Winners.

1st Prize - (Mystery)

Nr.17 Bertha Kuriger

2nd Nr.15 Charlie Schuler

3rd Nr. 22 Sämmy Werder

4th Nr.26 Andrea Hebler

5th Nr. 30 Sylvia Schuler

6th Nr. 20 Heidi Werder

7th Nr. 10 Holdy Mathys

8th Nr. 28 Craig Dettling

9th Nr. 8 Michael Zimmermann

10th Nr. 13 Lisette Benkert

11th Nr. 25 Erwin Hebler

12th Prize (Booby)

Nr. 29 Markus Rufer.



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In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank everyone for supporting our shooting club!

- A special thank you to Mark Kiser, for a job well done, for officiating as Riflemaster, during my absence! I wish everyone a very happy and successful New Year 2000!

Regards:
R.M. (Smallbore)
W. Seifert - Ph. 06 762 8559



Past Events....

Sunday, 14 November; many people gathered at the clubhouse to take part in the society's competition. The sun was shining and we enjoyed it; so much that the people playing cards decided to play outdoors. After the barbecue some keen players stayed on to battle out the Jass competition for the 'Fritz Adams Cup'.

We congratulate the winner Max Fuhrer! MS

11 December: Christmas Party

We had a great Christmas Party with over 70 members and friends enjoying the evening, food, company and singing Christmas Carols. Once again Monika Sørensen did a superb job in working out the meal and in decorating the tables; thank you very much! tb.

Sunday, 12 December; carol singing with the European Forum. Many thanks to the members and friends who helped with the singing in the botanic gardens.

It was great to be part of that group. The people dedicated themselves to the course and came several times to Heretaunga to practice. Each time our singing sounded better. Many thanks to Therese Scherrer who led the choir and to Therese Jordan who played the piano. We were told that the singing was the best ever of our group!

The Red Cross made nearly a thousand dollars with the sale of their products and the biscuit stall. MS

Ruedi and Francis during Rhododendron festival... we went and saw Frances's beautiful garden, it was truly delightful, we now know what your spare time is dedicated to. Congratulations!



15 January; Extraordinary General Meeting

33 Members attended the Extraordinary General Meeting. After the presentation of various options and animated discussions the members voted to give the Clubhouse-Subcommittee the authority to pursue to buy a property, within the limits of available finances. tb.

Forthcoming Events...

12 February; Cowbell Competition in Taranaki

The Cowbell has been ours for almost a whole year now; it will stay ours only if a strong contingent of us, players and supporters, make it to Taranaki. Please contact Roland Schütz (568 67 72) for pre-event training; only with your participation and commitment can we keep the cowbell in Wellington!

The traditional picnic with our Taranaki friends is always most enjoyable. Don't miss out on this friendly encounter and on the famous Taranaki hospitality!

- If there is enough interest we might be able to hire a bus; please ring Roland Schütz before 5 February so that he can organise accommodation and possibly transport.

26 February; Farewell Party "End of an Era"

We'll meet for the very last time in our dear old Ohariu Valley Clubhouse to enjoy each other's company and share a good meal, reminisce about the past and find the courage and energy for our future task of keeping the club alive and vibrant. Show your support by coming to this very last function!

Club members will receive a personal invitation with further details. Bookings before 20 February with Monika Sørensen (478 56 49) or Christine Alderdice (233 02 68).

Christchurch Swiss Club

Forthcoming Events:

Stammtisch at Club Bazaar:

Every first Tuesday of the month, from 7 pm, upstairs.

Easter Egg Hunt - Eiertuetsch: Sunday, 16th April, from 11 am, in the Victoria Park Playground.

Annual General Meeting:

Monday, 1st May, 7.30 pm, at the Sydenham Community Centre

The Canterbury Museum has invited the local Swiss community to take part in an exhibition for the new millennium that celebrates cultural diversity in the Canterbury region.

The emphasis will be on live cultural performances and demonstrations, but also to share stories and display items. To create a display which accurately presents our ethnicity and identity, input from members is required. We would like an indication of how and what the Club could contribute to this event.

The exhibition is intended to run from September 2000 through to January 2001.

Please contact a committee member to offer your help or suggestions. Remember, this will provide us with a great opportunity to showcase our own cultural diversity within our own cultural diversity within our home country.