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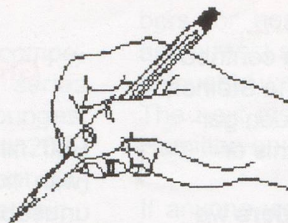
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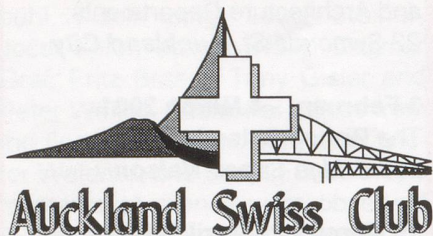
News & Happenings

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

E-Mail - society@swiss.org.nz



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Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch



auckland@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

Jassen: The first Card Evening of the club year (**Friday 19 May 2000**) was attended by 12 players. It was pleasing to see a couple of new faces among the regular crowd. Unfortunately there were only 3 prizes, sponsored by myself - a bottle of Champagne (1st), a bottle of white wine (2nd) and a packet of Sauerkraut (3rd). Maybe someone else would like to sponsor next game's prizes, it would be much appreciated.

Results from May:

1. Toni Manser	4272 P.
2. Lynne Dunphy	4082
3. Louis Wallimann	4017
4. Dominic Hess	3978
5. Molly Gianotti	3952
6. Hans Iten	3772
7. Nelly Steinemann	3627
8. Andrew Iten	3525
9. Fidel Good	3518
10. Max Bachmann	3482
11. Hilde Iten	3398
12. Ueli Kipfer	3373

Society AGM - Auckland 2000

A big THANK YOU, Swiss people from Wellington, Taranaki and Hamilton, for joining us at the Kaukapakapa farm in Auckland for the Cowbell Competition and the Society AGM. We're terribly sorry the weather was so bad, fortunately this was beyond our control. We were honoured to have the presence of **our new Ambassador Mrs Sylvie Matteucci**, who bravely made her way to the Kaukapakapa farm to address the meeting.

Thank you for coming, and I hope you enjoyed your first encounter with the broader Swiss community in New Zealand.

To all the Auckland Club members thank you for your wonderful help, to Edith Hess, thank you for the delicious lunch.

To Edith Hess and Yvonne Bühler, thank you for the lovely decoration at the evening function.

To the Swiss Kiwi Yodlers, and the Holzacker Band, thank you for the wonderful entertainment.

To the people and businesses who supported the club by way of a tombola prize, thank you for your generosity.

And to everyone who contributed in any way to the smooth running of a fun weekend, a big thank you.

And again to the people who made it all worthwhile by coming along and taking part, I hope you enjoyed the weekend with your compatriotes and took the opportunity to make new acquaintances along the way. It was great to see you all. T.F.

The latest Jass-Evening took place on Friday 16 June 2000, with 14 participants.

Although the winner was announced to be Louis Wallimann, later calculations revealed that Louis was in fact in seventh place, and the winner was to be Annegret Wolf. Congratulations, Annegret, and I humbly apologise for this mistake - I don't know how you are going to get those sausages back off Louis.... But I can assure you that in future the figures will be carefully scrutinised before any announcement is made.

The final results are as follows:

1. Annegret Wolf	4163 points
2. Lynne Dunphy	4122
3. Nelly Steinemann	4082
4. Hilde Iten	3937
5. Hans Fitzi	3900
6. Max Bachmann	3874
7. Louis Wallimann	3696

8. Hans Iten	3674
9. Hansruedi Wolf	3604
10. Erwin Steiner	3600
11. Dominic Hess	3577
12. Jakob Preisig	3575
13. Marie-Theres Melville	3557
14. Molly Gianotti	3400

Thank you folks for providing the supper, and for all the donations of prizes, many thanks.

We look forward to the next meetings - 21 July 2000, then 18 August 2000, 15 September 2000, 20 October 2000. Hans Iten.

The next game evening is on Friday 21st July 2000, the usual time, 7.30 pm. (every 3rd Friday of the month, you can count on it), usual venue (224 Hobson St. City).

Looking forward to see you there!



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Future events...

Keep your eyes on the letterbox, as you will be invited to the **Extraordinary General Meeting**. Your vote is required for a very important decision regarding the farm. - Be ready!

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BEFORE you celebrate National Day, we give you the chance to take an active role in the upkeep of the farm: We are holding our

Working Bee on the **Saturday 29 July 2000**. Work usually begins about **9am** and includes jobs like painting, gravel on paths and repair jobs. A hearty lunch is provided for the kind helpers.

Most grateful to everyone who is coming.

First August Celebrations

Saturday 5. August 2000, from 3pm onwards.

The usual activities for Erstaugustfeier are planned, including speech from Switzerland, music and a bonfire at sunset. **Dinner** will be served, at a cost of **\$15 for members, \$8 children over 5, \$20 for adult non-members**. Drinks will be sold at the bar.

The Kaukapakapa farm has proven a very good venue for this event, and it is now comfortable in any weather condition. If you are a new member and need instructions to get there, please call Ernst 09 483 3940, or Ueli 444 3167, or any of the committee.

30 September 2000:

Fondue Night. Which might not be a Fondue night but some other food night. Details in the next issue. Mark it in your calendar. T.F.

Correction

Heinz Matysik Telephone number; 624 1589
My apologies for the error! T.F.

IT IS WITH MUCH REGRET that we announce the departure of Edi and Rita Brändli and Mario and Flavio, as they are setting up camp on the other side of the Tasman sea in Brisbane. Edi has been a very active member since 1980, has served on the committee for several years as a very much liked EDItor/secretary, and has since set up and serviced our web page, which he is prepared to carry on until further notice. Rita joined him about half way, and also took an active role as committee member and lately in our very lively singing group. She will leave a bit of a gap in the soprano (and the conversation) area.

On behalf of the club we would like to wish the Brändlis farewell and all the best for your new beginnings in Brisbane. **You will be sadly missed in our midst.**

*The President of the Auckland
Swiss Club, Ernst Gfeller
addressing the AGM of the Swiss
Society.*

*present at the official table from left to
right; The Ambassador,
Mrs. Silvie Matteucci, Secretary, Ruth
Waldvogel, The President, Beatrice
Leuenberger,
Editor-HELVETIA, Rinaldo Rust.*



Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

Queen's Birthday Weekend

On what seemed to be the first really wintry weekend, nearly thirty members from the Hamilton Club headed to Auckland to participate in the cowbell competition, AGM and an evening of folklore. Some people arrived Saturday and some only travelled on Sunday for the day trip. Most of us stayed opposite Alexander Park which was really ideal for Sunday night's function and also very easy access to the motorway to head to the farm. Most people managed to get to the farm on time to start the competitions (only a few decided to go shopping instead - sorry). The shotput was strongly contested by Hamilton members, but the shooting had already gone Taranaki's way so that left the Kegeln and Jassen to be battled out. These were both won quite convincingly by Taranaki so we must say congratulations for another year and we hope you look after the cowbell for us until next year.

Everyone was treated to a delicious lunch of goulash, followed by coffee-

and cake.

Most of our members then attended the AGM, except for a few who opted to play cards or get some fresh air instead.

It was then time to head back to the motel and get ready for the evening function which started at 6pm. The venue seemed really ideal and everyone enjoyed pre-dinner drinks followed by the formal speeches. Then it was time to sample the various choices from the buffet.

This was followed by some excellent entertainment from the Swiss-Kiwi Yodelers, and not before long the Holzacker band got underway for dancing. The tombola was also a good attraction and many of our members left with some good prizes. Many thanks to the hard-working Auckland committee for organising such a successful day and evening. Lets hope Hamilton can follow your act next year. AZ



Card Evenings

Our third and fourth card evenings took place recently, with both once again very well attended - Tirau 52, and Eureka 44 respectively.

The evening in Tirau was quite eventful by nearly being a non-event! It was suddenly discovered that the cards - essential items for such a function - were still in Hamilton, some 50 km away! But a quick drive to Putaruru to round up enough decks of cards meant that the evening could eventually go ahead as planned.

The evenings, as always, are enjoyed for the delicious suppers as much as for the competitive card playing. One regular player has managed to take home a prize every time so far - Heinz Leuenberger won a first and then third prize on the first two evenings, and then went on to win the booby prize twice in a row!! Our thanks to those who have donated some prizes, as well as to the ladies who have provided us with the lovely suppers.

*The President Herbert Staheli
of the Hamilton Club
addressing the AGM of the
Society, 4. June 2000*

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Results for the 3rd and 4th evenings:

Third Card Evening, 27 May

1. Joe Staheli	4383
2. Ruth Waldvogel	4252
3. Hans Vetsch	4146
4. Theres Kennel	4110
5. Kathy Lenggenhager	4106
6. Hilda Schicker	4067
7. Fidel Good	4052
8. Rösli Schürmann	4006
9. Elisabeth Gaemperle	3987
Booby Prize:	
Heinz Leuenberger	3180

Fourth Card Evening, 10 June

1. Werner Fässler	4209
2. Kurt Hess	4169
3. Joe Kennel	4093
4. Bert Steiner	4091
5. Alice Arnold	4086
6. Margaret Hayward	4060
7. Max Nussberger	4058
8. Erika Bolli	4029
Booby Prize:	
Heinz Leuenberger	3325

Shooting Day

for Hamilton members was held on Sunday, 11 June on another wet and wintry day. Three carloads of people headed to the Swiss Farm for a 9.00am start. Unfortunately the numbers were down this year, but the day was enjoyed by all. Henry Wefferli presented the medals from last year's shooting competitions. Congratulations to Wayne Hodel on his Gold Medal and to Walter Zuber for his Bronze Medal.

It was also encouraging to see young members participating and in particular a female. Chris Hochueli prepared a delicious lunch and we were spoiled like kings. This was much appreciated on such a cold and rainy day - many thanks!

Thank you also to Henry for organising this day and in particular for his efforts and patience in helping the Hamilton squadron, as well as for shifting the stock from time to time so we didn't have to show our skills (or lack of) at shooting around the cows!! We wish him a good trip to Switzerland and all the best for his shooting. See you all next year. Many thanks.

Please note...!

Change of address;
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& Peter Rust (Riflemaster)
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Forthcoming Events...

First of August Celebration will be held this year on Saturday 29th July, at 8pm, at the Eureka Hall. Come along to this evening and enjoy the live entertainment from Auckland, with Peter Arnold and his band "Sound of Switzerland".

Once again they will treat us to some great entertainment along with dance music. As usual we will be serving you with a home-cooked dinner, as well as wonderful swiss baking for supper, so come along with your friends or neighbours and treat them to some great swiss entertainment. AZ

HELVETIA -Editor's Report to AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

"Liäbi Landslüt, fellow Swiss compatriots, fellow Swiss Kiwis, Ladies and Gentlemen"

We have come to the end of our third year issuing the HELVETIA in our 5 year term. - Once again we have produced 10 issues, 8/monthly and 2 by/monthly including an enlarged one of 16 pages.

From February onwards we have produced the magazine without the computerhelp of Luuk Paulussen and I would like to thank him on behalf of the editing team once again for his services. Luuk is now

studying at the Canterbury University.

Again we have been well supported by our long-term advertisers as well as by some occasional advertisers and on behalf of the editing team I want to thank them all very much and at the same time I would like to remind all our readers to kindly support such advertisers whenever possible.

I am happy to report that we enjoyed excellent cooperation with Secretaries and executives of the various Swiss Clubs and with our Embassy in Wellington. A big thankyou to everyone who helped by sending in reports, of past and future Events and to the Embassy for sending reading material from Switzerland. Also to all members countrywide who took part in our front page competition and to the Children taking part in their own competition like the Easter Egg competition, recently.

The complete editing team of Ruth and Charlie Waldvogel, Bert Flüher, Beatrice Leuenberger, Joe Staheli, Heinz Leuenberger, Doris Rust and Trudy Wilson, are offering their services for another year and I want to thank them most sincerely for all their help especially in stapling, labeling and dispatching, and so saving a lot of expenses. - Many thanks go to Rosetown Printers of Te Awamutu for the professional job in printing our HELVETIA.

It is with pleasure that I recommend this report for adoption. Rinaldo Rust, Editor.



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Past Events...

Cards These have been supported to a lesser or greater extent this winter... several key players on holiday and we soon find there is a table or two less. Please come and support our dedicated organisers on Sunday afternoons.

May 20th This was a BIG day for many of us... firstly shooting started at 11.00am with only a few members, but numbers increased throughout the day.

Then Preiskegeln commenced just after 1.00pm - many thanks to the dedicated players who tried either with luck or skill (or both if very lucky) to win a couple of cervelats.

Many of our very faithful members were keen participants and to those we are truly grateful, for without you the afternoon could have been a fizzer!! Paul even went on bended knees - but to little avail. Maya was so talented... she played two shots for ZERO!! (hope she fared better in Auckland for the cowbell competition). Thanks again for the scoring all afternoon - you are the best! Finally, Maya went home to have dinner with her husband, Bruno - while he came to the Swiss Club to

have tea with his wife!! Good one, Stutz's!! We really enjoyed your company, even if yours was a bit 'staggered'!!

First in men's Preiskegeln was Edi Füglistaller, with runner-up Johnny Bishop. In the lady's competition Heidi Seifert and Marianne Benkert ended up in first-equal placing and decided to share the dividends!!

From 6.00pm we had our ever-popular fondue or sausages and salads. A great attendance ensured we were kept busy. Grateful thanks to all our helpers, especially the great cooks, Leo and Erna... you did a terrific job and we'll keep you on for another year or three! Many, many favourable comments were heard about a delicious meal. Thanks also to the ladies who made the scrumptuous salads which were served with cervelats - without our dedicated 'labour force' we would not be able to provide such a terrific meal for a very reasonable price.

We then drew the lucky person to win the 'name the picture' in our Club newsletter. Correct answers were: 1. Lausanne, 2. Kandersteg, 3. Luzern. There were three entries with two correct answers - Doreen Fitzgerald, Felix Suter and Sylvia Schuler, with Silvia winning the free fondue dinner. Well done to all participants.

A raffle, which was well supported by members, was then sold. Many thanks for everyone's contribution to our club - without our loyal supporters we would not have the assets we have today.

Zeno and Peter Canziani supplied

great entertainment for the evening - we are so very lucky to have you.

Next, Marianne forgot to bring the Kegeln medals, so these will be presented at the 1st of August function. Men's winner was Mark Kiser, with the consistent Johnny Bishop runner-up. In the lady's section the winner was Myrtha Seifert with Frieda Meier as runner-up.

We hope that **Rös Monti and Myrtha Seifert** are enjoying their trip to Switzerland after many years, and we look forward to hearing all about your adventures!

John Hermann has had a recent stay in hospital for a hip replacement so we hope you're on the mend and look forward to seeing you at cards again very soon.

The Taranaki contingent to Auckland had a great trip ... and the Taranaki Swiss Club congratulates those members participating on winning the cowbell - what a great achievement!! Let's hope that Maya did better at card than at Kegeln on 20th May - or else she may have helped Hamilton!!

Forthcoming Events...

2 July - Anniversary Shoot

Always a great day with an excellent meal, served from 6.00pm. Please come along and support our new smallbore Riflemaster, Mark Kiser.

9 July - Cards

23 July - Cards

29 July - 1st August Celebration

Members will be contacted closer to the time. Always great entertainment and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

MB

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- cowbell !*

Report on Bus trip to Auckland
(to the Cowbell-Competition and
the AGM of the Swiss Society,
3rd to 5th June 2000)

On the morning of the 3rd of June 2000, 28 members of the Taranaki Swiss Club, headed up-north to the "big smoke" to compete in the final of the Cowbell-Competition (Taranaki vs. Hamilton), and to attend the AGM of the Swiss Society. Everyone, was in pretty good mood, despite the foul weather conditions! When we stopped at Otorohanga for lunch, at the "Royal", Jim Hickey, the weatherman from TV NZ had lunch at the same place, which gave us all a big boost of confidence regarding the weather, because he was heading north also! (But it turned out to be a lot of wishful thinking!)

We arrived at our Motel at 4 pm. where we were welcomed by Rolf Bertschi from Auckland Swiss Club! He also gave our bus driver directions for next day to travel out to the 'Swiss Farm'. He was even offering to meet us along the way to lead us out-there! About two thirds of our group decided to spend Saturday night at the Casino and the rest wanted to have an early night, to be fit for the competition next day, so they had dinner at the Motel and went to bed soon after!

Nest morning we all got up at 7 am.

We left the Motel at 8 am in pouring rain. Luckily we had a few spare seats because our good old bus had a leaking roof and we were able to vacate the wet seats. Rolf Bertschi was waiting for us where the bus had to turn off from the tarseal to the medal road! Colin our conscientious bus driver got more and more hesitant the closer we got to the end of the road. About half a km before we got to the club house, he suddenly stopped the bus and said; *this is as far as I'll go!* and I could imagine him thinking...(dear God give me 40 acres and I turn this bus around!)

Rolf had to first take him to the destination in his car to inspect the conditions and when they returned he ordered us to disembark and this in pouring rain. Rolf had already organised a shuttle service for the rest of the way. The driver with the assistance of Lou Butler had to back the bus down the road past 3 properties until he was able to turn the bus around. Once he had achieved that, he backed it all the way up to the club house car park.

The whole exercise took close to two hours to complete! (talk about determination)

Once we all arrived at the club house (except our driver and his navigator), we were welcomed by Ernst Gfeller, the President of the Auckland Club. The kettle was boiling and our Christina Amstalden made sure we all got a hot drink to warm us up! In the meantime our opponents from Hamilton had arrived also and it actually stopped raining for a couple of hours, which gave us just about enough time to do the 'Steinstossen' and 'Kegeln' outside. By the time the last skittle's player from the Hamilton club had his turn it started to rain again! This created rather slippery conditions for the Hamilton President, Herbert Staheli! His last shot dropped only one pin and as a result both clubs had equal scores in 'Kegeln'!

We had already won the shooting and the 'cards', so the end result was: **Taranaki 2½ and Hamilton 1½ events!**

I am proud to announce that the beloved cow bell is going to Taranaki for the next 12 months.!

I would like to congratulate my team for their good effort and thank our friends from Hamilton for a fair and friendly competition.

We wish them all better luck next



*Who?, was celebrating
their 45th Wedding Anniversary
on the 4th of June 2000 ?*

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year. After a lovely lunch and a nice 'cuppa', the afternoon commenced, with the opening of the AGM of the Swiss Society!

President, Beatrice Leuenberger, first introduced to all of us our new Ambassador Mrs. Silvie Matteucci-Keller!

After listening to her speech, Beatrice chaired another of her always interesting meetings, which concluded about mid-afternoon.

Afterwards people started heading back to the city to get ready for the entertainment part of the weekend.

In the evening we were spoiled with a first-class-dinner and the superb performances of the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group and the 'Holzhacker-Band'. The evening ended all too soon for most of us! Once again on behalf of the members of the Taranaki Swiss club, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends from Auckland for their warm welcome and their generous hospitality! We all had a most enjoyable time with you, and this of course includes our friends from Hamilton and Wellington as well.

We are looking forward to meeting you all again. On the morning of the 5th we left our Motel at 10 am to start our journey back home. We made a big stop-over in Hamilton for lunch, and to collect our 'Lotto' win! Our next stop was Awakino and our last one at Mokau for refreshments and a 'last cuppa' before we got back to Taranaki. I would like to thank you all for your support! It's been a pleasure travelling with you! W.S.

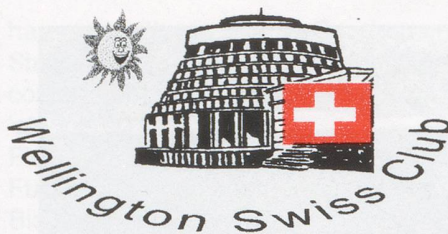
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Forthcoming events...

1 August : Bonfire on Petone Beach

5 August : National Day, in our new clubhouse - don't miss this historic occasion!

Invitations will be sent to all members of the Wellington Swiss Club.

News from our Clubhouse

Are you wondering how our new clubhouse is going?

- Well, it is going..., but there is still quite a way ahead of us.

- It is going to be a truly Swiss clubhouse: Things have to be perfect, and they will be, thanks to all the excellent tradespeople who take pride in achieving the best.

A big thank you not only to them but also to their wives who support their husbands and put up with evening and weekends without them: Thank you, Ruth Glauser, Margaret Hensch, Elisabeth Hynes, Trix Jäggi, Theres Scherrer for your understanding.

The dividing walls in the "old Post Office" have been eliminated to create one big room. Hans Buess, Max Fuhrer and Hans Scherrer were in the demolition team. Hans Scherrer took all the panelling home and fed it through his planing machine and rebated it - and now it is as good as new and waiting to go back on to the walls. - As the partitioning walls bore some of the weight of the roof, a steel beam was needed. Thank you, Orsi Bacsikai Keller for working out the dimensions, and thanks once again to Peter Hynes who got the steel beam to Wainuiomata - and to the dedicated strong men Roland Schütz, Heinz Jäggi and Peter Hynes for spending a whole weekend putting the beam in place! Next; in came the demolition/reconstruction team, Hans Scherrer and his assistant Hans Buess.

Hans Buess also plastered up the holes and grooves and levelled the floor - and he did it all over again when unsuspecting visitors walked into the wet concrete. Hans Glauser made sure nobody was electrocuted and the lights, the machinery (and the jug...) were still going.

Hans Glauser also installed a security system to scare off prospective burglars (and timid helpers).

- Then the 'ceiling team' moved in, and under Walter Hensch's professional leadership, Roland Schütz, Heinz Jäggi and Peter Hynes will, no doubt, manage to get the ceiling straight. - Well hidden above the batts and gib boards is what might look to the uninitiated like a "Gnuusch-im-Fadechörbli": Hans Glauser's state-of-the-art wiring.

- The surroundings of 'our property' are looking much better already as well: Heinz Jäggi came with the chainsaw and cut down all the self-seeded sycamores and he ground the stumps to get the soil ready for low-growing shrubs more suited to the space available. Ho many trips to the tip, Heinz?

- The renovation committee met a few times and has got everything under control and has made the important decisions. There is still a lot of work ahead, so if you feel you could help, don't hesitate and ring Hans Glauser (work: 478 74 55), Heinz Jäggi (569 75 16) or Roland Schütz (568 67 72).

- Hans Scherrer has done much, much more than his fair share - we wish him and his wife Theres a wonderful, relaxing time in Switzerland. Thank you very much! And we do hope that you will find the clubhouse finished and up to your expectation when you come back.

All members of the Wellington Swiss Club are invited to "Coffee and Cake" on the 'Building site' on 25 June; you will read more about it in the next Helvetia! tb.



The President of the Wellington Swiss Club brought greetings and addressed the people attending the AGM of the Society!



Annual General Meeting

The 39th AGM was held on 1st May. We said good-bye to two committee members - Lynda Wendelken and Reinhard Jagau, who has returned to Switzerland with his family.

Jessica Bagge and Reto Oswald have now joined our team.

Following much discussion it was decided that the annual subscription increase from \$10 to \$15 as from March 2001. This is mainly to cover quarterly newsletter costs, as well as the website.

After much research and 'site inspections' it was finally decided that the new venue for the Stammtisch be The Cellar.

Forthcoming Events...

Swiss National Day Celebration

This will be held on Friday, 28 July, from 7.00pm at the Old Stone House, Shalamar Drive.

Tickets can be ordered by sending the ticket order form included with the June Newsletter, together with your cheque, to Werner Schibli, or by contacting any committee member. A limited number may be available on the night. **Note:** tickets are not being sold at HAMCO anymore.

Come along to this annual celebration and enjoy a delicious dinner of Glühwein, soup and bread, Raclette and salad, apple strudel and ice cream - topped off with coffee / tea, and complimentary Schnapps.

Stammtisch

Every first Tuesday of the month we meet at The Cellar in The Sign of the Takahe, Cnr Dyers Pass Road and Hackthorne Road, Cashmere, from 7.00 pm, coming up on:

4 July, 1 August, & 5 September

Congratulations to Claudia Spoerri and Peter Ruoss on the birth of their son, Joshua Leeland, on 17 April. Best wishes to Kurt Suter, who celebrated his 93rd birthday, together with his anniversary, on 8 May.

Geraldine Motels

97 Talbot Street - Geraldine



90 minutes from Chch on Main Highway Christchurch - Mt. Cook / Queenstown St Highways 72/79 - Close to 3 skifields 6 spacious units at reasonable rates.

We would be pleased to meet you.

Swiss Hosts:

Martin and Barbara Jungen

Bookings: Freephone 0800 400 404

Living with less....

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. Every afternoon when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live, for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade.

Although the other man couldn't hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days and weeks passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it for himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. "Today is a gift, that's why it is called the present."