

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 66 (2000)
Heft: [9]

Rubrik: New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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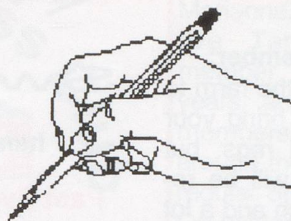
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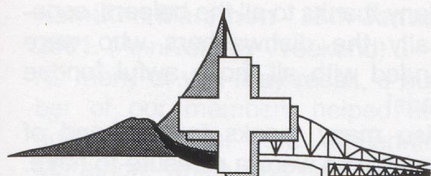
News & Happenings

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

E-Mail - society@swiss.org.nz



Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch



Auckland Swiss Club

auckland@swiss.org.nz

Jassen:

There is very little to report from our September Card Evening. I suppose everyone was watching the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on TV. Only four card players were present and the results were:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Hans Iten | 3898 points |
| 2. Nelly Steinemann | 3826 points |
| 3. Louis Wallimann | 3710 points |
| 4. Hilda Iten | 3638 points |

There is now only one **last Card Evening** for this year! Mark **Friday 17th November 2000** in your calendars if you want to play Jassen this year - as usual, 7.30pm, at Oski's at 224 Hobson St, Auckland City.

If you are able to donate a prize, please bring this along - it would be much appreciated.

Call Hans Iten on ph. 620 9208. H.I.

The Shooting season is now finished and the new season will start in February, 2001.

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Past Events...

Fondue Evening

A cosy evening with good, fun company, together with the finest mix of cheese with wine, was had on the night of 30th September at the farm. About 50 people enjoyed the nicely decorated surroundings of the indoor seating there, which when warmed up by the fire and lit up by people's smiles is such a cosy place.

We celebrated the 70th birthday of Elizabeth Haggie (formerly Gemperle), who in earlier years was a very active committee member of this club. So it was quite appropriate to have her in our midst on her special day. Congratulations!

Also, our very young member made her first appearance at the fondue - Samantha Werffeli-Voorham, who was all smiles.

A home made tombola by Edith added lots of laughter and surprise to the evening and Henry presented the well deserved Society medals.

Thank you everyone for coming and making the evening most enjoyable.

Mystery Tour.

This latest event took the form of a car rally and led about 35 people out into the back of West Auckland and into very attractive countryside.

All sorts of different tasks were given to the participants, like wine tasting and knitting, tying knots and peeling apples - all of which they tackled with much zest and originality.

The tour ended up at the Art of Cheese Café in Puhoi where Nicole and Chris

Leuthold served a superb cheese platter for lunch. They make, I'll have you know, all the soft and blue cheese for the Bouton d'Or label, and, of course, they have two Swiss cheesemakers to help them do that. No wonder it's so good!

Even though the instructions were said to be a bit 'iffy' (my humble apologies!), everyone made it to the destination safely and enjoyed the company, the food, and the setting. A very hearty thank you to all who made their way through the tough terrain and played a very brave game.

Also to Edith, thank you for the wonderful energy and imagination you put into organising these events. We in the committee, and the wider Club, really appreciate the input you have made since you joined the movers and the shakers! T.F.

Vreni Pfenniger stirring the pot - well, someone has to cook the Fondue !



Forthcoming Events...

Working Bee, 25th November:

All the normal upkeep of the farm to be done on this day, so bring your tools, paint brushes and rags, but especially yourself. You will be rewarded with a hearty lunch and a lot of laughter on the day. Call Markus 09 832 3334, or Willi 09 420 8517, for more information.

Power Connection

at Kaukapakapa is now in progress - A Big Party to celebrate this when completed is planned for March 2001. Watch this space...

Samichlaus

Sunday, 3rd December, 2000.

Our Christmas party for the children. Meeting up at the farm from 11am. Sausages will be available to buy for lunch, and Santa Claus will appear around 2pm to give out the goodies. This is always a lively event and we hope to see all you kids up at the farm. TF

BEREAVEMENT

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to our dear member and friend

Elisabeth Müller

who passed away on
5th September, 2000, after a
short illness. We will miss her.
May she rest in peace.

Congratulations to

Heinz Matysik jnr. and his wife

Kerstin, on the birth of their

daughter, Kirby Jessica,

who was born on 6th October 2000

Our Treasurer is now a Grandfather!

Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

The annual Fondue Evening was held recently on Saturday, 23rd September. Once again we had a very good turnout, and in particular families were abundant.

Everyone arrived early and it wasn't long before the band started playing. We were very fortunate to have the "Holzhacker Band" from Auckland to entertain us. At first, people were just happy to listen and talk to friends, but it wasn't long before the dance floor started to fill.

Meanwhile, the fondue was cooking away in the kitchen and the committee was busy preparing the dinner.

I think most people came with a very good appetite and everyone was keen to get the bread stuck on their forks to dip into the cheese. We went through copious amounts of home-made bread, which is always a good sign. Aufschnitt was also served and so it wasn't long before everyone was full to the brim.

After dinner, Club President, Herbert Staheli, welcomed everyone, and presented the many well deserved medals and trophies.

Congratulations to all recipients.

A full list of winners was included in the last issue of the *Helvetia*. Those winners not there on the evening

will receive their medals in the mail shortly.

Following this, a delicious supper of swiss baking was served, together with coffee and also schnapps for the connoisseurs. Many people left early (many to get the children to bed) so the band and committee could pack up reasonably early and head home after another very successful function.

Many thanks to all the helpers, especially the dishwashers who were landed with all those awful fondue pans!

Also many thanks to the band of seven who were a pleasure to have. We look forward to many more evenings of great entertainment.

Forthcoming Events...

Christmas Family Function

This will once again be held on **Sunday, 10th December, from 11.00 am**, at the Livestock Improvement Centre on Ruakura Road (near the Morrinsville Road intersection). Go through the main carpark and follow the driveway to the back, where the Swiss flag will visible.

Everyone is welcome - the pool will be available, play tennis or volley ball, or just come along to meet up with friends for a chat. Parents must be responsible for their own children around and in the pool.

Barbecue sausages will be provided, as well as coffee and home made biscuits for adults and some other treats for the children.



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Santa will be coming after lunch, so parents - please bring along a wrapped (and named) gift, to the value of about \$5, for your own children.

Raffles will again be on sale and we would appreciate your support (in other words, remember to bring some money!).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Hamilton Marathon - 28th January 2001. (Anniversary Weekend).

As many of you may recall, a number of our members helped at a drink stall for the Millennium Marathon, which was held early on New Year's morning.

The club has again been approached to look after the first drink station, this time for the Hamilton Marathon. At least eight people will be required for this early start, for about 1½ hours.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please ring Anita, ph. (07) 856-2414.

Annual Swiss Picnic

Sunday 25th February, 2001 - note this date in your calendars now.

Further details will follow later. A.Z.



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Forthcoming Events...

2nd and 16th November - Kegeln

Come along and participate in kegel... with jassen, table soccer and pool also played.

19th November, at 1.00 pm

Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and Championship Shoot.

26th November, starts 10.00 am

Christmas Shoot and Kegeln -

Note: start time is 10 am, *not* 1.00 pm as stated in last issue!

Also Includes a pot luck lunch before Father Christmas arrives.

Adults - please bring a wrapped gift worth at least \$10.00, and everyone will then receive one back.

Parents - also bring a wrapped gift worth about \$5.00, with each child's name on it.

Children's activities will be organised, so if you have any good ideas, please let a committee member know. We're always looking for new and interesting ideas!

This is an excellent family day, so please support the club.... we're hoping the weather will be kinder than last year... couldn't possibly be worse!!

31st December -

New Year's Eve, of course!!

Another fun-filled evening of great entertainment assured !!!

Enjoy a great evening, and see the end of 2000, and the beginning of 2001... BYO barbecue at 6.00pm (happy hour / hours beforehand), and then it's all GO!!!

Everyone is welcome.

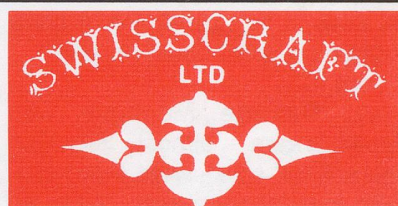
MB

Marianne Benkert has been an active Taranaki Club Committee member and Treasurer for many years, and is well known to many members of all the Swiss Clubs around the country thorough being a regular Society AGM participant.

On behalf of the Swiss Society, we congratulate you, Marianne, on your recent engagement in August, and send you our very best wishes for your upcoming wedding. *Beatrice*

Well, things will never be the same again down on the farm... I think everyone should know that our Treasurer, Marianne, has finally done it!!

Wishing her all the best for her engagement *A silent Admirer*



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Lina Forster 1908 - 2000

Lina Forster, with her son, Ernst, emigrated to New Zealand in 1965 to be with her daughter, Hany, in Kaponga.

After sharemilking with Hana and Max, Ernst bought his own farm in Lepperton, and was joined by Lina. Two years later, when Ernst married, Lina moved to her own home in Inglewood. Just a few years ago, when Lina was no longer able to do her daily tasks, she moved to Marinoto Home in Inglewood. Lina was a loyal member of the Taranaki Club for many years. To all her family our deepest sympathy. R.D.



Past Events...

Builder's Party - 16th September

The Builder's Party, held on 16th September, was not scheduled in our calendar - it was a spontaneous decision, and only advertised in the *Helvetia* once - almost a test of our members' awareness of the *Helvetia*. Well, we proved ourselves, in general, to be attentive readers!

Almost fifty guests enjoyed a wonderful evening with plenty of food. The Sauerkraut was delicious - the cooks are keeping their secret on what they added to it.

After such a rich meal, you'd have thought no dessert could be eaten. Far from it!

A real Bernese Meringue with whipped cream - almost reaching "Lüderechilbi" size - went down easily with most of our guests. All in all, a great success, to be repeated before too long!

Roland Schütz officially welcomed new Club members, and also thanked Franz Rempfler for his generous donation of the biggest, most beautiful cowbell you can imagine - and it's ours now and won't be taken away from us, ever.....!

Fondue - 7th October

The Fondue Evening started weeks ago - Max Fuhrer, one of our cheese experts, bought 16 kg of just the right mix and stored it lovingly in just the right way, at the right temperature - thank you, Max.

Bookings trickled in at the beginning, but came thick and fast after the deadline. Our clubhouse was full again - we even had to borrow some chairs! Almost eighty members and friends arrived. Many had only just come back from a holiday in Switzerland, so there was also much catching up to do.

The meal started with a rich Macdonald salad. Has anyone ever washed lettuce for eighty people? Jeanine Macdonald can assure you - it is a lot of lettuce!

The fondue was expertly cooked by many cooks who did *not* spoil it at all, but came up with a delicious fondue. Not even the ones who were served last had reason to complain!

Marlene Rüegg surprised us all with her exquisite, light and fresh dessert, which was followed by coffee and biscuits.

Many hands (and the luxury of as much hot water as we liked) made light work of the piles and piles of dishes - a big thank you to all the kind volunteers!

The raffle tickets sold well, thanks to Shirley Hynes and her friend.

Roland Schütz acknowledged all the improvements in and around the Clubhouse. Guess how many holes Franz Rempfler dug to plant all of those agapanthus? But there is still a lot to do, and we hope we'll find willing workers for the next steps.

Well, in this busy, happy atmosphere, we forgot to present the medals of the Swiss Society Competitions - shame on us! But they are safe in the former Post Office strongroom. We don't think they'll multiply in there, but they will keep!

So it was a good evening - well, a good early morning for some...

Forthcoming Events...

Garage Sale, 11th November

Spring is the time for cleaning out and tidying up! All your discarded treasures might find proud new owners at our Garage Sale.

This will take place in the car park beside the clubhouse, starting at 8.00 am. We need lots of stuff - anything can sell, so don't hesitate to donate whatever you have to the Swiss Club Garage Sale, even if you *do* think nobody will want it! Bring your items to the clubhouse, which is open every Friday afternoon, from 1.00 to 5.00 pm. If you need help or transport, contact Heinz Jäggi (ph. 596 7516, or mobile 025 430 759).

Shot Put / Fun and Games Sunday, 12 November

Come along for a relaxed, pleasant afternoon, from 12 noon onwards, with BYO barbecue picnic. Sausages will be available.

The shot put competition will start at 2.00 pm. Spend a fun, family afternoon at the clubhouse to meet friends and make friends! t.b.

News from the European Forum

Many thanks to the people who attended our fundraising *Variety Show* in June. It was an evening of good entertainment and fun. All the performers and helpers were volunteers, and we were able to present the Mary Potter Hospice with a cheque of \$3000.

Ethnic Council

At the August meeting of the Lower Hutt Ethnic Council, Maya Beddie-Geiser told the audience about the origin of our Swiss national day and the different customs observed on this special day. Thank you, Maya, your help was greatly appreciated!

Monika Sorensen

* STOP PRESS *

Society Jass Competition

The first Swiss Society Jass competition in our **new clubhouse** took place on 14th October 2000.

It was a pleasure to sort out the jass cards in your hand by the excellent lighting, which was supplied and installed by Design Lighting.

For many past years, this was the best attendance, with 20 competitors - and Ruth Glauser won convincingly.

Trudy, our dedicated Club House mother, again spoiled us all with a delicious supper - many, many thanks!

R.M.

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CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

Christchurch Club Home Page:
www.newsoftland.co.nz/swissclub

Spring is upon us and we are planning pre-Christmas functions and summer holidays.

But first, a report back on a couple of very successful functions.

Past Events...

Firstly, the **Fondue Evening** was well patronised - food, company and atmosphere were very enjoyable.

The **Swiss National Day**, the highlight of our Club's activities, was again held at the Old Stone House. With new ideas and the keen involvement of the committee, the evening turned out being a great success. The well organised tombola attracted lots of support and is sure to be repeated.

A big thank you to the committee for all the work done for this function.

And with the change of venue of the **Stammtisch**, we have had quite a good turn out over the past months.

If you have a chance, drop into the Museum during **November** to view the **Cosmopolitan Canterbury**

Exhibition we are involved with. If you're lucky, you may even be treated to an alphorn concert by Rainer Kuprecht (dates on website).

Forthcoming Events...

Stammtisch - at The Cellar in the Sign of the Takahe, Cashmere, meeting every **first Tuesday** of the month, **from 7pm**.

Upcoming Stammtisch: Tuesday, November 7th and December 5th.

Cosmopolitan Canterbury Exhibition - celebrating Canterbury's rich cultural diversity. The exhibition runs to 6th February, 2001, **featuring Switzerland from 4th November to 3rd December in Exhibition Three**.

Samichlaus - at Renate and Ernst Frei's, 564 Cashmere Road, **from 2pm, Sunday, 3rd December**.

Samichlaus is looking forward to poems, songs, drawings, etc from the children. Parents - add a personal note with something about your children when booking.

There will be an early BBQ tea with some sausages provided. Each family please bring salad and dessert to share. BYO drinks, plates, cutlery. To book, contact Stephanie Turner, ph 381 4341.

The day is **free to members**; and **\$10 per family for non-members**.

News and Articles from Switzerland....

Reform of Family Allowances

A special commission appointed to review family allowances in Switzerland has proposed a number of reforms, hoping to reduce poverty within families by 50 per cent.

The Federal Co-ordination Commission on Family Matters proposed a standardised programme to replace the inefficient existing system, which currently varies widely amongst all of Switzerland's 26 cantons.

The reform proposal is based on a three-tier system: the two existing systems of tax deductions and family allowances, plus the "Ticino Model", which would introduce extra allowances for low-income families. Currently, about six per cent of all families in Switzerland are considered to be living in poverty.

The commission reported that the "Ticino Model", used on a national level, could reduce that by half, after successful trials in the southern Italian speaking canton of Ticino. They also favoured reforms in the family taxation system, recommending a federal payment of at least SFr200 (NZ\$280) a month per child - eliminating cantonal differences.

It was felt the cantons would not object to losing their authority on the issue, as the present system no longer has any bearing on mobility in modern society. If somebody lives in one canton and works in another, there is often the problem of deciding which canton is responsible for paying the family allowances.

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