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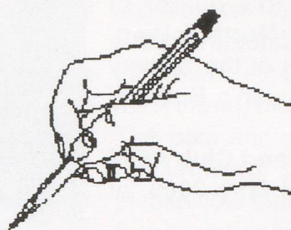
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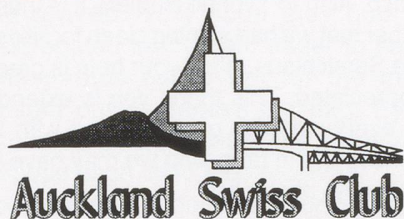
New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

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

E-mail - society@swiss.org.nz



Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch



auckland@swiss.org.nz

Dear Club Members

A very warm summer to you all, and I hope everyone has had a nice break and good 'Rutsch' into the new year.

We are starting the year with our **Picnic, Sunday 9th February 2003**, 10am onward, and invite all of you to come up to the farm for it. We will have things to do for the young, games, The Society Kegeln, the Wurst-Kegeln, and Air Rifle



Auckland 2002 Wanderers, at the Trig Station. From left to right: Orlando Werffeli, Thomas Matysik, Isobel & Henry Werffeli (with Samantha on the back) Trudi Fill, Susanne from Switzerland, Olive & Patrick Kipfer, Kurt Hess from Hamilton, Heinz Matysik, Ueli Kipfer.

competitions, and lunch will be available to buy.

We hope lots of you can come up for this very special event.

The Samichlaus celebrations were held on Sunday 8th December last year, and as usual we had the pick of the bunch for weather, and a very lively bunch of children waited patiently to greet Santa. He duly arrived at one o'clock and handed out his bag of goodies. He had plenty of good things to say about our Swissies, and I hope you all grow up to be good Kiwis as well. Thank you to all for being such good sports.

Our loyalty to country is certainly being put to the test especially here in Auckland, as Alinghi carves away at the LV Cup, and everybody is holding their breath as to where the cup will be held next time round. Alinghi invited the Auckland Swiss community to a social evening on Friday 13th December last year, with the most generous offering of supper with real Swiss Cheese and bread, oodles of the most exquisite pralines and wines to your heart's desire. The Yodel Group generously obliged with their lovely tunes and the Alphorns echoed warmly around the syndicate's compound. Guided tours gave the visitors an insight into the workings of the Alinghi challenge, though I'm sure not too much to give away their winning secrets. May the best sailors win!

Thank you, Alinghi, and our yodellers,

for a very nice evening, and good luck for the regatta.

Just a few things for our dear members to keep in mind.

The Shooting Club is a very fundamental and traditional part of the Auckland Swiss Club, as people coming from Switzerland can very well understand, and the 300m shooting is very active. Henry, the Riflemaster, is inviting all interested people to join him on one of the meetings. If you would like more information, do not hesitate to call him after hours on Tel. 410 3476.

Shooting starts again this month, on the weekend of **22nd/23rd February 2003**, at 10am each day - this is the 'Obligatorisch', as the name says, the compulsory practice round for every Swiss Soldier. So get a taste of tradition and join Henry at the farm.

The Jassen, another tradition in the club, starts early this year, so the first game will be **Friday 21st March 2003**, at 7.30pm, at 224 Hobson St (Oski's lab) as usual.

We look forward to seeing many of you there to play.

Hans Iten, Tel. 620 9208.

Also the **Society Games** are starting at the picnic, and the serious 'eliminations' are held on **Sunday 9th March** at the farm, starting at approx 9.30am. This is followed by the semi-finals against Hamilton, this year held there, in Hamilton, on Sunday 27th April (date

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to be confirmed). The winner of this match will then face the winner of the lower half of the North Island, (Wellington or Taranaki) at the Society AGM in Wellington, Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Keep in mind the **Auckland Club AGM** this year, **Saturday 3rd May 2003**, at the farm.

The next **Stammtisch** will be on **Saturday 22nd February 2003**. This is an invitation to all the members to take some time out of their city activities and spend a night at one of the Stammtisch weekends this year, and it will be an unforgettable experience.

We want to extend a very warm thank you



The Boundary Walk Group: October 27, 2002

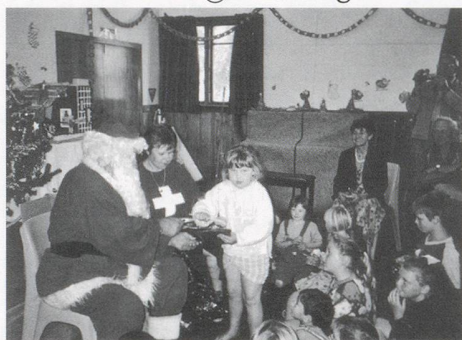
to all the people who helped complete work on the air rifle range and bowling alley as well as with repairs on the roof on the lower container. These included Ueli Hess, Heinz and Thomas Matysik, Albert Ryter, Hans Iten, Henry Werffeli, Ueli Kipfer,

Rolf Bertschi, Terry Mason from the club and some very enthusiastic shooters who are not members, namely Brad Johnson, Steve Stinton, Rob Turner, Collin Holder with his two friends, and Rene Hausin who besides his help during the work done in November is quietly contributing in many little ways to the farm's upkeep. Last but not least thank you to Edith Hess who rewarded the troupes with a delectable lunch. Also to Yvonne Buhler - it is thanks to her that we had shining clean facilities at the Samichlaus. All of your help is greatly appreciated. This thank you is extended to everyone who gives a hand with the upkeep of the farm who we may have left out in the above list.

TF.

Hamilton Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz



Ho, ho, ho.... it's Amelia Fransen's turn to receive her present and giant lollipop from Santa Claus, who is being assisted by Beatrice Leuenberger, as other children and adults look on, at the Hamilton Swiss Club's 2002 Christmas function.

300m Shooting in Auckland

The weekend of 17th & 18th May, 2003, has been set aside for Hamilton members to shoot our annual programmes. We are planning another pleasant social gathering with friends.

Last year, 12 shooters, including three ladies, took part, and I look forward to raising this number this year.

Remember - a free programme is being offered to newcomers, and to those who have never completed the full programme. Camaraderie and participation is more important than just shooting ability.

Please set this weekend aside now, and let me know early so that I can arrange food, accommodation, and shooting programmes. Free transport will be arranged closer to the event.

Please call me if you would like more information, or a copy of the most recent Auckland Shooting Section Newsletter. Ph 07 855 3294, or 021 658 733.

Hans Vetsch
Riflemaster

Obituary

† **Joseph Arnold-Portmann.**
18-12-1915 to 08-01-2003

Joseph (Sepp) Arnold was born in Alpnach, Switzerland, into a farming family. In 1938 he purchased half of his father's farm and settled at The Rengg to farm. He married Alice Portmann on 20/11/45 and six of his seven children were born in Switzerland. Sepp became a member of the Hergiswil Yodel Club and in 1948 Sepp founded the Alpnach Yodel Group. In 1961 they sold up and moved to New Zealand where his NZ farming career commenced at Hairini. Eventually Sepp sharemilked 120 cows at Springdale and in 1964 purchased 200 acres and milked up to 180 cows. Alice and Sepp joined the Hamilton Swiss Club and then started the Yodel Chorli with Hans & Heiri Oettli, Ernst Studer and Rinaldo Rust.

The final son, Andrew, was born in 1964. Sepp and Alice retired to Hamilton in 1978, where they continued to play cards and enjoy travelling and family.

After a short stay at Trevellyn Resthome Joseph died there, peacefully. He is survived by his wife, Alice, and all his children Joe, Franz, Peter, Kurt, Heidi, Bruno and Andrew and 15 grandchildren.

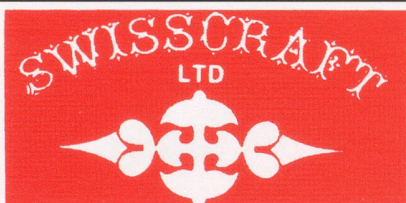
Past Events....

Christmas Party

This was held on December 15th at the Tamahere School. Fortunately, we had better luck with the weather than the previous year and although a little windy, it was a lovely day for being outdoors.

A large, decorated Christmas tree greeted people as they began arriving around lunchtime. The children were soon making the most of the playground area until it was time for lunch - ever-popular barbecued Bratwurst and Bread, and whatever else people brought themselves.

Soon after lunch the raffle tickets were



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sold, with everyone hoping they would pick up one of the prizes. Thank you to everyone who supported the Club in this way, as well as for the making and donation of prizes. The children were also further entertained with some organised games.

At about 2pm a very impressive "ho ho ho" was suddenly heard - and to the delight of the children, Santa Claus had arrived. Very soon they had all congregated in the hall, eager to have their names called out for the next present out of Santa's big bag. Eyes also lit up at the sight of the oversized lollipops each child also received!

Now it was the adults' turn for presents with the raffle draw - and several lucky people were able to take home prizes including a Zopf, quilted blanket, gift basket, chocolate Santa, or wine.

Then, with his present bag emptied, Santa made his departure to the many waves and goodbyes of the children.

This was followed by afternoon tea; complete with a huge and wonderful

selection of home baked traditional Christmas biscuits, which proved very popular.

As most of us spent this lovely day outside making the most of the sun, a few hardy folk remained inside sitting around the tables playing cards and making the most of the opportunity of being together for this popular Swiss pastime!!

A big thank you to everyone involved in organising and preparing for this day - a good time was had by everyone.

Forthcoming Events....

Shooting and Annual Picnic

The annual Swiss Society medal shooting competition will be held, as usual, on the day before the picnic, on:

Saturday, 22nd February 2003,

commencing at 10 am at Elmiger's farm, Chudleigh Road, Te Aroha. (Women are also most welcome.) Please bring your own lunch and drinks. For further details, contact the Riflemaster, Hans Vetsch, ph. (07) 855-3294.

On Sunday, 24th February our Annual Picnic will once again take place at the Eureka

going to be the norm for this event. Too much going on in everybody's life at this time of the year.

The seasonally decorated tables and Christmas Tree put everybody in the right frame of mind and after a couple of glasses of Sangria, the well known Christmas carols were sung with full voice, if not always in tune.

The beautifully decorated baked ham (creation of master cook Roland) served hot, accompanied by a great selection of salads went down a treat. Strawberries, icecream, whipped cream and meringues followed. Medals won during the year were ceremoniously handed out to the successful competitors.

A nice happy evening, enjoyed by all who attended.

December 8: Samichlaus

There they were, the excited children, the Samichlaus all dressed up in red, and lots of goodies to eat. Some children played, or sang, or recited to entertain Samichlaus.

Samichlaus talked to all them and found them all to be good really - with maybe a few slip-ups during the year, but definitely deserving of a stocking filled with fruit, nuts and chocolate.

Forthcoming Events:

February 22/23: Cowbell Competition

It is the turn of our Taranaki compatriots to come to Wellington to contest the Cowbell. Start: Saturday, 22 February, 1pm at the Clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata.

We kick off with lunch and then

School (State Highway 26, between Hamilton and Morrinsville) from 11.00am.

Please remember to bring your own sun umbrellas, etc (as there is limited shade from trees), along with chairs and rugs. The pool and playground will again be available for the children (parents - please note that you are fully responsible for your own children, both in and around the pool, as well as in the playground area), as well as the usual activities of Kegeln and Shotput. There will also be plenty of grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats for sale as well as Swiss baking, coffee and a selection of cold drinks.

This is another great family event for all ages, and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with Swiss friends in a pleasant and informal setting.

Club Functions for 2003

A complete list of Hamilton Swiss Club functions planned for the coming year will be sent to all members with an annual newsletter shortly.

Please then keep this in a handy space so you don't miss out.

BL



Past Events

Our most sincere apologies to the readers of the Helvetia for the almost total absence of any news from the Wellington Swiss Club in the December/January issue. As a consequence, some of the items are a bit dated.

October 19: Chef's Special

The meal was delicious, Coq au vin followed by a meringue dessert, skilfully designed and executed by the Committee. The senior members who tend to spend the winters in Europe were back in town and brought each other up-to-date with what was happening in their lives. It was, in short, very gemuetlich.

November 9: Garage Sale

This was again a huge success thanks to the many very good items donated by Club members and the enthusiasm and hard work of the salesmen and women. Result: \$1000 towards the "roof fund". It certainly is the foremost money-making event of the year. Please start putting things away for next year's sale.

November 30: Christmas Party

We had hoped that by setting an early date we might attract more participants. But it seems that 40 to 50 people are

immediately form the teams and go to the various venues for the competitions. Shooting and ten-pin bowling take place a short distance away and the Steinstossen and Jassen at the Clubhouse.

All Wellington Club members are warmly encouraged to take part. Please contact Roland Schuetz (tel. 568-6772) or Heinz Jaeggi (tel. 526-3551) if you are available.

Happy Hour at about 6pm, dinner will be served at approx. 7pm.

The Taranaki lot are not only good and keen competitors, but they are great fun to be with. This is a first class event, not to be missed. So be there!

April 12: AGM

Farewell to Bernadette Hunkeler Brown and Nigel Brown.

Bernadette has been posted to the Swiss Embassy in Mapoto, Mozambique. She and Nigel are leaving New Zealand on 7 February. During their stay here in Wellington they have been a terrific asset to the Club. They attended our functions whenever they could and enhanced each and every one of them with their liveliness and good humour. They also helped in very practical ways like washing endless dishes, talking people into buying at the garage sales and being the man in the red costume round about the 6th of December!

We wish them all the best for the future, success in their work, fun in their leisure time - above all adventurous travelling in this interesting part of Africa.

LN

Taranaki Swiss Club

taranaki@swiss.org.nz

Christmas Shoot held on 1 December 2002

Once again we had a very good turnout for this popular event, 45 people took part in the competition, 25 shooters and 20 skittlers.

Results - Shooting

Top Score of 50 points

John Hermann
Emmi Kiser
Helen Freiman

Runners up with 48 pts

Peter Zimmermann
Remigi Zimmermann

Third place with 47 pts

Anna Riebli
Regi Mathys

Results - Skittles

Top Score with 37 pts

John Bishop

Runner Up with 36 pts

Bertha Buhler

Third place with 33 pts

Kathleen Zehnder

Lucky Number prize draw winners

1st Othmar Hebler
2nd Franz Schuler
3rd Erwin Hebler
4th Marlies Hebler
5th Pascal Tshumi
6th Yvonne Burgler
7th Bertha Buhler
8th Jacky Meier



Some of the children participating in the Christmas activities with helpers Heidi Werder and Susan Connell.

9th

Andrea Hebler

10th

John Hermann

From Marianne - it appears that the prize draws were a "Hebler Benefit Fund"!!! Good on you!!!

Trudi Ott Belt Shoot held on 20 October 2002. The winner was Helen Freiman with 100 points (10 bulls' eyes) with runner up Mark Kiser also on 100 points (8 bulls' eyes).

Ted Napflin Memorial Shield Shoot held on 17 November 2002. The winner was Jason Dudli with 98 points and the runners up with 95 points were Erna Zimmermann, Holdi Mathys and Mark Kiser.

Congratulations to all the place getters and thanks to all participants for supporting our shooting club. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year 2003.

Mark Kiser

Riflemaster, Smallbore

New Year's Eve

As with previous years this was held in conjunction with the Campervan Association. About 20 vans arrived for happy hour, with several Swissies joining

in too. A BYO barbecue was held from 6.00pm onwards. It was a glorious day, and all enjoyed being outside in such lovely surroundings. Everyone ventured indoors about 8.00pm in anticipation of the entertainment...as always organised by Zehnders and Benkerts, helped by various assistants. Several skits were acted out and jokes were told which had the entire audience in fits. Walter and Myrtha Seifert and Lisette Benkert, together with me on the accordion, sang "Seeman" and "Lili Marlene". In the latter Walter was rigged out as a dashing sailor and Doreen came along as "Lili Marlene", dressed accordingly and standing under a beautiful lantern!!! Well, what a hoot!!! The group later came back with two further songs - Das Kufsteiner Lied and Oh Lonesome Me...they were terrific!!! Leo and I played music for people to



Sandra Stebler receiving her lovely Christmas bag full of goodies from Santa and his assistant Doreen Schuler.



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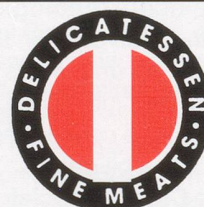
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dance to, or just listen. A BIG thank you to all the organisers for a job well done, and we're banking on you again next year!!! A delicious supper was held just before midnight, then the countdown began!!! Everyone wished each other a Happy New Year with a complimentary glass of wine. All too soon this great evening came to a close...well for some of us anyway!!! Many continued to sing, tell jokes or play cards to the wee hours of the morning.

On New Year's evening about 60 of us went to the Stratford Club for tea...we all had a delicious meal and enjoyed each other's company... reminiscing about the previous evening or the previous, year!!! A wonderful way to end the year, and a terrific way to start the new one!!!

Forthcoming Events

February 9 - Our annual picnic - always a great day for socialising...you are bound to see many people you haven't seen for a while. Enjoy the sizzling sun or make use of the shade of our lovely trees...well, we hope we will be able to offer you good weather!!! The big attraction, as always, is the SCHWINGEN!!! Young and old can participate - although many of the older generation take pleasure in watching the younger generation tussle with each other. It is always wonderful to see so many of our younger members taking part in this physical activity. As usual there will be drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), ice creams, iceblocks, and sausages (cervelats and bratwurst fresh from the Swiss Deli) for sale. Some activities for the children will be available,

4 LETTER WORDS

A young couple got married and left on their honeymoon. When they got back, the bride immediately called her mother. "Well," said her mother, "so how was the honeymoon?" "Oh, mama," she replied, "the honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic." Suddenly she burst out crying. "But, mama, as soon as we returned, Sam started using the most horrible language - things I'd never heard before!! You've got to come get me and take me home. PLEASE MAMA!" "Sarah, Sarah," her mother said, "calm down! Tell me, what could be so awful? WHAT 4-letter words?" "Please don't make me tell you, mama," wept the daughter, "I'm so embarrassed they're just too awful! COME GET ME, PLEASE!!!" "Darling, baby, you must tell me what has you so upset. Tell your mother these horrible 4-letter words!" Still sobbing, the bride said "Oh, mama ... words like DUST, WASH, IRON, COOK ... "I'll pick you up in ten minutes," said the mother.

Contributed by Josie Gillbanks



Enjoying New Year's Eve social are Walter, Emmi and her sister Maria from Switzerland.

and we look forward to your **support** in these events Our traditional tombola tickets will be sold, with some wonderful prizes up for grabs...please ensure that you support the club in this way. Come and ENJOY!!!

February 22 to 23 is the weekend set down to do battle with our friends from Wellington in the semi-final of the cowbell competition. Once again, we are organising a bus trip and look forward to your support. We can guarantee you a great weekend with plenty of fun and laughter. Please contact Walter on 06 762 8559 or Othmar on 06 272 2878 to book your seat.

March 4 The Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Club will be held in the clubhouse on this evening at 8.00pm. Your attendance would be appreciated, reminiscing over the past year and looking forward to planning the year ahead.

March 6 Keglen at the clubhouse...come

Instructions on How to Wash the Family Cat

1. First catch the cat!
2. Place gently inside the toilet bowl.
3. Add a mixture of shampoo and detergent.
4. Place lid in down position and sit on lid.
5. Flush several times.
6. Open the front gate, the front door of the house and any other doors in between.
7. Stand to one side and open lid very quickly.

*Your faithful and obedient servant,
'The Family Dog'!!*

*We have only one mouth
and two ears. The trick is to
use them in proportion to the
number of them that we have
- ie, two to one!!!*

along you keen bowlers and get ready for the competition where, should you be very accurate, you may win a lovely medal.

March 16 Championship / Society Shoot at 1.00pm. Beautiful medals up for grabs in the Society competition so come along and give Mark your support.

MD

Friendship is something to be treasured for a lifetime

Friendship is more than just having someone to talk to and laugh with. It is listening. It is taking a chance and sharing part of yourself with someone else.

It is sometimes giving much more than you are getting; but being thankful that you are there to help your friend.

Friendship is the belief that someone else's happiness is important to your own. It is knowing that this person represents something special. Something to be treasured for a lifetime.

Christine McCarthy

The true meaning of friendship

Some people will be your your friend because of whom you know

Some people will be your friend because of your position

Some people will be your friend because of the way you look

Some people will be your friend because of your possessions

But the only real friends are the people who will be your friends

Because they like you for how you are inside

That is the true meaning of friendship

Susan Polis Schutz



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