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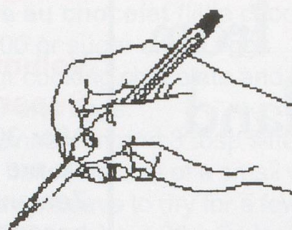
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

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Kegeln has recommenced and Johnny is happy to report that he is seeing a few new faces, and that everyone attending the evenings is enjoying the challenge of skittling and trying several games. Keep up your good work, Johnny!

Visit by ETUI

On October 31 we hosted a group from ETUI (European Tanz Union) who boasted members from Germany (the main contingent in the group), Austria and Switzerland. They were touring New Zealand and wanted to perform at different venues, so they showed their talents at the Wellington and Taranaki Swiss Clubs, and were hosted by the Bohemian Society in Auckland and Hamilton. They presented items of dancing (trachtentanz) from various European countries, singing and music. Some of the trachtentanz performed



Members of the trachtentanz group in action.

brought back memories of dances that we once did! They all wore traditional costumes from their various regions, which were very colourful. They sang beautiful songs under the guidance of a very talented lady. The highlight of the entertainment for many was when the group asked the children to join them in performing a simple dance ... which the children did with great enthusiasm and they were determined to accomplish the dances in style ... well done to all the children who participated ... you did very well! If only we had someone in Taranaki capable of teaching trachtentanz, we would have many keen children ready to give it a go.

The members of ETUI are from different European countries. They got together after having attended a convention some time ago. They practise once a month in Stuttgart ... some members travel up to 500km to attend!!! Before embarking on this tour, they practised the three weekends prior to departure ... what a lot of travelling! The group have travelled to different parts of the world on various occasions.



The ETUI singers performing a lovely number.

Congratulations on your commitment, and we hope that your group continues to grow and be successful in performing traditional folklore.

The group was arriving from Wellington, and Othmar and Charlie met them outside Dairyland, and gave them a brief tour of South Taranaki... going to a lovely garden (it was Rhododendron Festival week), Kaupokonui Beach and they also visited a cowshed (to show them what Taranaki is really about!). We then had a potluck tea at the Swiss Club... there was certainly a delicious array of food, and plenty of it... but did it disappear! They then gave their polished performance, then dessert and coffee was served. The entire group was billeted by members of the Swiss Club which gave them an insight as to how we live down under! On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club Committee, I would like to thank all our members who billeted members of the group, and who brought such a delicious dinner to share with our guests.



Some of the lovely costumes worn by ETUI members.

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They certainly appreciated our hospitality!!! On Saturday morning, their van picked up all the members of their group ... oops ... arriving in Eltham, one member realised that he had left his wallet at his hosts' place (nice of him to tip us in that manner) and one of the vans did a U-turn to retrieve the lost item! The second van ended up at the Benkerts who offered them a coffee while they waited for the other van ... no sooner was the coffee served than the second van turned up ... so it was more coffees ... inclusive of schnaps!!! They then left on their merry way to Rotorua.

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club, I would like to thank the European Tanz Union for stopping in Taranaki and giving us such a wonderful performance of dancing, music and singing. We certainly appreciated your talents, and would love to have you back again. We hope that you enjoyed your visit to New Zealand, and had a safe journey back to your homelands.

Forthcoming Events

November 30: The ever popular Christmas Shoot commences from 10.00am, followed by the delicious pot-luck lunch. Participants may either shoot or skittle, and with everyone bringing a wrapped prize worth at least \$10.00, you will get a prize in return. This day is a wonderful social day, with many children also taking part. Santa may also make an appearance. See you there!!!

December 31: New Year's Eve ... of course. A great way of seeing the old year out and the New Year in is by coming to the Swiss Club ... this event is held in conjunction with the campervan club. Great entertainment is always guaranteed, so come along and join in the fun. A BYO

BBQ is held from 6pm.

February 5 and February 19: Kegeln recommences after the Christmas break. Keep practising so that your skill is ready for the Society Competitions in April or May.

February 8: Our annual picnic is held at the clubhouse from 10.00am. Come and enjoy the activities that will be organised. Food (cervelats and bratwurst), and drink (beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages) available. Children's activities will be organised, and of course the highlight for most people, the schwingen will be contested - this is for midjets, juniors and adults.

Come along guys - get those muscles flexed and give it a go at the picnic.

Othmar, Nic, Paul and their team would love to see you!!! This day is a wonderful social day, with many people catching up with friends they haven't seen for a while. Do make the effort to go, as I am sure you won't be disappointed.

PS - I forgot to mention the great tombola that is always held on this day ... so ... don't forget your wallet ... there are some wonderful prizes up for grabs ... as the saying goes ... you have to be in to win!!!

MD

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Past Events

About 20 people met at Waiorongomai Valley, near Te Aroha, at 11.00am on November 2 for the planned family walk. Unfortunately, it had rained for most of the previous day, and in some places it was still raining on the Sunday morning – weather which is obviously not particularly conducive to taking the family outdoors. So it was not really a great surprise that only four children were counted. Luckily, however, it wasn't raining anymore in the Te Aroha area, although it was, of course, still wet underfoot. There was also a strong breeze, but it was warm in the sun – as long as the clouds didn't get in the way!!

At about quarter past eleven, the group began their hike around the range, stopping about halfway round for a lunch break. The stop was brief though, as the ground was a little too damp to sit on for too long. So after a bite to eat, everyone was soon under way again, arriving back at the car park in the early afternoon.

A few people had brought some baking and there was a good supply of Thermoses of hot water for coffee. Vitus also ensured there was Schnapps, which was just the

thing to add to a hot cup of coffee on such a day – so despite the weather, everyone was happy – the only thing missing now was a game of cards!

So after packing up the afternoon tea things, a number of people headed towards Frischknecht's farm, where the men played at one table, and the women at another. Thank you to Robbie and Hanna for your hospitality. A few rounds of cards was the perfect way to spend the rest of a Sunday afternoon.

Hopefully, we have more luck with the weather on our next family walk.

If you have any suggestions or know of any places where we could have a family walk, we would like to hear from you. This has become a very popular event, often well attended by children, and one we are keen to continue, so any ideas are most welcome.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Function will take place on **Sunday, December 7**, at Newstead School, commencing at 11.00 am. *(Please note the new venue – due to Tamahere School undergoing major additions and alterations.)*

Newstead School is just past the cemetery on the main road from Hamilton heading towards Morrinsville. The swimming pool may or may not be available, depending on the weather, and whether the school has it ready.

But there will be plenty of other activities

and entertainment for the children (and adults), including **Presto the Clown**, who will be arriving at 12.30pm for a show which includes juggling, magic acts and balloon animals. An event not to be missed.

Santa will also be calling, so wrapped and clearly named presents up to a value of \$10 can be left with a committee member.

Feel free to also bring balls, rackets etc, for children's games.

There will also again be a great selection of raffle prizes, so please remember to bring along some money.

For lunch, the Club will provide sausages, bread and drinks, as well as coffee and baking. Please bring any other snacks your family may enjoy.

In case of bad weather, an indoor area is also available. For outside, bring along a rug or deckchairs to sit on.

For any further information, please contact Beatrice, ph 07 843 7971, or any other committee member.

Annual Picnic: Sunday, February 22, 2004

Further details will be in the next issue (February Helvetia), but please mark this date in your 2004 diary now.

A Club Newsletter containing Picnic details is also planned to be produced early in the New Year.

On behalf of the Hamilton Swiss Club Committee, to all of our members, and to all Swiss Society and Club members throughout New Zealand, we wish you all a happy Christmas, and the very best for the coming Year.

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Past Events

The Fondue Evening October 18

The Fondue Evening on October 18 was a well attended occasion. Our president Roland, and Heinz prepared again a most delicious Fondue for all those present to enjoy. A mixed salad plate and bread from our Swiss bakery was served as an Entree, and a dessert of apricots and cream, with a cup of coffee and cakes to finish the meal.

A very successful Dutch Auction was held during the evening for a single bed quilt, which was skilfully crafted by Trudi and won by Daniel Rueger. Thank you Trudi, and congratulations Daniel!

European Dancing Union, Thursday October 30

A group of 16 European dancers arrived from the South Island on Thursday evening to entertain in the Swiss club. Unfortunately the arrangements were very uncertain due to the breakdown in communication. However, Roland saved the day and organised a delicious meal. The dance group came from various parts of Germany, Austria and one man from Chur/Switzerland. Their basic idea is to present their different cultures through dance and music to create understanding in the world. An accordion and a violin accompanied the group who wore their national costumes. The costumes were all different since they came from different regions or countries. They bring these presentations around the world hoping to kindle understanding between different cultures. The group also sang some songs and we enjoyed listening and watching them. After the performance we shared a fabulous meal. The dancers mixed with the guests and it was interesting to listen

to their stories. We enjoyed having them and farewelled them not too late, as they had a busy day in front of them.

Garage Sale November 8

It is always surprising to see how many items are donated for the garage sale. It has become a yearly event and it is great to see our funds for the roof increasing. I find it quite entertaining to watch the bargaining going on and I would say Heinz has become an expert in promoting the sales. We had a very busy Saturday morning, the weather was perfect and many people came to find some bargains. Thank you team for your hard work.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday November 30, Carol singing in the Botanical Garden (7-9.30pm)

It is a wonderful experience to listen to the Christmas Carols while sitting on the lawn (or chair) holding a candle. Come and listen to these ethnic groups singing. To finish the event the public is also given some song-sheets and invited to join the leading choir.

Christmas Party Saturday December 6

Our team will prepare a delicious Christmas dinner. Please keep this date free. We have made it very early this year hoping it would not clash with other end of year functions.

Samichlaus Party for Children Sunday December 7, (3-4.30pm)

This is especially for the families with children. Samichlaus would be delighted if the children could prepare some music or recite a poem for him. Parents please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

Sunday January 25, 2004 Swiss Society Jassen

We can always do with some more keen "Jassers". If you belong to this group please don't hesitate to come along.

February 7/8 Competition Weekend in Taranaki

Please put these dates in your calendar. It is always a wonderful experience. The Taranaki friends are great hosts.

V. M.



Welcome to our new members Hans and Alice Durrer, who have re-joined the club after some time away.

We have just been (that is on Sunday November 16) on our **Mystery Tour**, and this is what we did: Two dozen of us gathered early in the morning at Arataki Information Centre on Scenic Drive in the Waitakere Ranges. Once all the lost or late ones finally screamed into the carpark, we then headed down to Jacobsen Station, which is really a little railway station for the service rail for Watercare. There we were greeted by our friendly guide who explained the history of the railtrack, the water management in and around Auckland, and safety regulations for us, the participants, to observe. We clambered into the little wagons, not much bigger than a toy train. One side was open, the other had closed windows, and even a little gap window on the ceiling. We are to go through about 15 tunnels. We are to travel deep into the bush, following the route of the pipeline that brings the fresh clear water from the Waitakeres to

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High above Quinns Creek the train came to a halt. In the foreground are Martin & Ueli Hess, Lorli Briner, Fleur Hess, Ursula Matysik, Sandra & Dominic Hess.



Oscar Roggen and Hans Fitzi on the barbie.

Onehunga, to the Upper Nihotupu Dam. The friendly guide who also drives the little train at about 20km/h, explains all sorts of facts about the tunnels which are mostly named after people involved with building the dams.

Apparently some wise councillor predicted in 1920 that one day Auckland would have to tap into the Waikato for its water supply, and whaddayano... in May 2002 this came true.

On the spot where about 16 hardened sacrificing workers had their campsite for the whole time the dam was built, there is now a pleasant picnic site and we had our first feed, a brunch with sausages and potato salad. We walked some way up and crossed the dam.

We take it for granted that we can just turn a tap on for a drink of water, and enjoy our daily shower without any thought. People before us actually made incredible efforts to make that possible for us, 3 people even lost their lives just for the one dam that we saw on our mystery tour.

Pointed out on the way back was a native orchid on the side of the track and some rock movement that manifests itself in one of the tunnels. Even some stalagmite is starting to form on their walls.

After our return to the starting point we drove off to a lookout where we had coffee and strawberry tarts. They were quickly devoured, and then we were subjected to a small quiz presented by Sandra Hess. She tested our knowledge in a wide variety of themes. This was a fun competition won by Christine and Martyn Williams, and of course was done with a lot of talking and joking. The sun was out and we just relaxed. When we had had enough we drove along a bit and stopped at the Fairy Falls, where we wandered for some time through the bush, not quite reaching the falls themselves as they seemed a bit too far away and too steep for some.

From there we got some instructions as

to where to go next. These brought us to all sorts of different places, and the writer of them now knows that giving instructions is not one of her strong points. Luckily we are all locals and kind of knew where we were heading and everyone eventually found the end destination at Edith's "HESSTOURANTA" which of course, need I say, stands for hospitality, gourmet food, indulgence!

We were treated to home-made ravioli with chicken and cream sauce, and salad, with hazelnut mousse for dessert. A nice way to round off a lovely exciting day!

Many many thanks for all you people who came with us and for being great sports. To Edith thank you for organising and catering for it all, for having us at your house, and for all the contributions made towards it.

The Craft Day was held on November 8 for some half a dozen women who made beautiful vases and candle lights out of plaster, under the instruction of Edith Hess.

These craft days are turning out to be very successful, and for those who missed out, look out for the next time we hold one.

The Card Evening on October 17, 2003 brought forth the following results:

1. Nelly Steinemann 4308 points; 2. Hans Iten 4162; 3. Monika Eggenschwiler 4152; 4. Othmar Wyss 4068; 5. Hansruedi Wolf 3870; 6. Emil Tellenbach 3821; 7. Tony Mathys 3820; 8. Lynne Dunphy 3769; 9. Annagret Wolf 3720; 10. Heidi Wilson 3542; 11. Hilda Iten 3450; 12. Hans Fitzi 3387; 13. Edith Hess 3108; 14. Louis Wallimann 3075

Results for the Schupbach Cup 2003:

1. Hansruedi Wolf 24340 points; 2. Emil Tellenbach 23437; 3. Othmar Wyss 23390; 4. Hans Fitzi 23314; 5. Louis Wallimann 23309; 6. Andre Iten 23061; 7. Annagret Wolf 22973; 8. Hans Iten 22836; 9. Lynn Dunphy 22573; 10. Edith Hess 22248.

Congratulations to the winners.

The last Jass-Evening for this year was on Friday November 21, 2003, until next year in March we begin the season again. The next Meeting will be on Friday March 19, 2003, 7.30pm, the venue to be confirmed.

Thank you for all the contributions of prizes and supper to these gatherings which are always a lot of fun.

Thank you to all the helpers who came up and helped in the maintenance of the farm at the recent Working Bee on Saturday November 29!

The project 'Downunder Art' by Arlette Ochsner from Lenzburg, which she started this time last year where she places two big wireballs on opposite sides of the earth (one near her home, and one in the Pacific Ocean, outside of the Chatham Islands) was completed on November 24. The southern ball was dumped on the spot where it is intended to be, by a captain of a big Nedlloyd freighter. The Swiss ball's position can now be easily adjusted within Switzerland. Look at the pictures on <http://www.downunder.arts.ch>

Future Events:

Our last official function of the year, The Samichlaus is coming up in a few days:

Sunday December 7, 2003. At the farm.

This is our family Christmas gathering, where Santa is expected sometime after lunch.

Sausages and drinks and cakes can be purchased. For further information call Trudi on 376 4923. All welcome.

Picnic – Sunday February 15, 2004.

Early next year we are looking forward to a very special event:

A delegation of senior shooters from Switzerland is visiting these shores and a special shooting day is set for Sunday March 21, 2004. Anyone interested in taking part or contributing to this special day, please call Henry, our rifle master, on Tel. 410 3476.

The committee would like to wish all the members a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2004.

God bless. Trudi.

Recipe for happiness

2 c love	1 c friendliness
2 c kindness	1 tsp gentleness
1 lb joy	1 box faith
1 lb peace	1 lb long suffering
1 lb meekness	

Mix all of these together and bake in the oven of forgiveness for two prayer hours, then cool on the table of understanding.