

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 70 (2004)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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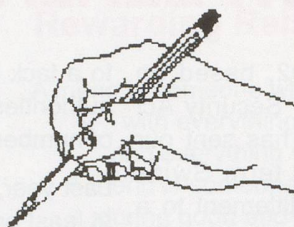
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New Zealand Swiss Club

News & Happenings

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

E-mail - society@swiss.org.nz



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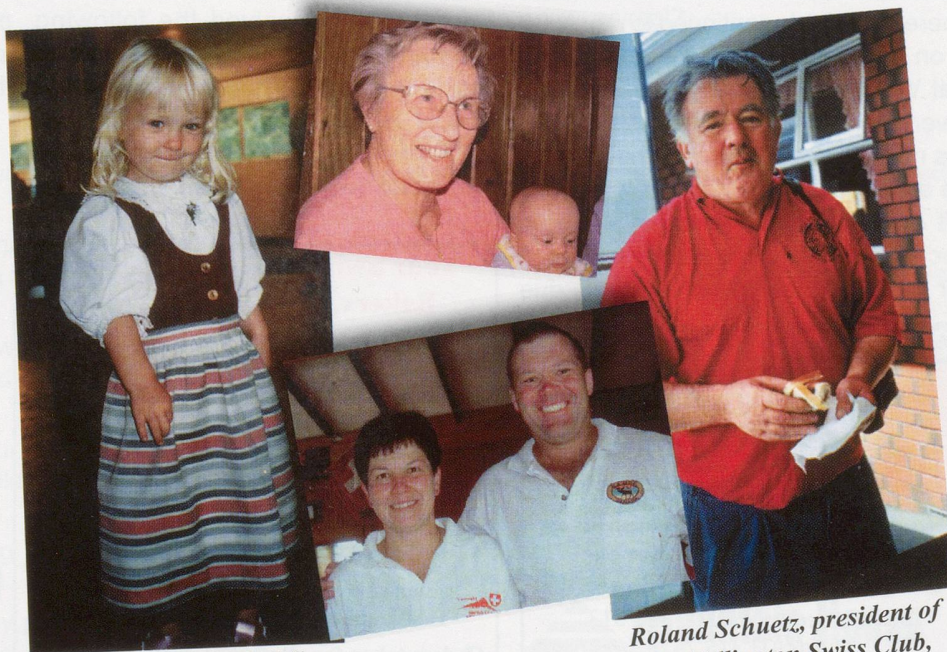


Past Events...

On February 7th, several Wellington Swiss Club members arrived at the Swiss Club in Kaponga to take part in the semi-final of the Cowbell competition ... even Roland arrived on time!!! Well done ... must be the passengers you had with you!!! Upon their arrival, barbecued bratwurst and cervelats awaited them with the accompanying glass of wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverages. A social chat was had before the serious part of the competition was staged. Shooting, shotput, skittles and cards are played, with the winners going on to the final of the Cowbell competition which will be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend in Auckland. The competition between Wellington and Taranaki is always fierce ... no, just kidding ... we always have a great time and friendly rivalry is the name of the game!!! This year Taranaki won all four events (sorry about that Wellington ... the hosts winning 100% of events is not very sporting!!!). We were lucky to have strong men in the shotput and won this by a staggering 9.85m ... you Wellington guys better start eating more soup!!! However the story will be different when we visit you next year!!! In the skittles we won 175 points to 161 points, and in the shooting we scored 302 points versus Wellington's 276 points. The cards ... well we won't brag about that one, as our players will get swollen heads!!! Well done guys ... however, contrary to my previous statement, I guess that I will have to write that Taranaki won all the card games!!! Congratulations to all participants, especially the Wellingtonians who came up to make a contest of it. The day was enjoyed by all, and later a delicious tea was served for all to devour. We also had a touring group from Switzerland present who enjoyed the day, and set up their tents in our lovely grounds. Several members from Wellington also pitched their tents or slept in their vans, making for a little camp environment. Wonderful entertainment was provided by the hosts as well as some visitors. Thank you for coming up Wellingtonians, and we look forward to your support in Auckland!!!

On February 8th we held our annual picnic at the Swiss Club ... the grounds were marvellously manicured by our dedicated team of Don and Johnny ... thank you very much for all the time you spent looking after our grounds. Remigi had the big bore rifle range all set up for our visitors from Wellington to have a shoot ... thanks for your effort, Remigi and thanks to the Wellingtonians for supporting our big bore shooting club. The day dawned very wet ... and we wondered what kind of a crowd we could anticipate ... the cars just kept rolling in ... and we fired up the barbecues ... with plenty of bratwurst and cervelats from the Swiss Deli ready for our guests. The queue at the barbecue stand was very long ... and we had trouble keeping up ... especially when one of our barbecues decided that gas was in short supply!!! Fortunately Ruedi had a spare gas bottle in the van, so it was duly brought out and the barbecue fired up once more. At about 1pm the rain left us, and the sun came out in all its glory ... and was it hot!?!?! The beers suddenly became flavour of the month, as everyone became a tad thirsty under the sweltering sunrays!!! What a change to the weather we had experienced in the morning ... who would have guessed that it would change so dramatically??? We had two tours from Switzerland present, together with people from outside the province ...

and our trusty locals ... altogether the crowd would have been far in excess of 200 ... what a terrific turnout ... the most for many years I would venture to say. As the sun shone, people thought it would be great to watch the schwingen (Swiss style wrestling) ... and there were some terrific tussles. Fourteen seniors and six juniors participated ... with seven Swiss tourists among the competitors ... and the crowd really enjoyed watching this traditional Swiss sport ... as is always the case. Many thanks to our sponsors, Taranaki Farmers, who gave some wonderful prizes. Also grateful thanks to Value Timber from Inglewood who donated a load of sawdust for the wrestling to take place on. Your sponsorship is very valued and appreciated. Thanks to Othmar, Nic, Paul, Marianne Werder and team for organising this terrific event.. the picnic certainly wouldn't be the same without it!!! The junior final was between Thomas Werder and Erwin Hebler with Erwin taking the honours ... thank you kids for participating, and we look forward to your continued support next year. The senior final was between a Swiss tourist, Roman Bosch and local lad Nicol Ruchti, with the visitor taking the title. Congratulations to all who took part, and we look forward to seeing you next year again. Mark was in charge of the children's fishing game, and many children enjoyed trying their luck ... or



*How gorgeous... Madeline Meier in her new 'tracht'.
You look beautiful.*

Roland Schuetz, president of the Wellington Swiss Club, enjoying a late lunch after the 'carabiner' shoot.

Thanks Therese Scherrer and Erika for these photos



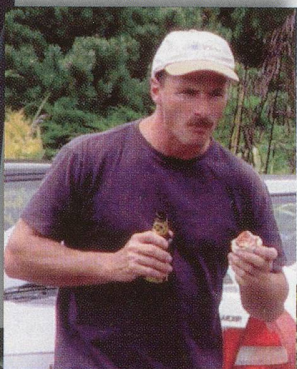
Concentration is required for the 'fishing'.



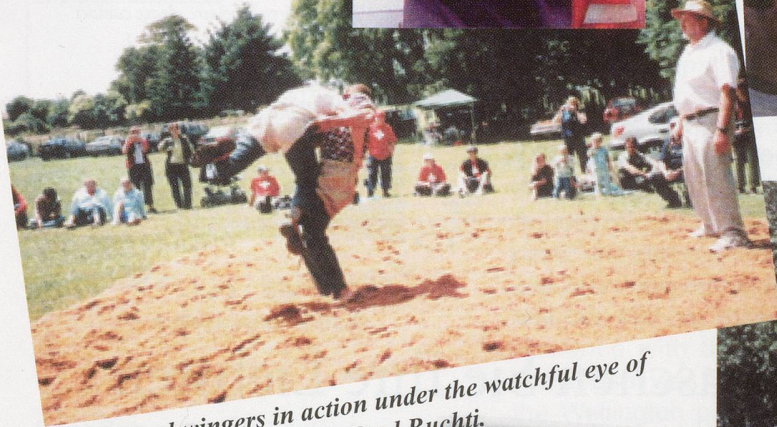
*Shooting for their respective clubs
- Sepp Kiser, Paul Scherrer, Mark Kiser
and Roland Schuetz.*



*Heidi barbecuing some of the
many ribs of bratwurst and
cervelats.*



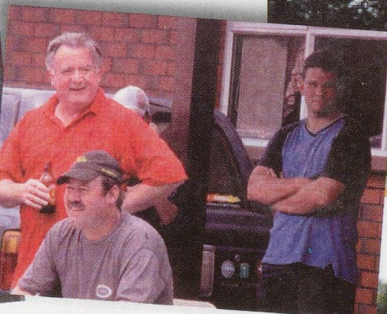
Part of the crowd watching the 'schwingen'.



*The schwingers in action under the watchful eye of
referee Paul Ruchti.*



*The finalists of the schwingen - Nicol Ruchti and
Roland Bosch.*



*Giving it his all in the shotput is Heinz Jaggi from
Wellington.*

was it skill??? The shotput cup for men went to Paul Hardegger, with runner-up Anthony Sherman ... how many times have you got your name on the cup, Paul? Quite a few, I would say. The ladies' title went to Heidi Werder with Jacki Meier runner-up. Well done to all who participated in this, and to Markus for taking the scores. The ladies and Johnny fired up the barbecues again ... they seemed to be going nearly all day ... for everyone to devour another sausage before going home. About 50 people stayed for tea which was a 'bring your own and share' ... it was a great time for committee members to sit down for a few minutes and have a social chat ... and discuss what a wonderful day it had been!!! Thanks to all the committee members who helped so tirelessly during the day ... especially Christine who was selling icecreams, iceblocks, tea and coffee, chips and non-alcoholic beverages as if they were going out of fashion ... without all of the people helping, the day would not have run as smoothly as it did. Also a BIG thank you to everyone who turned up in initially grotty weather ... but the sun shone in more ways than one!!!

Forthcoming Events...

March 2 - A pot-luck tea will be held at the Swiss Club as we are hosting a group from Switzerland. Even if you are not billeting people you may join in the pot-luck tea ... as the saying goes ... the more the merrier!!! If you would like to know more about the group, please phone Marianne or Walter.

Annual General Meeting - Please note that the AGM has been changed from March

1 to March 5, due to the club hosting a group from Switzerland on March 1 and 2. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this.

March 4 & 18 Kegeln will be held at the Club house from 8pm ... please go along and give it a go. You will be sure to enjoy it.

March 21 - Championship/Society Shoot at 1pm... give Mark your support and appreciate this sport for the young and the young at heart!

MD

Hamilton

Swiss Club
hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Forthcoming Events

Saturday, March 20 - Auckland Club is hosting a group of veteran Swiss shooters for a shooting event and social function at Kaukapakapa farm. So far there are six Hamiltonians going, so there would be room for another four people. Please call Hans Vetsch, phone 855-3294 (evenings) if you are interested.

Sunday, March 28 - Family Walk - at Lake Ngaroto (between Ohaupo and Te Awamutu in the direction of Mt Pirongia).

Turn right into Ryburn Rd (first road after going through Ohaupo if coming from Hamilton), then left into Sing Rd, left into Paterangi Rd and again left into Bank Rd. You are virtually circling right around the lake to get to the boat shed and parking. Please meet here at 10.30am to start the walk around the lake, approx one to one-and-a-half hours easy walking. We will then have lunch back at the carpark following the walk. Bring your own picnic lunch - gas BBQ available. For further information you can contact Vitus, Phone (07) 855-2841.

Friday, April 16 - Annual General Meeting to be held at Swisscraft Premises, Colombo Street, Frankton.

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Drinks will be available at 7.30pm followed by the meeting at 8pm. As usual the committee will serve you a delicious supper. We always look forward to having new faces on the committee. Many hands make light work, so come along and give the club your support or just come along to meet fellow members. For further details please phone Anita 856-2414.

Sunday, March 21 - Cowbell Competition - Auckland versus Hamilton to be held in Auckland at the farm. Anyone interested in participating, please contact Herbert, Phone 847-8335 (after-hours).

Sunday, May 2 - Visit by M Georg Stucky - President for the Swiss Abroad. Further details in the next issue of the Helvetia.

May 7, 8 & 9 - International Food & Wine Festival to be held at the Waikato Events Centre, Claudelands, Hamilton. See further details in the advertisement or contact Beat, phone 855-9075 or check the website www.ifwf.co.nz

AZ



Past Events...

Shooting practice, Steinstossen and Family Afternoon. January 25th

It was very pleasing to see so many keen shooters arriving early in the morning at the Wainuiomata indoor shooting range.

After an interesting and strenuous morning it was great to see the families arriving at the clubhouse for their well earned BBQ lunch. Roland was waiting for the arrival of the shooters with deliciously grilled sausages. It turned out to be a 'gemuetlicher' afternoon with several visitors from Switzerland. Hans Buess brought his sister and sister-in-law, and Hans Glauser and Ruth brought their brother and sister-in-law. The friendly sitting together had to be interrupted by the Steinstossen practice [no winners against our Taranaki friends]. Heinz had

also brought his outdoor games and the kids had lots of fun twirling plates and trying the paddle car. Thank you Heinz. It was a wonderful afternoon and the weather was just perfect with sun and no wind.

Computer evening. January 30

A small group arrived on a rainy Friday evening in the clubhouse to learn more about the use of the computers [or should I say the frustrations of the beginners and the ones with some knowledge on those machines]. Fabian explained some new uses such as 'Favourites and Wallpapering' and let us also have a look inside the PC with the display cards. During the break Theres provided some tasty 'Waeen'. Thank you Theres and Fabian for making the evening a learning and enjoyable occasion.

Cowbell Competition in Taranaki. February 7/8th

A small group of 11 competitors and supporters travelled to Kaponga to chance their luck. Hellas the luck was not on their side and they left empty handed. The cowbell remains in Taranaki. Socially it was a great weekend. There were two groups from Switzerland and lots of chatting and laughter going on. One group came from the Emmenthal and some members found out that they knew the same people in Switzerland. Sunday morning was the 'Schwingen' picnic and entertainment. Peter Canziani and Zeno Hospenthal provided the music and two Alphorn Blaser enchanted the audience with these gentle sounds. Too soon it was Sunday afternoon and the Wellington participants had to bid their farewells. Thank you Taranaki for a wonderful weekend with beautiful weather. It was a joy to see the mountain every day. Unusual !!

Forthcoming events...

Computer Evening March 26th.

Under the guidance of our computer experts we are learning new 'tricks'. If you are interested, come along. We will be starting at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse.

Wellington Swiss Club AGM.

April 17th

The Wellington Swiss Club invites all members to attend the AGM. We start at 7.30 pm to make it possible for many members to come. Please make an effort to come and have your say, the committee needs your input. A light supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

VM

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

Forthcoming Events...

Culture Galore - celebrating Canterbury's cultural diversity.

The Christchurch City Council is organising this multi-cultural festival on Saturday March 6th (postponement date March 13th) from 12 noon to 4 pm at Ray Blank Park in Maidstone Road. Come and experience the food and music of the different cultures living within the Canterbury area. The Swiss Club will again have a stall selling delicious Swiss food.

HD

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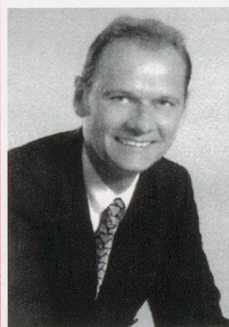
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Adrian von Aesch



So this was summer?

A black cloud loomed on our departure northward on Sunday February 15.

A torrential downpour signalled our arrival at the farm, and brilliant warm sunshine greeted all the members as they arrived at the **annual picnic and society games**.

In this sequence the weather continued throughout the day. It did not deter people from dawdling up to the farm and keenly take part in the Bowling and Shooting competitions. Nor from enjoying a sausage with the delicious bread, or a Kafi Fertig with the delectable Nussgipfel or Cremeschmitte from Franz (who, incidentally, got up at 4am especially to make them for us fresh, on the day, with the help of his father-in-law). Whatever bread was not eaten disappeared, with many eager buyers. The yodel group gathered and sang a few of their songs for us and Oski and Albert played some tunes on the Alphorns.



Despite the iffy weather, the playground was well used by all.

It was quite special to meet some of you from the wider Auckland or further northern region, ie. from Kerikeri, Drury or Woodville. For some of you it was the first time that you visited the farm and I hope you liked what you saw. Prizes were given at the end of the day: Congratulations to the winners and to

all who participated, thanks for being great sports.

To all of you, thank you for coming to our picnic. Also, thank you to all those who chipped in and gave a hand, and thank you for the singing and the alphorn blowing.

I hope you can agree with me when I say that I always come away from gatherings like this a richer person, thanks to the many delightful people I encounter.

Future Events...

Wandertag

Sunday March 7, 2004

10am at the Farm at Kaukapakapa (Rapson Rd) we are walking the boundaries of the farm.

Bring good walking shoes, water, hat (SUMMER IS NOT OVER, SURELY!), picnic lunch. Easy walk for children.

Be amazed! For any information please call Trudi, Tel.376 4923.

Visit by the Senior Swiss Shooters culminates in a bit shooting event on

Saturday March 20, 2004.

Organised by our Riflemaster, Henry Werffeli. Our local shooters will take part in the competition, and the day is rounded off by a **Prizegiving Dinner and Dance** (to the skilful tune of the Holzacker Band), **at the farm**, which you may attend.. Invitations will be sent out but tickets will go fast and numbers are limited. So please do not delay your booking when you have the chance. For further information call Henry 410 3476 or Heinz 624 1589.

Interclub Society Games

Semifinals – Hamilton vs Auckland.

The confirmed date is now

Sunday March 21, 2004.

Start 9.30am

The finalists for the cowbell competition will be decided in the disciplines of Bowling, Steinstossen, Card game. So please, Auckland, show your muscle in stone throwing, card playing and bowling, so we have again the chance to claim the big bell at the Society AGM.

Lunch and tea and coffee will be provided for all.

Call Henry on 410 3476 or Ueli 09 427 5309 for further information. But mainly, be there.

Craft Day

Saturday April 3, 2004, 10am

At Edith's place – 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield. Tel. 444 6972.

Learn about Easter Baking. Cost \$10 plus material.

Booking is essential.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on

Saturday May 1, 2004. At 4pm at the Farm, Rapson Road, Kaukapakapa.

Notice will be sent to all members.

Please consider that it may be your turn to spend some time in the driver's seat of this club.

We are seeking a few nominations. We are always grateful for input on all aspects of the club organisation, be it in the way of suggestions and advice, practical help or donations.

Coinciding with the AGM weekend (**May 1/2 2004**) will be a **Visit by the President for the Swiss Abroad** who is touring the Australasian region with the aim of bringing us up to date with happenings in the home country and issues that concern us in the 5th sector of Switzerland, as well as hearing concerns that we may have regarding our status as such. (Think AHV for instance!). At the moment a schedule is being compiled for him and we will make sure you are advised the exact time and venue when we send our notice for the AGM.

Shooting:

Practice for the big Swiss Senior Meet: March 13/14, 2004, 10am sharp.

This day is for training in shooting and target handling. Also for those under 65 who wish to compete. If time permits the Feldschiessen will also be done then.

Feldschiessen

Has been postponed to the weekend of March 27/28, 2004. 10am sharp.

Next Stammtisch

Saturday March 27, 2004.

Farm Ranger Markus Buhler

Tel. 832 3334

The Card Evenings begin again on **Friday March 19, 2004, 7.30pm**

New Venue: Good Shepherd Church Hall. Telford Ave, Off Dominion Road. When coming from the city, it is the fourth street to the right after the Balmoral Road intersection, and the hall is at the end of Telford St, to the left of the church itself.

All other arrangements remain the same: bring a plate for supper and a prize if you have.

Entry per player \$3 (my apologies for my error in the previous issue).

Card Master Hans Iten Tel. 620 9208

****Yours truly, Trudi.****