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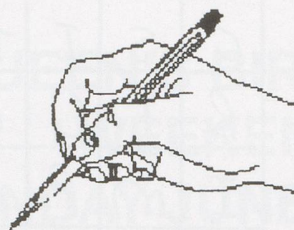
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Web page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>

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Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch



Past Events ...

Kegeln

Kegeln has recommenced under the leadership of Johnny Bishop. It is great to see a few new faces, and we hope that you enjoy "kegeln", and get heaps of practice for the Society Competitions and then of course the final of the Cowbell competition which will be held in Auckland. Johnny appreciates your continued support, and encourages new members to attend too ... you will have a lot of fun and learn a skill or two too!

Hosting Tour Group from Switzerland

From 1st to 3rd of March we hosted a group of Swiss tourists. They arrived from Rotorua, and were fortunate to get through the Awakino Gorge!!! We had had much rain in the few days prior, and were hoping that it would clear up for the visitors to enjoy our province ... our wish however was not to be granted, but the weather was at least a little better than it had been the previous week!!! The first night the visitors spent time with their hosts, and the following day met at the clubhouse at noon for a trip to the Mountain House. They enjoyed a delicious lunch with Charlie Schuler, John Kuriger and Paul Amstalden joining them. As it was quite wet, they enjoyed the lovely atmosphere at the Mountain House, and I am sure that Berta enjoyed having them too!!! In the evening we held a potluck tea with our visitors, and provided entertainment. Othmar

played the trumpet and alphorn beautifully ... you certainly have many strings to your bow!!! Zeno as usual played for the singing group and gave numerous solo items ... everyone always appreciates and enjoys your musical talent, Zeno!!! The singing group performed, and the tour group too gave some items (many of the men were in a "Mannerchor"), and the evening's entertainment was great and varied. The tourists certainly appreciated being in Taranaki (even though the weather didn't play its part!!!) and left the following morning for Wellington. We hope that they had a wonderful time in New Zealand, and look forward to seeing them again some time.

March 5 - Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Club.

This was held at 8.00pm at the clubhouse with 31 people present. Walter gave a rundown of the year's activities ... and we have certainly been a busy bunch!!! It was wonderful to recollect the memories of the past year, and we look forward to the next one. We had one resignation from the committee ... Doreen Schuler who has served loyally as secretary for the past 24 years ... what commitment!!! We all thank you Doreen for all the time and effort you have put into our club, and for the countless minutes you have taken ... even if some of us have LLOOONNNNGGGG names! We wish you well in your retirement ... and hope that you can somehow fill the time that writing all those minutes took! However with Charlie still on the committee we know we will still see you very often! Her place has been taken by Paul Amstalden, and we congratulate you on

your appointment ... we hope that you will enjoy taking those minutes! I have listed below our committee, so if you have any queries regarding our functions, please do not hesitate to call one of them.

President - Walter Seifert - 06 762 8559
Vice President - Othmar Hebler - 06 272 2878
Secretary - Paul Amstalden - 06 756 7064
Treasurer - Marianne Drummond - 06 762 8757
Ladies - Emmi Kiser - 06 762 2922
Erna Zimmermann - 06 272 6438
Christine Amstalden - 06 756 7064
Silvia Schuler - 06 765 8351
Heidi Werder - 06 273 4286
Lisette Benkert - 06 762 8718
Men - Zeno von Hospenthal - 06 764 6632
Johnny Bishop - 06 274 8764
Mark Kiser - 06 762 2922
Charlie Schuler - 06 764 6533
Beno Noetzli - 06 272 6727
Don Luond - 06 764 6622
Mathias Seifert - 06 764 7526
Markus Rufer - 06 278 6884
Remigi Zimmermann - 06 272 6438
Franz Schuler - 06 765 8351

Mark Kiser is riflemaster smallbore, Remigi Zimmermann is riflemaster karabiner and Johnny Bishop is Kegelnmaster. Please contact any of them regarding their programme of activities.

Your new programme will be out shortly, so please try and attend as many functions

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as possible ... it is so motivating for your committee to see good attendances.

Our thanks go to Charlie and Doreen Schuler who have been organising the cards (euchre and jassen) for the past ?????? years. They now need some time off! You have done a terrific job, and we truly appreciate your efforts. We are fortunate to have Erna Zimmermann who will take over running the cards, so please come along and support her and the club during the winter months. We are a noisy bunch, but enjoy our cards!

Karabiner Prizegiving

On March 9 the annual potluck tea with the Karabiner Prizegiving was held. About 45 people attended this function ... they enjoyed each other's culinary delights and applauded the efforts of the shooters who did very well indeed (again!). Top shooters during the year were Mark Kiser and Erwin Kiser ... must be a family strong point. Well done guys, and keep it up. Remigi was particularly pleased to have two juniors who did very well too ... congratulations to Sami Werder and Michael Kiser (another Kiser good at shooting!) for your efforts. We hope you continue to support the Karabiner Shooting Club. If you are interested in this shoot, please call Remigi on 06 272 6438 and he will let you know when the next shooting day will be.

Forthcoming Events...

April 1 & 15 - Kegeln is on ... be there!!! It's not an April Fools' Day joke! Fun had by all.

April 4 & 18 - Cards start again. Be there for a punctual starting time of 1.15pm. Jassen and euchre are played, and two cups are up for grabs.

May 2 & 16 - Cards are on again ... join Erna for a lovely afternoon's activity.

May 3 - Mr Georg Stucky will be in NZ in May, and will be at our clubhouse on May 3. He

is president of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, and is an ex-Member of Parliament. A get-together will be held at 7.30pm where he will try and answer any questions you may have. A previous such meeting proved popular, and was very interesting. Please bring a plate for supper.

May 6 & 20 - Kegeln is being played from 8.00pm. Join Johnny and crew for a great night's entertainment. Cards are also played.

May 22 - Championship Shoot is on from 11.00am, and Preiskegeln will be held from 1.00pm. This is a fun-filled afternoon of friendly rivalry ... so come and give it a go. From 6.00pm to 8.00pm the fondue and/or sausages and salads will be served. A delicious meal and wonderful entertainment.

May 30 - The Swiss Society Competitions will be held. The disciplines of Shooting, Shot Put, Kegeln and Jassen will be played with the top 20% receiving medals ... juniors will have their own section, so come along parents, and bring your children along ... they will enjoy the competition and the company of other children. A good social day with a competitive edge. This day starts at 10.00am, and bring your own lunch. Afternoon tea will be held at the end of Jassen.

From June 5 to June 7 we will be heading to Auckland to take part in the final of the Cowbell competition, and to attend the AGM of the Swiss Society. We envisage taking a bus, and ask that all keen participants phone Walter on 06 762 8559 to book their seat. A terrific weekend is guaranteed, and we look forward to filling the bus!

MD

Hamilton


Swiss Club
 hamilton@swiss.org.nz

Past Events...

From the Shooting Corner: thank you to all those who attended the 50 metre Swiss Society Shooting competitions which were held on Saturday, 21st February at the Elmigers' farm in Te Aroha. After putting up raincovers and side shields to keep us comfortable, we ended up having a pleasant event without getting wet. There were 15 competitors. The winners were all those who attended, with the rest falling in to the loser category. Congratulations to Walter Zuber for obtaining the top score with 71 points. Also many thanks to Erika and Ueli for letting us use their property in Te Aroha for the last time and for the bottomless "Kafi-Schnapps" afterwards. Now we're looking forward to the new venue at Lake Karapiro next year. **HV**

The annual family picnic was held on Sunday, 22nd February at a new venue at the Newstead Country School. As most of you will know, there were not many fine days in February and this particular day's weather forecast was for gusty wind and rain, but luckily for the Swiss Club, the weatherman was wrong, and we were very lucky to have a lovely sunny day. It was nice and warm with just the occasional bit of wind. It was good to see many new faces turn up as well as a lot of the regular participants. The new venue seemed quite appealing and one area was particularly sheltered with lots of seating and shade provided, so it was a great place to just sit down, enjoy some delicious food and have a chat with friends. The bowling alleys were busy all day long. Congratulations to Trudy Wilson for winning the Bowling

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Premises, Colombo Street, Frankton. 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. So come along and give the club your support or just come along to meet fellow members or share some ideas. For further details please phone Anita 856-2414.

Sunday, 2nd May - Visit by Mr Georg Stucky - President for the Swiss Abroad. Our club would like to invite members to a special meeting organised to meet Mr Stucky. This will be held at Swisscraft premises in Colombo St, Frankton commencing at 7pm. There should be time for some informal discussion and questions. The meeting will be followed by supper.

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

Friday, 7th May - First Card Evening and Medal Jass to be held at the Union Parish Church Hall, Queen St, Cambridge, 7.30pm for a prompt start.

Saturday and Sunday, 15th/16th May - Hamilton Club members **300 metre shooting event** to be held at the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa. We will make it an overnigher again as we all enjoyed the social evening. However we will cater for those of you who can't spare a whole weekend. Anyone wanting to shoot Saturday or Sunday can only do so provided you will be on the farm by 9am and you let me know beforehand. Please set this weekend aside and give me a call so I can put you on the list. Remember, we need newcomers and we will give everybody tuition to make the event a success for each individual. Ladies - would like to see a few more this year. Those who came last year achieved very respectable scores. Transport and other details will be arranged a bit closer to the event. See you up there. Please call Hans Vetsch, Phone 855-3294 (evenings) or 021 658 733 for further details.

Friday, 21st May - Second Card Evening and Medal Jass to be held at St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti Street, Matamata. 7.30pm for prompt start.

Please note: all the card evenings this year will be held on a Friday night and at two-weekly intervals. Both venues are the same as last year.

Trophy and the Ladies' Teapot with the top score for the day of 23 points. Peter Staheli had the top score for the Shotput throwing 25.05 metres - well done Peter. There was plenty of grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats to be enjoyed as well as a great selection of Swiss baking and of course coffee schnapps was popular. Many thanks to all the helpers throughout the day. It always seems a long busy day but many hands make light work.

Forthcoming Events...

Friday, 16th April - Annual General Meeting to be held at Swisscraft

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Past Events...

February 20th Computer Evening.

A small group of keen computer enthusiasts listened carefully to Walter Hartmann's explanations. Marvellous what these machines can do. Walter explained how to make new folders, when to use the right side of the mouse, how and why to make a back-up and lots more. Thank you Walter, it was a most informative evening.

March 4th. Opening of Reto Camenisch Photo exhibition.

The Ambassador of Switzerland H.E. Mrs. S. Matteucci opened the Exhibition in the presence of Reto Camenisch. His main subjects are Landscapes from Switzerland and New Zealand and Tattoos. The exhibition is in Shed 11, Queen's Wharf, Wellington and is open until 4th of April.

Cowbell Competition in Taranaki.

The Wellington Shooters would like to thank Remigi and his team for opening up the 300 metres shooting range on Sunday morning of the Competition. It was much appreciated.

Forthcoming Events...

Swiss Architecture Exhibition 19th March - 4th April.

The exhibition "A Matter of Art" contemporary Architecture in Switzerland is on display at the Schools of Architecture at Victoria University, 139 Vivian Street Campus. Swiss architects represented in the exhibition have won

international projects. It promises to be an interesting exhibition.

Jass Afternoon Sunday 28th March.

The Swiss Society Medal competition has been set for Sunday the 28th of March at 2.00 pm in the Clubhouse at Wainuiomata. Come and have a fun afternoon.

Wellington Swiss Club AGM April 17th

Please give the Committee your support and attend the AGM in the Clubhouse at 7.30 pm Saturday the 17th of April. There will be a lot of General Business to be discussed. The building committee will also give their report and maybe there will be time for a game or two of cards. The committee will serve "Belegte Brotchen" for supper. Come and have your say!

European Fair May 1st.

European countries plan to have food stalls, arts and crafts as well as cultural performances at Frank Kitts Park. The Swiss Club also intends to have a stall and we are looking for ideas and contribution. If you have any ideas or can help please call Verena Madgwick 526 9841 as soon as possible.

European Food week 26th April - 2nd May.

The Duxton Hotel has offered to focus on typical dishes of the 10 new EU countries during the food week. There also may be cultural performances from European groups between 7.00pm and 7.30 pm at the Duxton.

Visit of the President of the Swiss Abroad 4th May.

Dr. Georg Stucky 'ex-National Rat' and President of the Swiss Abroad will be in the Clubhouse on Tuesday the 4th of May. A light supper will be served for the members and interested parties on the basis of donations. The evening will start at 7.00pm. To be able to cater the

committee needs your booking. People who choose not to attend the dinner are welcome to join in with a cup of coffee. This is your chance to air all those questions, queries and concerns you may have about your home country or your host country. Please put the date on your calendar and make sure you are there.

V.M.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

Past events...

Stammtisch for Tennis Freaks (22 January)

- We had a good turnout for this Stammtisch - so many keen Swiss ready to support our National Tennis Team for Paraplegics. Due to longer than expected games on the day, the visitors did not show up at Sammy's Jazz Review. The Christchurch Swiss Club would like to congratulate the Women's team of Karin Suter-Erath and Sandra Kalt who got into the final, but lost 2-0 against the Dutch team.

Forthcoming Events...

'April Fools' Stammtisch to be held on Thursday 1 April from 7.30pm at the LA Bar and Cafe, 31 Dundas Street (behind Pak 'N Save, next to the new Smith City building).

Director of the ASO Dr Georg Stucky and AGM of the Christchurch Swiss Club will be held on Thursday 6 May at 7.30pm at the Old Stone House, Shalamar Drive. Enjoy the short AGM with nibbles and a glass of wine. Afterwards Dr Georg Stucky will inform us about the activities relevant to us Swiss Abroad representing the fifth Switzerland. The work and

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priorities of the ASO (Auslandschweizer Organisation). Also it will be your chance, if you have any questions, eg AHV, to get the information first hand.

Ski Weekend at Mt Lyford Ski Lodge will be held on Saturday and Sunday 3 and 4 July. Book now to secure your place at this stunning mountain retreat by phoning Reto on 03 337 9117.



HD Dear Compatriots,

The Boundary walk happened, as promised, in gleaming sunshine, and about 17 of us wandered up hill, down dale in this lovely bushland. The younger ones among us did very well and took on the steep slopes of the eastern leg with gusto and raced well ahead of some of us older ones who puffed bravely in the heat. (For special neck cooling systems I refer you to Fritz). We were rewarded with the stunning views, of which I am always proud, towards the two harbours, and we could even spot the Sky Tower

in the distance. (Mt Egmont/Taranaki, unfortunately, was concealed by mist). It gives one this feeling of pride in being part of such beautiful countryside. We were amazed by how many quarries there were in the neighbourhood. After lunch in a nice mossy clearing with the obligatory tree climb by the young monkeys, we headed down past our pine stand which has just been trimmed and looks very tidy. The neighbour's felling activity in the past months left our western boundary quite exposed but opened up the view over Waitoki area which was quite different from last time. Thank you to all who participated, it is nice to share a lovely Sunday with lovely people.

Congratulations to Andreas Zickert and partner to the Christmas birth of their baby.

We wish you joy and happiness together as a family.

Future Events...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 1 May 2004. 4pm at Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa. Invitation and agenda will be sent out to all members. Please come, your contribution is vital to the future of the club. Supper is provided after the meeting.

The meeting is followed by a presentation from Mr Georg Stucky, President for the Swiss Abroad, at 7.30pm. He is on tour through Australasia 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

Kurt Robert Suter (1908-2004)

Life Member Christchurch Swiss Club

With real regret we extend our sympathy to Evelyn and Wendy, Bon and Lindsay on the death of their beloved husband and father.

Kurt was one of the foundation members of the Christchurch Swiss Club and has been an active driving force until poor health curbed his involvement.

Born in Wohlen in 1908, Kurt, at 20, emigrated firstly to Australia and in 1930 to the mountains in New Zealand.

He worked at the Hermitage (for no pay at first) guiding and building the mountain huts. In 1935 Kurt contracted to run the cookhouse at the Homer Tunnel construction site.

Mt Suter in Fiordland is named after him as a commemoration of the effect of his time and efforts there.

In 1938, Kurt left to organise from Burma, a climbing expedition to South West China, Yunnan Province. Probably the last 'foreign' climbing group before the Communists took over and closed the borders.

At war outbreak, Kurt returned quickly to New Zealand, joining the Air Force, but still fitting in climbing and shooting.

In 1943 Evelyn and Kurt married in Dunedin and went poultry farming, firstly in Oamaru, before moving to Banks Peninsula, bringing up the family and farming sheep.

Retiring to Christchurch in 1967, Evelyn and Kurt kept 5 acres - the 'Swiss Chalet' in Akaroa where for 23 years many Swiss Club weekends, picnics and BBQs (including the famous Swiss Navy visit) were held. Kurt helped organise 'feasts' for many August 1sts.

Kurt died on January 10, 2004 aged 96. A great, modest man to the last. He had a rare energy and enthusiasm for life.

We will miss him.



*Enjoying the view from the trig station:
back row from left: Fritz Scheidegger,
Heinz and Thomas Matysik, Egon and
Jill Eberle, Max and Margrit Knecht,
Bernadette Meier, Nellie Steinemann.
Front row from left: Margot Ross with
Jerome and Sarah. Sebastian, Matthias
and Lukas Meier.*



*Enjoying the
walk through
the bush:
Bernadette
with Sarah,
Nellie, Trudi
and Markus.*

concerns that we may have regarding our status as such. Please have lots of questions ready for Mr Stucky as I am sure he will be only too pleased to answer them.

Non-club members are welcome to join us for this talk at 7.30pm, after supper.

Please tell your friends.

For more information and directions to the farm please call Trudi 09 376 4923, or Ueli, 09 427 5309.

This coming QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND, Sunday 6 June 2004

We are hosting the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. We are expecting many of you to turn up not only to the AGM and the evening function that is held at the Sorrento, One (Tree) Hill, on Sunday night, but also to the Cowbell Competition which may be contested by Auckland. We are holding high hopes of having the big bell in town for at least a year. This is the first official function of the day and starts at 9am on Sunday. We need your support for this.

For further information please call Ueli on 09 427 5309.

Craft Day

Saturday 3 April 2004, 10am

At Edith's place - 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield. Tel 444 6972. Learn about Easter Baking. Cost \$10 plus a small amount for material. Please book (this may be a bit late now but try it anyway).

Next Card Evening

Friday 16 April 2004, 7.30pm at the new venue (I hope y'all found it OK) the Good Shepherd Church, Telford

Ave, Balmoral, Auckland. \$3 entry fee, and bring a little supper and a prize, if you can. Thank you. For further information call Hans Iten Tel. 620 9208.

Next Stammtisch

Saturday 24 April 2004, afternoon till late, next day perhaps, if you bring a sleeping bag. The accommodation quarters have now been upgraded thanks to the huge efforts by the rifle master and his circle of helpers as they prepared for the visit of the Senior shooters on the 20th March. A particular thank you to Yvonne who painted the "bathroom" and transformed it into a very chic little room. Check it out. For further information call Markus Buhler Tel. 832 3334.

The events calendar for the new club year is in preparation now and will be published after the AGM.

Until then,

Trudi, for the Committee.

Trivia Answers

1. 116 years; 2. Ecuador; 3. Sheep and horses; 4. November; 5. Squirrel fur; 6. Dogs; 7. Albert; 8. Crimson; 9. New Zealand; 10. Orange of course!

*You can't change the
direction of the wind, but you
can adjust your sails.*

*Only those who dare
to fail greatly can ever
achieve greatly.*

Three typical Swiss Sports

There are three typically Swiss sports - Schwingen, Hornussen and Steinstossen.

-Schwingen ("swinging") is a form of wrestling in which the contestants seek to throw one another by grasping the short trousers of coarse linen which they wear.

-In Hornussen one team, the "strickers" (Schlager) are equipped with long (2 metre - 7 feet) flexible clubs with hardwood heads, with which they drive the Hornus, a disk the size of a man's hand, as far down the field as they can. The object of the defenders (Abtuer) is to catch the disk before it reaches the ground with their large wooden bats.

-In Steinstossen ("tossing the stone") the object is to throw a large stone weighing 83.50kg (184 pounds) as far as possible; the record stands at about 3.50 metres (11 feet).

Handgliding - this new sport has become increasingly popular in Switzerland in recent years. There are many hand-gliding schools.

Climbing - Switzerland is the classic country for mountaineering, which has become increasingly popular as a sport since the middle of the 19th century, when it was pioneered by British climbers at Zermatt. The Swiss Alpine Club, founded in 1863, has built up a network of paths and huts to facilitate access to the mountains; and the central Alps, with numerous peaks rising to over 4000 metres (13,124 feet), offer the most magnificent glacier walks and climbs in the whole of the Alps. There are a number of excellently run climbing schools in Switzerland, providing instruction both for beginners and for those who want to learn specialised techniques. In most schools it is also possible to obtain guides.

Source : Baedeker's Switzerland

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