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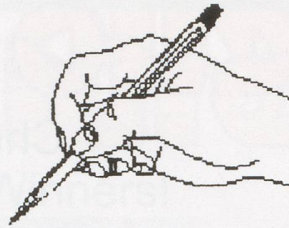
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

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Unfortunately there is not much in the way of news from our club this month. During the spring our farming members (which are a big percentage of our total membership) are very busy on their farms, and don't have much time for socialising ... hence the quiet period. Kegeln and shooting have recommenced, so please give these sports a go ... both have members who would willingly teach you new skills.

Past Events...

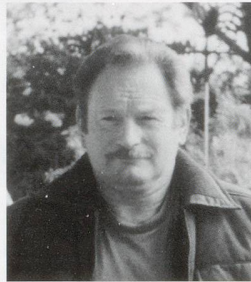
A few days ago a small group of Swiss tourists visited the region and had lunch at the Mountain House. A few of our Swiss-Kiwi members joined them to share their experiences of New Zealand and of course the inevitable question of "why" they emigrated. As many people found out that day, "it is a small world"!!! Some of the visitors knew relatives of our Swiss Club members!!! Hope you were on your best behaviour, John and Bertha!!! Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, superb wine and other beverages, great hospitality and of course wonderful company.

Forthcoming Events...

December 31 - New Years' Eve. Do come and join us ... great entertainment and excellent company. Happy hour from 4.30pm, a BYO BBQ at 6.00pm and the evenings' entertainment starts about 8.00pm. If you can help with providing some entertainment we would always appreciate it ... so come along ... don't be shy!!! You will enjoy yourself, and see the New Year in with a bunch of friends!!!

February 3 & 17 - Kegeln recommences. Johnny already has an increased membership, but is always on the lookout for more... this sport can

Frank von Hospenthal 3 December 1944 - 7 September 2004



Frank was the eldest son of five children of the late Zeno and Freda Hospenthal. After leaving school Frank became a cheesemaker (at Kapuni) and then joined a crew installing the gas pipeline to Wellington. Thereafter he worked in the main workshop for Fletchers in Wellington as a mechanic on bulldozers and cranes.

In the 1980s he started his own business repairing and erecting cranes, both in New Zealand and overseas. He became the Australasian crane maintenance and erection specialist for Morrow Leibherr.

Frank had three daughters and one granddaughter. Several months ago Frank enjoyed his first holiday overseas, and especially took pleasure in visiting his sister Antoinette and family in Switzerland.

Frank was tragically killed in a work-related accident on the Wellington waterfront erecting a crane.

The Taranaki Swiss Club (to whom he had remained loyal even though he hadn't lived in Taranaki for some time) and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Franks' family.

MD

be played by all ages... come and give it a go.

February 13 - Our annual picnic... a day not to be missed. Great social day with many activities happening. Schwingen is always the highlight ... if you are interested in this "Swiss" sport, please ring Othmar Hebler on 06 272 2878 ... a sport for all ages!!! Shot put ... table soccer ... childrens' activities ... barbequed cervelats and bratwurst ... beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages ... chips ... icecreams ... iceblocks ... what more could you want??? Come on parents and bring your children to the picnic ... if you want your children to be interested in their Swiss culture this is the day to bring them.

MD



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Past events....

Family Walk

On what seemed like a reasonably fine day on Sunday, 31st October, a number of people headed towards Paeroa, and nearby Karangahake Gorge, for our next planned Family Walk. Unfortunately, as we drove eastwards towards Te Aroha, things didn't look too promising anymore, and very soon, the heavens opened. We met at the car park, greeting each other whilst huddled under umbrellas. Close to about 30 people turned up, most from further afield as they had better weather at home. Those living nearby obviously had a better view of the weather and decided they weren't into walking in the rain!

I stayed behind, whilst everyone else braved the elements and went on their way. One part of the walk was through a one kilometer long tunnel, where they at least had some shelter, but instead a lack of light, and so had to take great care not to slip and fall in the wet and slippery conditions underfoot.

Just over an hour later, as I was nearing the end of my magazine in the dry comfort of my car, and the weather began to show some signs of clearing, the wanderers returned, and it was time for some lunch. With the aid of a large tree, together with a small shelter, we were able to enjoy our picnic lunches, and a nice hot cup of coffee, out of the rain. The children even showed off their resilience and started climbing onto the boulders in the river.

At about three o'clock we called it a day - it was time to head home and dry off... **BL**

Forthcoming Events...

Family Christmas Party – will be held on Sunday 5th December, 11am at the Newstead School, same venue as last year. 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. There will be plenty of other activities and some special entertainment will be organised for 12.30pm. Santa will also be calling, so wrapped and clearly

named presents up to the value of \$10 can be left with a committee member. Feel free to also bring balls, rackets etc for the children's games. There will also again be a great selection of raffle prizes, so please remember to bring along some money and prizes if you wish to donate something. 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, please bring along a rug or deckchairs to sit on. For further information, please contact Anita, 07 856-2414 or any other committee member.

Shooting Competitions will be held on Saturday 19th February 2005 at the Elmiger's new property in Karapiro.

The Annual Pic-nic will be held on Sunday 20th February 2005 at the Newstead School.

All club members will be sent a newsletter some time in February with all the dates for next year so look out for this or check the February issue of the Helvetia for more details.

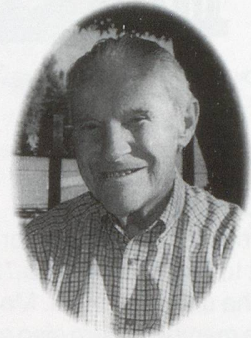
PS – The committee would like to thank Bert Fluhrer for kindly donating his electric grater to the club. This is very much appreciated, in particular by Vitus who used it to grate all the cheese for our fondue evening. If anyone would like to borrow this to grate cabbage for sauerkraut or any other vegetables as it has different blades, please contact Vitus Phone 855-2841. Bert has also donated his large pot, so we can in future do even more fondue **AZ**

A request on behalf of one of our club members :

Wanted: Travel companion/"flight chaperon": Do you have relatives travelling to and from New Zealand ex Switzerland in the new year? My mum is a widow and I would like her to be with me for the birth of my second child. However she has always said she will not fly alone! Could you help by simply accompanying her on the two flights, helping her through transit/immigration etc. and just "being there" for her? She would have relatives at both ends to drop her off/pick her up. I am due mid February but have not booked anything yet pending the result of this enquiry. Contact Ursi Haflinger, Ph (07) 8 496 496

Obituary

**Heinrich Oettli,
 17.11.1918 - 29.10.2004**



Heinrich Oettli could be described as an archetypal Swiss. He started his working life as a farmer working on his father's farm at Oberbussnang (TG), and a few years later graduated to running a 'Molkerei', a small (by NZ standards) cheese and milk factory in Weinfeldten (TG).

In 1956 he decided, together with his elder brother Hans, to emigrate to New Zealand, arriving with his family early in 1957 to take up farming in Rukuhia, near Hamilton. I still admire his, and my father's courage to move his wife and their three children to the other side of the world. Like anything he touched, he made it a success, and he and his family managed to settle well into a new culture and become part of New Zealand society.

The secret of his success was undoubtedly his ready smile that signaled a friendly, tolerant and outgoing personality. It enabled him to adapt and make new friends easily, and to find new ways of doing business, farm work, and relating to neighbours and acquaintances who very quickly became friends.

Heinrich was also good with his hands. Like his father, he had a quick grasp of the intricacies of mechanical appliances, and there were very few engines, appliances or gadgets that he was not able to maintain and fix. He was also very creative, and with his lead-light work, he produced some pieces that will become heirlooms and delight many generations of his descendants in the future. Another gift that Heinrich brought to those around him was his love of music. He was an excellent accordion player, having had his own dance band in Switzerland, and he delighted large numbers of Swiss Club members with his playing, until arthritis silenced his playing, far too early for his appreciative audiences.

But above all, Heinrich was a people person, easily bridging the gap between the Swiss community and the new society he and his family found and adapted to in New Zealand. The large gathering of friends at his funeral attested to his ability to relate to both cultures.

Heinrich is survived by his wife and life-long helpmate, Leoni, his three children, Heinz, Ruedi and Marianne, eight grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

I once discussed the concept of 'tangata whenua' with a Maori friend, who said it was when the bones of their ancestors were laid to rest in New Zealand soil. Heinrich was born in Switzerland, but is buried in his new home country. We all mourn his passing, but take comfort from the fact that he now rests in the soil of his adopted land. May he rest in peace.

Peter Oettli

The Hamilton Swiss Club extend their deepest sympathy to the Oettli family.



Past Events...

Fondue October 16th

The bookings for the fondue were slow to come, but to finish there were 72 people enjoying the delicious meal. Many of the committee members were also overseas, but Roland managed to recruit some of the faithful helpers and all went well. The fondue was of the usual high quality and the taste superb. Thank you Trudi, Paul and Fabian for your help.

Garage Sale November 6th

It is amazing how many treasures were brought to the clubhouse to find new homes. Some faithful and hardworking members stayed overnight to prepare the sales tables. We are fortunate to have you, thank you Heinz, Roland, Peter and Fabian. Saturday morning 7.00 a.m. was the start and we did not have to wait for too long until the first customers arrived. It was a busy morning and many people walked away happily with their bargains. Also it was a real garage sale in the way that all the items went cheaply the club funds got a healthy boost thanks to Heinz and his enthusiasm.

Euro News.

The first issue has come out in October and is full of News from different European clubs. The first publication was mainly introduction of the European Union countries and their sizes as well as a write up of the Swedish Smorgasbord dinner. Any community group is free to use this Newsletter to advertise functions or news of their club.

Sunday 14th November Jass afternoon.

Forthcoming Events...

December 4th Christmas Party.

The end of the year function will be our usual Christmas dinner. We have put the date early this year in the hope that many of you will not be too busy with other functions and will be able to attend our delicious Buffet Dinner at the Clubhouse. The evening will start with Sangria and Roland will cook a

scrumptious Ham. We look forward to seeing you there.

December 5th Samichlaus Party for the Children

Samichlaus is getting ready to come and see our children. He always likes to hear poems, songs or musical items from the children. He also has a bag with goodies, and Schmutzli has a "Fitze". I wonder what for??? So please children start to learn your presentation for him. Parents can you please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Coffee and Tea will be provided. The afternoon starts at 2 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

January 23rd 2005 Shooting Practice

This year the shooting practice is at Paul Scherrer at 146 Mangaroa Valley Road in Upper Hutt. The practice will start at 1 p.m. Please register for shooting. For Information ring 528 7698 or 2366 754

January 30th 2005 Family BBQ, Steinstossen and Bookfair

Last years BBQ at the Clubhouse was a success. Many members and friends, {some from Switzerland} came to enjoy a perfect day and Heinz kept the children occupied with games. So we do it again this year. Please come and join in with the fun. Bring your meat and salads and we can cook the sausages on the BBQ.

February 13th 2005 Shooting practice

Shooting practice at 146 Mangaroa

Valley Road, Upper Hutt, please register.

February 19/20th 2005 Taranaki Club in Wellington

Competition with the Taranaki Club in our Clubhouse at Wainuiomata .

March 5th 2005 Swiss Reise Gruppe.

The Swiss Reise Gruppe will visit the Wellington Swiss Club, and will have a meal at Wainuiomata.

March 12th 2005 Day Trip.

A walk to Butterfly Creek followed by Afternoon Tea at Eastbourne.

March 13th 2005 Jass Competition

March 16th 2005 AGM.

VM



Dear Auckland Swissies,

A letter from a visitor:

Ich bin Yolanda Sigrist, und bin jetzt schon seit über 2 Monaten hier in Neuseeland, um meinem Sohn Pascal beizustehen, während er sich von dem schweren Autounfall erholt und mit seiner schwierigen Lage zurechtfindet.

Als ich ankam, war mir hier alles fremd, ich war völlig bestürzt von der Situation, in der sich mein Sohn und seine Partnerin Edith plötzlich fanden, und fand es sehr schwer, mich hier zurechtzufinden.

So war es für mich eine wunderbare Erleichterung und Ueberraschung, zu erfahren, wie die Leute von Eurem Schweizerclub auf mich zukamen und mir ihre Hilfsbereitschaft und Zuwendung schenkten. So habe ich jetzt unerwartet ganz spontane Aufnahme gefunden in verschiedenen Heimen, wo ich einfach sein kann und kommen und gehen darf, wie es mir nötig ist. Vor allem den Familien in Te Hana, Manukau Heights, Orewa und St. Lukes mochte ich meinen Dank dafür ausdrücken.

Im Namen von Pascal und Edith, sowie auch meiner Familie und Freunden in der Schweiz und Deutschland, die natürlich auch besorgt sind, dass ich mich hier wohlfühle, mochte ich mich bei Euch allen ganz herzlich bedanken für die grosse Hilfsbereitschaft und die vielen Zeichen der Unterstützung, die uns von allen Seiten zugekommen sind.

Vielen Dank auch für die Organisation des Picnics am Sonntag 14. November,



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das für mich eine sehr schöne, herzerfrischende Ausfahrt in die Natur von Neuseeland war.

Ich werde diese wunderbare Erfahrung nie mehr vergessen, und Eure Zuwendung hat mir geholfen, Neuseeland nach all dem Schweren, das ich hier mitmachen muss, in schöner Erinnerung zu behalten. Ich werde noch so lange bleiben, bis mein Sohn aus dem Rehab Zentrum entlassen wird und sich mit Edith neu etablieren kann.

**Mit Herzlichem Dank,
Yolanda Sigrist.**

Past Events...

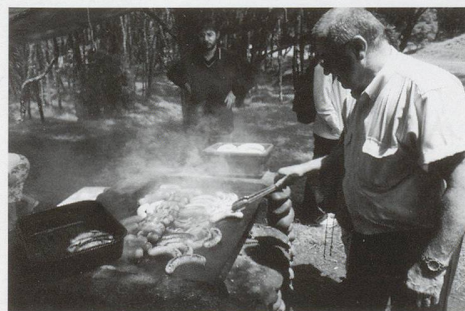
The Mystery Tour (Trudi)

On an old bus packed with 44 (yes, 44 and 44 came back!) we headed down the coast of southeast Auckland, Kawakawa Bay, Orere Point, into a very bleak sky that had no good promise, after a beautiful summer week just past.

It didn't stop us from having a lovely picnic at Waharau Regional Park at a very quaint spot where, had it not been blustery and a bit wet, you could play in the stream and walk in the bush to your heart's content. While we lighted the bbq and fried our typical Cervelats and Bratwurst, the sun came out and it was very pleasant. We stomped around and ate and drank, wine and beer, coffee with cake, baked with love by Ursula Matysik and Edith Hess, and then it was time to head off because we had to be at our end destination at 3pm. This was a well kept secret and only one participant



It's all on in the bus to Thames.



Barbecue in the idyllic setting of Waharau Regional Park. While Fritz is doing the cooking, Thomas Matysik looks on. Thomas is our photographer. And helper in many other ways.

gussed it right: the Butterfly and Orchid House on the outskirts of Thames. This is run and owned with passion by Sabine and Roger Gass from Switzerland who welcomed us. After we all took in the wonder of the very hot house, affectionately called "Schmätzigihuus" by its owners, (Schmetterling being the German word for butterfly), Sabine gave us a very informative introduction into the life of the butterfly. It is a demonstration of the wonders and sophistication of nature. The butterfly has quite an enviable existence, really, when one considers the 3 stages of its lifecycle: 1(egg). sit and wait, 2(caterpillar) eat your heart out, 3(moth). look beautiful, eat sweets and play around. It makes me wonder why life can't be that simple for us. How do we make it so complicated?

After the talk we all enjoyed afternoon tea provided by the hosts, and muffins baked by Sandra Hess. Then we boarded our big caterpillar again and headed back to Auckland, where we were safely dropped off at our respective collection points by our very dedicated and competent driver, Margaret Scheidegger who sacrificed her day off to look after us.

Thank you all for coming on our outing and participating in all the activities, for being very good sports about the weather and to all the helpers a big Thank You!

By the way, the Butterfly House is looking for a part time helper, one day a week, doing everything from being at the counter with a constant smile, to keeping the butterfly house in order. Instructions will be given. If you are interested, please contact Sabine or Roger Gass, Tel. 07 868 8080. They have a website www.butterfly.co.nz It is well worth a visit, open from 10am to 4pm daily, at Dickson Holiday Park, Tararu, Thames.

Piano Concert

We had the pleasure to be invited to a piano presentation by a very talented Mrs Hanny Schmid-Wyss from Switzerland, which quite a few of us gratefully accepted, on Labour Monday. The very elegant surroundings of this venue framed a brilliant performance by this gifted lady, and with her comments about the pieces she performed as well as the composers who wrote them and the historic background they were created in, made it a very memorable concert. Thank you to the Goethy Society, the Embassy of Switzerland, Pro Helvetia and all the other sponsors who made this possible. We hope we can hear her

again in the near future. (TF)

Jassen (Hans Iten)

Results from 15.10.2004:

1. Andrew Iten	4114
2. Hans Iten	4058
3. Annagret Wolf	3982
4. Molly Gianotti	3950
5. Louis Wallimann	3800
6. Hilda Iten	3771
7. Nelly Steinemann	3748
8. Elisabeth Preisig	3576
9. Hansruedi Wolf	3364
10. Jakob Preisig	3288

On Friday 19 November was the last cards evening for the year 2004. Jassen starts again on the third Friday in March 2005. Phone Hans Iten for directions on 620 9208.

The Schupbach Cup for the year 2004 was awarded as follows:

1. Hans Iten	23541
2. Louis Wallimann	23257
3. Nelly Steinemann	22611
4. Hilda Iten	22291

We would like to thank those of you who supplied us with prizes and supper on cards nights.

Attendance has been a bit sparse at times and we hope that more of you will join us for a Jass every third Friday of the month from March 2005.

Hans Iten wants you to know that there is still some Sauerkraut left.

Forthcoming Events...

Samichlaus: Sunday, 5 December 2004 at the farm.

From 10 a.m. onward. Bring your family and Santa will have a nice surprise for you. For non-members' children bags cost \$7.00 each. Lunch can be purchased. Food available: Cervelats and Bratwurst, bread, strawberry tartlets, Nussgipfel. Drinks available for sale as well. For further information please phone Edith on 444 6972.

Stammtisch:

This month it coincides with New Year's Eve, Friday the 31 December 2004. This is an informal gathering. Bring your own food & drinks & fireworks and celebrate the New Year with other Swiss friends at the farm. For directions please phone Markus Bühler at 832 3334.

Working Bee: at the farm 27.11.2004.

Picnic: 13.2. 2005

Wandertag: 27.3. 2005