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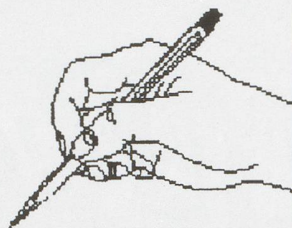
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

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Past Events ...

Preiskegeln and fondue evening.

On May 22, we held our annual Preiskegeln in the afternoon and fondue / sausage and salads in the evening. From 11.00am the Championship Shoot was held, under the watchful eye of our riflemaster Mark Kiser. Then from about 1.30pm the Preiskegeln started ... it was great to see some new faces participating ... and boy could they skittle!!! Groups of four people played off for a cervelat, and the ultimate prize for top men's and women's competitors. Rivalry was very fierce ... just for a cervelat!!! No, just kidding ... rivalry was there, but in fun and jest!!! There were some terrific results ... and some very mediocre ones!!! It would have been far cheaper for me to travel to Auckland to buy a cervelat than to try and win one in Preiskegeln!!! But I made many friends!!! Winners on the day: in the men was Mathias Seifert (must have been a fluke because you certainly didn't help our cause in Auckland with the kegeln!!!) and in the ladies Agnes Buhler (how on earth did you do it? ... Agnes won the booby prize too!!!).

Well done to all the competitors, especially to the winners. Thanks to John Hermann too, for taking the scores on the day.

From 6.00pm we served fondue and cervelats and salads to our 130 guests!!! We were very pleasantly surprised by the large

crowd in attendance ... and hoped that we would have sufficient food ... no just jiving ... there was plenty of food available ... but my, it soon disappears!!! People were seated in fours or sixes to devour the delicious fondues - Erna and Lisette you certainly have fondue-making down to a fine art - stirring all those fondues is no mean feat ... although having said that, stirring comes naturally to you both!!! By all accounts, the fondues were enjoyed by all, and people had the added bonus of savouring a cervelat with a variety of salads. It was great to see some new faces enjoying the food, wine and company of others ... and of course our loyal patrons are always a pleasure to see. We hope you all enjoyed the evening and appreciated good fondues, and we look forward to seeing you at the next fondue evening with some of your friends ... then we will have to build onto the clubhouse!!!

Many thanks to all who supported this function, and especially to the people who helped in the kitchen or who served the fondues ... without helpers like you, such events would not take place!!!

Swiss Society Competitions

These competitions were held on 30 May... perhaps a little late as some participants from previous years had left for Switzerland or were away ... so attendance was down a little. For these lovely medals we compete in Shooting, Steinstossen, Kegeln and Jassen. A big thank you to the Werder children for participating, but unfortunately this year they were the only children. Thomas Werder did very well in cards ... but I fear that you kept one chair warmer than you would have wished for!!! Never mind, next year will give you another opportunity to show those "oldies" that you are a skilful player!!! Many thanks to all of you who turned up on the day, and we look forward to increased participation next year.

Kegeln

The kegeln championship for this year, with a trophy and lovely medals for the winners was won by Mark Kiser in the men, and Heidi Werder, a rookie, in the ladies. Well done folks ... and thanks to our kegeln master, Johnny Bishop. Below are the points.

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------|
| Women: | Heidi Werder | 215 pts |
| | Heidi Seifert | 214 pts |
| | Erna Zimmermann | 202 pts |
| | Luzia Noetzi | 201 pts |
| Men: | Mark Kiser | 224 pts |
| | Mathias Seifert | 220 pts |
| | Johnny Bishop | 220 pts |
| | Walter Seifert | 216 pts |
| | Joe Kiser | 208 pts |
| | Lou Butler | 200 pts |
| | Paul Amstalden | 187 pts |

Johnny looks forward to seeing you all, and newcomers too, for the next season.

Swiss Society AGM and final of the Cowbell Competition.

On June 5 we had an early start on our way to Auckland to attend the AGM of the Swiss Society and to compete against Auckland in the final of the Cowbell Competition. All the way to New Plymouth we picked up people, and had a bus load of 35 people venturing north to help us try to retain the coveted cowbell. Many of us were regulars on the bus trips but we had a few new faces who appeared to enjoy themselves immensely (and we loved having you amongst us) - welcome to Joe and Nita Kaiser, Heidi Werder (if you knew everything Nic, you might not allow Heidi to come with us again

Obituary

Marcel Ney

Mr Ney passed away in his 81st year, in Bern on May 5, 2004 after a short illness. He commenced service with the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad in 1968 and worked there until his retirement in 1987. In 1981, together with Mr Wyder, he officially opened our Clubhouse in Kaponga, Taranaki. We have fond memories of their visit. On behalf of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, I thank Mr Ney, posthumously for his dedicated work and tireless effort with the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.

MD

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... just kidding!!!) and Anthony Sherman (reducing the average age of the bus load somewhat, eh Anthony!!!). We had a lunch stop in Otorohanga where everyone enjoyed stretching their limbs, and a bite to eat. A 'Pass the parcel' was undertaken and eventually won by Joe Kaiser. We were soon in Pokeno where most appreciated a delectable NZ icecream before heading for our accommodation in Birkenhead. These were nice little bungalow type buildings in a quiet area. On Saturday night most attended the function organised by the Auckland Swiss Club at the Newmarket Club, and participated in a lovely meal. Some of our keen punters then headed for the casino to try their luck ... but alas none won a fortune!!! On Sunday morning we headed for the farm at Kaupakapaka ... many of us hadn't been before, and wondered where on earth we were heading ... especially when no-one was sure of their directions!!! However, we eventually arrived at our destination to savour a hot coffee schnaps before the hard task of playing against the mighty Aucklanders for the Cowbell. We had fortunately already won the shooting quite handsomely, and it was now down to Jassen, Steinstossen and Kegeln. The "Kegelnbahn" is outside ... conditions weren't wonderful with the wind and occasional rain ... but hey, we from Taranaki are hardy!!! But obviously from the end result not skilful in kegeln!!! Where were your skills Mathias? You win the Preiskegeln at home, and what was your score in Auckland? ... No, I promise I won't tell anyone!!! A few of the Aucklanders had great scores, so they won this competition quite easily. Now to the steinstossen ... we usually have the musciest men ... but Auckland found three or four too!!! Anthony and Adrian showed their muscle ... but so too did the Aucklanders ... Ruedi at the grand old age of 60 something tried very hard and did well, as did Mark ... but those Aucklanders threw that stone further and won this event as well!!! They overpowered us you may say!!! So it was now down to the Jassers to do their bit ... and although we were even on games, the Aucklanders had more points ... so we could kiss the beloved bell "auf weidersehn" ... but believe me, the Aucklanders are mighty proud of winning the bell, and rightly so. We really are glad that you have finally put your name on the plaque!!! Congratulations Aucklanders, and enjoy it for a year ... 'cos we'll be back to try and claim it again next year ... providing we are able to beat our friends from Wellington!!! The competition was played in very friendly spirits and all participants enjoyed the games immensely. Fritz, the president of the Auckland Swiss Club, is very proud to ring that bell!!! To win the bell in your first year as president is quite an achievement!!!

A delicious lunch made by the amazing Edith and team was appreciated by all, and soon after, the business end of the weekend commenced... the AGM!!! This was very well attended and good discussions arose. You will all be pleased that subscriptions have remained the same, but we welcome any donations!!! Once again good income was received from our advertisers, and we encourage you to support their businesses. Reports were read from the President, Editor, the Ambassador of Switzerland Mrs Matteucci-Keller, Treasurer and Delegate of

the Swiss Abroad. It was encouraging to hear of all the good work that the various Swiss Clubs are undertaking and the functions that they organise, and we enjoyed hearing from a member of the Christchurch Swiss Club, Christian Weber. Herbert Stahl, president of the Hamilton Swiss Club, invited everyone to Hamilton for the next AGM on Queen's Birthday Weekend 2005. Upon completion of the meeting we returned to our accommodation to "dolly up" for the evening function.

The evening function was held at the Sorrento, One Tree Hill ... what a fabulous venue, and the entertainment was second to none ... the Holzhacker Band, the Swiss-Kiwi Yodellers, the Auckland Swiss Club Ladies' Choir and Simone Roggen on the violin ... well Simone you can make that violin talk!!! Good luck with your studies in Switzerland, and we look forward to hearing your music again. All the entertainers were great, and your efforts were highly rated and appreciated by your audience. All too soon the evening came to an end and goodbyes said.

On Monday morning we were treated to a delicious breakfast at Edith Hess's, ably assisted by her son Dominik and daughter-in-law Sandra ... boy oh boy, you must have been cooking all weekend, Edith. We truly appreciated your culinary expertise!!! Our singing group sang a couple of songs ... some with rusty voices from talking too much, eh Maya????!!! We then said our goodbyes, thanking our hosts gratefully, and started our trip south. With a stop or two we all arrived safely at our destinations, and thank Walter and Lisette for organising the weekend.

Above all, we would like to thank our Auckland friends very much for the terrific hospitality they bestowed on us, their guests. The food was out of this world, the drinks great and the company of our compatriots from all over New Zealand the BEST!!! You may already book your seat for next Queen's Birthday Weekend with Walter!!!

Forthcoming Events

July 4 - Anniversary Shoot. You have the choice of shooting or playing skittles ... everyone wins a prize ... and then enjoying the Pork and Sauerkraut meal served at 5.30pm. A truly wonderful social day, organised by Mark and his loyal shooting committee. A "must go" event for you all!!!

July 11 & 18 - Cards at 1.15pm. You have the choice of jassen (going by the result in the Cowbell competition we need heaps of practice!!!) or euchre. Erna looks forward to seeing you there.


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August 1 - Our Swiss National Day being held at the Clubhouse in Kaponga. Your committee and helpers will be selling the tickets ... so if you haven't heard from them, give them a call!!! A great night of tradition and folklore ... as with the past few years, a full house expected, so book in quick!!! Please wear your costumes if you have one, as they do look so colourful!!!

MD

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

Past events

Picnic on March 21

Sunday 21 March was one of those perfect late-summer days. Blue sky, sunshine and no breath of wind. We enjoyed a picnic lunch up on the saddle by the Sign of the Packhorse hut overlooking Lyttelton Harbour on one side and Lake Ellesmere on the other.



Picnic lunch.

From the 43rd AGM held on 6 May 2004. President's Report

However much you may fight it, if you live abroad and where there are expatriates, you

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2004 Committee: Reto Oswald - President, Jessica Bagge - Secretary, Peter Rouss, Helena Duff, Hans Limacher (new), Christina Marty (new), Christian Weber - Treasurer. Absent: Jurg Honger, Susanne Ziswiler.

become part of what is known as the foreign community.

Our very own Christchurch Swiss Club has successfully provided these ties that, by language, humour and shared experiences, have made our club so successful during the past 42 years.

Being part of a foreign community is also a bit like being at school. Among other things, seniority bestows respect. In our Christchurch Swiss Club, we have many senior members by age and time served. Some of them have served the club for as long as the club was founded back in 1961! Therefore the honour of tonight, goes to all of our long-term members and the loyal support they provided, during all these years.

With the past, also came some changes of the club format and events. We have tried, successfully and unsuccessfully, many changes, but let me explain the changes we made during the past financial year.

Newsletter: You may recall the free trial period during the past twelve months. Some of our committee members monitored it very closely and it proved to be a good marketing device for our main events. Thanks to the free 'Mainland Club News', we had people from as far as Timaru and the West Coast attending our functions!!!

Membership: Has been set at \$15.00 during the past financial year. It entitled our members to a discount on all our club activities.

Number of Club members: has gained steadily and thanks to the newly introduced free newsletter has gained eight new members.

Scheduled plan for 04/05: Overnight skiing trip, combined Austrian/German/Swiss cultural evening, inaugural nationally Christmas party and bi-monthly Stammtisch.

Next year's improvement: To establish stronger communication amongst the different German-descended clubs (Austria and Germany). To improve cultural club assets such as DVD libraries of Swiss films (combined with regular screenings of Swiss films).

Bouquet of Today : goes to you members - for your loyal support and your cultural, personal engagement commitment - WE COULD NOT DO WITHOUT YOU!!!

Reto Oswald.

No one ever
hurt their eyesight
by looking on
the bright side
of life.

AGM Report

Thursday 6 May 04 we held our 43rd AGM at the Old Stone House. The turnout was a little disappointing as we also had a guest, Dr Georg Stucky (from the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad). The AGM was short. At the election of the committee, the office holders and committee were reinstated, along with two new keen members, Hans Limacher



Dr George Stucky, Director of the ASO (right) and Hans Limacher.

and Christina Marty. After the formal part, Dr Stucky gave a speech outlining the structure of the Swiss Abroad Organisation, followed by question time.

Key points of interest: AHV : It is always the issue most talked about at any official visit and it was no exception this time. The bottom line is that Switzerland pays out the AHV, but the problem is localised and lies with the NZ Government, more specifically WINZ/IRD. As the AHV is partly a voluntary super scheme, it should be treated as such and not interfere with the NZ Superannuation entitlement.

VOTING: As part of the fifth Switzerland it is very important to register for voting on the federal level, especially in respect of the AHV. To register, contact the Embassy in Wellington.



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NZ PARTNERS IN SWITZERLAND: With a new referendum in the pipeline "Restrictions of immigration from non-EU states", it could result in being more difficult to immigrate to Switzerland for holders of non-EU passports.

SWISSINFO CUTS: As part of the spending cuts the Swiss Government's contributions towards Swissinfo/Swiss Radio International will be cut from current CHF 18 million to CHF 5 million (2005) and cancelled completely by 2006. Swissinfo/Swiss Radio International is our lifeline to Switzerland politically, culturally and socially. Dr Stucky recommended that people express their disappointment directly to Bundesrat Moritz Leuenberger.

Christchurch Swiss Club Committee and phone numbers:

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------|
| President | Reto Oswald | 03 337 9117 |
| Secretary | Jessica Bagge | 03 332 2412 |
| Treasurer | Christian Weber | 03 337 9997 |
| Webmaster | Peter Ruoss | 03 326 7025 |
| Newsletter | | |
| Editor | Helena Duff | 03 942 6702 |
| Committee | Jurg Honger | 03 942 6211 |
| | Hans Limacher | 03 329 4423 |
| | Christina Marty | 03 337 1969 |
| | Suzanne Ziswiler | 03 342 7211 |

Forthcoming Events

Swiss National Day Celebration

To be held on Friday 30th July 2004 at the Old Stone House, Shalamar Drive, Cracroft at 7.00pm.

Come and join us for our traditional Swiss National Day Celebration with a Raclette, try your luck with the Tombola and enjoy the Live Music by Graham Wardrop, one of New Zealand's finest solo guitarists. Kids, remember to bring along your lampions. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy not only good food and company, but also some exceptional Live Music.

To secure your seat, book today by contacting Christian Weber no later than Tuesday 27 July 04. Members - adults \$25.00, children 12 years and under \$12.50. Non-members - adults \$30.00, children 12 years and under \$15.00.

Menu: Gluhwein; Soup and Bread; Raclette, Swiss style sausages, gourmet potatoes, salads and condiments; a selection of Swiss cakes served with plunger coffee and tea. BYO drinks.

**Experience
is a hard teacher
because she gives the
test first and the lesson
afterwards.**



Past Events....

300 metre shooting in Auckland 16+17 May, 2004.

After a breakfast treat at the Milford Swiss Bakery the 14 of us arrived at Kaukapakapa for a great day's shooting under Henry's, and his helpers' watchful eyes. Wholesome dinner, followed by baking, Kafischnaps and more, was the order of the evening and I think all of us enjoyed a relaxing time, pity about the rugby result. Sunday was a picture-book day and, after a hardy breakfast, shooting commenced again and lasted until 1 pm. A lovely lunch was put on by Edith, and Henry completed the formalities before we left for our journey home.

Thank you Henry, Edith and all helpers for hosting us. Many thanks to our club and the Zubers for their support and all the participants for making it a successful event. Last year's medals will be handed out at the fondue evening Results - 13 participants and 13 winners! *Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster)*

Card Evenings

Two more card evenings have been held - the second on 21st May in Matamata, and the third on 4th June in Cambridge.

Both evenings were well attended with 42 players both times. As always, the card playing was fun and entertaining, competitive yet friendly, and of course at the halfway mark we were all treated to a delicious supper. In Matamata we dined on a superb Wurstdalat and freshly baked home-made bread; whilst in Cambridge we were treated to a large variety of savouries; followed as always by a selection of home baked cakes and coffee. A big thank you to everyone involved with baking and helping in the kitchen.

Congratulations also to Margarethe Poppe who celebrated her 65th birthday at the card evening in Matamata. For the occasion, she was presented with a beautiful gift basket which was put together by some friends.

In cards, there were some very high scorers, and so far, a good cross-section of players have already taken home a prize - except Beatrice, who is becoming a regular winner of the booby prize!

BL

Prizewinners are as follows:

Second Card Evening

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1) Vitus Achermann | 4273 |
| 2) Robert Frischknecht | 4226 |
| 3) Theresa Fitz | 4112 |
| 4) Ruth Waldvogel | 4061 |
| 5) Margarethe Poppe | 4038 |
| 6) Max Schwitzer | 4021 |
| 7) Heidi Santner | 4001 |
| 8) Bert Fluhler | 3934 |
| 9) Eileen Hickey | 3931 |

Booby Prize:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Agnes Gämperle | 3325 |
|----------------|------|

Third Card Evening

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1) Walter Zuber | 4352 |
| 2) Werner Fassler | 4187 |
| 3) Markus Ruegger | 4147 |
| 4) Heinz Leuenberger | 4101 |
| 5) Heidi Santner | 4138 |
| 6) Arthur Matti | 3991 |
| 7) Anna Rufer | 3982 |
| 8) Angus Forsythe | 3943 |
| 9) Hanna Frischknecht | 3904 |

Booby Prize:

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Beatrice Leuenberger | 3315 |
|----------------------|------|

Queen's Birthday Weekend / Swiss Society AGM

- about 16 members of the Hamilton club headed off to Auckland for this weekend of activities. Some travelled up on Saturday and attended the function at the Newmarket Club. There was a lovely welcoming atmosphere there and it wasn't long before we were served a lovely home-made Swiss dinner. After dinner, there was some lovely entertainment, alongside coffee and baking being served. It wasn't long before everyone went home. I think the competitors for the cowbell competition wanted an early night.

On Sunday some of our other Hamilton members arrived for the day and we all caught up at the farm for lunch. We were not involved in the morning's activities but would like to congratulate Auckland on their great efforts in winning the cowbell. We look forward to battling it out again next year. We were all served a delicious warm lunch with plenty of coffee, cakes and drinks as well. Following this, the meeting got under way and thanks to Marianne's guidance concluded in good time.

The evening's Folklore Evening was one to

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remember, in particular the impressive line-up of entertainment. We all must agree that the Auckland club has a lot of talent which our club can definitely not match. A delicious dinner was enjoyed as well as our club taking home some of the big tombola prizes.

Many thanks to the Auckland committee for looking after us so well. Also many thanks to the entertainers. I think it will be a hard act to follow for next year but we still cordially invite you all to join us in Hamilton at Queen's Birthday Weekend 2005.

Forthcoming Events...

Friday, July 2 – Fifth Card Evening in Cambridge, 7.30pm

Friday, July 16 – Sixth and Final Card Evening in Matamata, 7.30pm

Saturday July 31, National Day Celebration will be held at Mellow Manor on SH1 south of Hamilton heading towards Cambridge. This will be our big social event for the year and this time we hope we can offer you a warm and friendly atmosphere, a delicious dinner and great entertainment by the Holzacker Band from Auckland. Our attendances have been dwindling in the past few years and we are now hoping to attract back many of our past participants for a great night out. All Hamilton members will be sent an invitation and we ask that you pass this information on to as many people as possible. The cost will be \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Children under 13 years, half price and under 5 years are free. Full bar facilities available but it is also BYO. All tickets will need to be pre-purchased and numbers will be limited. If you are not a member or would like an invitation posted out to a friend, please contact Anita Zuber (07) 856-2414 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz or Beatrice (07) 843-7971 giving details of where you would like the invitation sent to. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Sunday, August 29 – Family Walk at the Hamilton Lake 11am start. Please meet at the Yacht Club, Innes Common, Lake Cres, Hamilton. Plenty of parking there. Kurt will organise the day's activities including a quiz for all ages. We will have a picnic lunch back at the car following the walk. Look forward to seeing you all then. To be held wet or fine.

Saturday, September 18 – Fondue Evening. Further details in the next issue.



Past Events.

The evening of our "Schi-Huette-fondue" was held on the 29 May. This evening proved to be one of the most popular nights for our Club. We counted 97 attendants at our full house.

The evening started with a mixed salad plate and brown bread. Then Roland and his team of helpers started cooking the fondue. Each table was asked to take a number out of a bucket, and according to that number that table received the Fondue, (as there could only be three fondues cooked at one time). This worked very well and no one was disadvantaged by having to wait for the meal too long; because they all picked their own number!

The Fondue was very delicious and everyone was happy. Three complimentary bottles of wine were presented to the three groups of attendants who brought eight or more people with them. Desserts, coffee, tea and "Kafi fertig" served with delicious cakes, made by Verena, concluded a most enjoyable meal. The Tombola raffles were popular and produced a few good prizes.

Queen's Birthday Weekend in Auckland

A small group of members from our Club went to the AGM of the Swiss Society in Auckland. At the Newmarket Club on Saturday we were introduced to the Auckland Club members, and slowly the hall filled with members from other North Island Clubs. We were then served a delicious dinner of "Geschnetzlets and Spaetzli".

On Sunday morning Auckland managed to gain the trophy from the Taranaki Club, and in the afternoon we travelled to their unique clubhouse in Kaukapakapa for the AGM, with a scrumptious afternoon tea served afterwards.

The evening at the Sorrento in One Tree Hill was most enjoyable, with great entertainment from our Auckland Yodellers and the Holzacker Band. A great "Thank You" from us Wellingtonians, to the Auckland Swiss Club for organising a tremendous weekend.

Thank you Committee and all the helpers for making this such a good evening.

Next Events:

4 July: Winter Sunday Walk: Hutt River Trail (reserve day Sunday 11 July 2004)

31 July: National Day Celebration

1 August: August Fire at Petone Beach, Hokoikoi Reserve, at 6pm.

European Forum News

The Swedish Community is organising a dinner with traditional Swedish dishes and entertainment, Saturday September 25, 2004 at the Polish Clubhouse in Newtown. For more information and bookings phone Monika on 478 5649.



Thank you all for such a lovely Queen's Birthday Weekend!

Thanks to the people who came from far and wide to attend the Society AGM. To the Ambassador, Mrs Sylvie Matteucci and her husband, Aldo, for making the effort and for addressing the meeting and making the link to the homeland. To Christian who came all the way from the South Island to represent the Christchurch Swiss Club, thank you for making the effort. To the Taranaki people who made the biggest representation with 37½, counting Daniel, attending the whole of the weekend. To the Wellington delegation who amounted to 7, for driving all the way up, and to Hamilton who sent 13 representatives.

Thanks to the Auckland club members who attended the meeting and functions and helped with cooking, transport, accommodation and with welcoming the guests.

Thank you to Marianne's little fellow president, Daniel, who is only 8 months old, for his patience and for being such a cute, well behaved little guy, and I hope you recovered well from the strains of your big weekend.

Thanks to the people who competed in the cowbell competition where AUCKLAND WON the big cowbell for the first time in many, many years. Big CONGRATULATIONS!!! (About time, I'd say). Just for the record: Auckland won the Bowling, the Shotgun, and the Card game, and lost only the Shooting. (You'll have to ask the games master himself what his theory is on how that astounding result came about. I'm sure that claim was solely based on jealousy. But truly, he reckons you guys just put the target on the floor below your arms and then point the gun.... Really, the audacity!!). I'm sure the photos show how proud we are here in Auckland to finally have this beautiful farming equipment in our possession for at least (!) a year. The big question for us now is: Where can we keep it? At the moment the president has the honour. I am sure this will be a major item at our next committee meeting. We'll keep you posted.

Thanks also to the people who provided the fabulous entertainment at our Folklore Night. To the people at Sorrento for providing such a delicious supper (my apologies to those who found it cold by the time they got to it), the Holzacker Band for creating such good dancing rhythm.

Thank you to all the people who donated prizes for the tombola, and I hope you all won a little something to take home (or drink before you got there). I hope everybody managed to buy some tombola tickets on the night and were not offended when a limit was put on the number they were able to

Don't let the best you
have done so far
be the standard
for the rest of your life.
The difference
between ordinary
and extraordinary is
that little extra.

buy. It was only meant in fairness, to give everybody the chance to play.

And most of all, thank you all for coming and bringing your good spirits.

Thank you to the drivers who brought you all safely back. I hope the weekend was enjoyed by everyone and helped to deepen the connection between the regions.

A few announcements:

- A Swiss who is leaving these shores for an unlimited period of time, Kai Ruegger, is offering an extensive collection of **German books** for sale. If you are interested in having a look, please call Trudi, 376 4923.

- The **Alliance Francaise is inviting people to Bastille Day Ball** on Friday 16 July 2004, from 6.30pm to 1am at the Royal New Zealand Squadron, 101, Curran St, Westhaven. The French Ambassador, H.E. Jean-Michel Marlaud, will be guest of honour. \$60 per person, includes dinner. Please call either Trudi, 376 4923, or Sonia from the Alliance Tel 376 0009.

- Just for your information, the **Dante Alighieri Society**, the Italian cultural organisation around the world, publishes a regular newsletter to which we have access. If anyone is interested in keeping in touch with the activities of the Italian people, please call the secretary, Trudi 376 4923. Or contact the society directly – Secretary: Beverley Carey, Tel. 376 3210, or go to their website, www.dante.org.nz. The same goes for the Danish, Dutch, Goethe and Austrian Societies.

- **SAUERKRAUT** can again be purchased from Hans Iten, Tel. 620 9208. The best in town!

- **AFS is an organisation that facilitates student exchanges** throughout the world. They are asking our club members if we would be interested in accommodating Swiss students for a year, to give them the chance to have an insight into the New Zealand way of life. If you would like to make that special link with Switzerland and help a young student find his/her way in this country and show them the best of everything it has to offer, I am sure you would be rewarded with a lot

of gratitude and long-lasting connections. If you would like to have a student stay, please call either Fritz Scheidegger, Tel. 480 6630, or Trudi 376 4923.

The **Card Evening** of Friday 21 May was a bit sparsely attended, but I am glad I went – for the first time ever! – because it brought the numbers up to two tables. The facilities at the Good Shepherd's Hall are really great, cosy, with all that you need, including a very warm heater, and the games went on almost until midnight. I even scored a pack of Sauerkraut as a prize, kindly sponsored by Hans Iten. Other prizes were a bottle of wine, fresh orchard apples and packs of cards. A delicious supper (apple tart and cake with coffee) was enjoyed by all.

The results were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Monika Eggenschwiler | 4226 points |
| 2. Heidi Wilson | 3930 points |
| 3. Hans Iten | 3818 |
| 4. Elisabeth Preisig | 3816 |
| 5. Jakob Preisig | 3634 |
| 6. Trudi Fill | 3610 |
| 7. Louis Wallimann | 3608 |
| 8. Hilda Iten | 3512 |

Thank you all for coming, and for bringing the prizes and supper.

Future Events

The next Card Evening is on Friday 16 July 2004, 7.30pm, at the Good Shepherd's Church Hall (at the end of Telford Ave, Balmoral, to the left of the church. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our next Evening is:

Games Night, Saturday 17 July, 2004.

At the farm.

A night of fun. Those who came to the Mystery Tour last year got a taste of what this is about. Make up a group and compete in a game of Trivial Pursuit.

Small entry fee, supper provided,

To book please call Sandra 09 420 4340.

Working Bee at the farm.

Saturday 24 July 2004.

We start about 9am and put in a good day's work. It is invaluable time given to the club for the upkeep of the farm, and a

good opportunity to get to know people in the club.

Free lunch, and a free beer guaranteed. For more information contact our farm committee representative, Henry Werffeli, Tel. 410 3476, or Markus Buhler Tel. 832 3334

Next Stammtisch

Saturday 31 July 2004.

From 4pm onward,

Call Markus Buhler Tel. 832 3334 for further information.

National Day Celebrations:

Saturday, 7 August 2004. At the farm.

We meet around 4pm, watch the spectacular sunset, sit around the fire and listen to the message from our federal president back in Switzerland. We celebrate our heritage. The yodellers help us with it.

Supper can be purchased on the night. Bookings are highly appreciated, because it helps us plan our catering better. Please call Edith on Tel. 444 6972.

Fondue Evening –

Saturday, September 11, 2004 – at the farm Kaukapakapa

Please note that we have changed the date of this, to co-ordinate with what the other clubs in the North Island are organising. I hope this is still a suitable date for those who have already planned their annual social schedule.

Mystery Tour

Sunday 14 November 2004

This is shaping up to be a most interesting event. I would put it aside for the whole family.

You will need the whole Sunday... and you will love it. We are working on the finer details.

Watch this space!

Spring Clean – Working Bee at the farm

Saturday November 27, 2004

Samichlaus – Christmas Party of the Auckland Swiss Club

Sunday 5 December 2004.

This is a real family day! Santa will bring a Christmas surprise for those who have been good during the year.

*Until next time, God bless,
Trudi.*

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