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own material.

I would welcome ideas especially from people who will benefit from such an arrangement, and invite you to direct your concerns or interest to me personally, Tel. 376 4923, or any committee member. The ambassador welcomed such a group.

The ambassador and her husband also showed great interest in the success of our president in China with the Kiwi Dragon, the 4WD off-street race which they won with flying colours (as mentioned earlier) and found that Switzerland really wants to get behind high achievers of this calibre if they want to increase their exposure in certain regions. Roll on the next challenge!

Trudi

Forthcoming events:

WANDERTAG– Sunday 3 April 2005
Boundary walk once again. It is such a lovely walk and we noticed that not all members have done it. And each year we obtain so many new members that we just have to introduce those to the extent of our property. Please join us this year again and simply come up to the farm at Rapson Road, Kaukapakapa at 10am. Bring a hat, water and picnic. Not your high heels.

THE COWBELL SEMIFINAL will be on in Hamilton on Sunday, April 17.

We count on a good turn-out from our members for a day of competition and socialising with our Hamilton friends. If you intend to come, send your name(s) and details to Fritz Scheidegger (President), P.O. Box 300 006, Albany 1330 or

fscheidegger@xtra.co.nz

or Hans Iten, 4, Garden Place, Mt. Eden, ph.620 9208 as soon as possible.

FRIDAYJASS

Jassen started on Friday, 18 March at the new venue, the Ponsonby Community Centre at 20 Ponsonby Tce, Ponsonby (The Gluepot Room). The results will be published in the May edition of *Helvetica*. The next Friday Jassevening at Ponsonby will be on 15 April, same venue as above.

We hope to see as many of you as possible there. Hans Iten Tel. 620 9208.

The JODLER FUNDRAISING at the farm promises to be another roaring success. The date is Saturday, 23 April. For details

contact Peter Arnold Tel. 479 4487.

POETRYQUIZ

Here are the answers to questions about the poem the in the March edition of *Helvetica*:

1. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
2. Werther und Mignon
3. Sizilien
4. Mignon

P.S. From Heidi: It is one of the most beautiful poems in German literature, it should have been published in poem form and should be read aloud.

SOCIETY AGM – Hamilton

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 4/5/6 June 2005

Voice your interest at the club AGM and put your name down. Bookings for accommodation should be made soon as there are other events taking place in Hamilton (would you believe!) that weekend. Our aim is to keep the cowbell in Auckland (it looks so good at the café in Milford!) and to have a good time with all the other clubs around New Zealand.

FILM EVENING Saturday 2 JULY 2005

This will be at the Rothesay Bay hall and the clue is: Sternenberg. Watch this space for further details.

Heidi/Trudi

Friendship is a treasure worth more than gold or any precious stones.

THE SWISS KIWI YODELLING GROUP, AUCKLAND, PRESENTS

Alpine Party on April 23, 2005

at the Swiss Farm, Rapson Rd, Kaukapakapa at 4pm

Fun games, dinner at 6.30pm and entertainment. Dance to 60s and 70s music with DJ Marin Van Doorn

Cost \$40 per person, only limited tickets available, no door sales.

To purchase tickets, please contact Peter Arnold: phone 09 479 4487, mobile 0274 824 701, email petula2001@hotmail.com

The origin of the Easter Egg

In most cultures, the egg has signified rebirth and resurrection since the earliest times. The Egyptians buried eggs in their tombs and the Greeks placed eggs atop graves. Given as gifts by the ancient Greeks, Persians, and Chinese at their spring festivals, the egg also appears in pagan mythology, where the Sun-Bird hatches from the "World Egg". The ancient Saxons celebrated the return of spring with a festival commemorating Easter, their goddess of offspring and springtime, through her symbol of the rabbit.

Eggs were wrapped with gilt or gold leaf, while peasants often dyed their eggs. The tinting was achieved by boiling the eggs with certain flowers, leaves, log wood chips, or the cochineal insect.

In parts of Germany during the early 1880s, eggs were even used as birth certificates. An egg was dyed a solid colour, then a design, which included the recipient's name and birth date, was etched into the shell with a needle or sharp tool.

Easter's most valuable eggs were hand crafted in the 1880s. Made by the great goldsmith Peter Carl Faberge, they were commissioned by Czar Alexander III of Russia as gifts for his wife, Czarina Maria Feodorovna. The first Faberge egg measured two and a half inches long and had a deceptively simple exterior. Inside the white enamel shell, though, was a golden yolk, which revealed a gold hen with ruby eyes when opened. The hen itself could be opened, by lifting the beak, to expose a tiny diamond replica of the imperial crown.

Source : www.inspirationline.com

Smile a While

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service his cousin asked him, "how many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen" the boy answered. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up like the Bishop said: '4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer!!!'"