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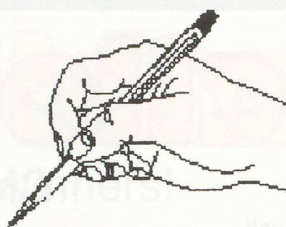
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Past Events

Working Bee held by committee

Your committee has been busy ... holding working bees to keep our club house looking spic 'n' span!!! Instead of trying to get the full committee at the club house on the one day (which is mission impossible!!), everyone put their name down to undertake a task. It worked wonderfully well!!! The club house and surroundings look spotless ... actually everything looks like new!!! Not bad for a 25 year old club house. Many thanks to all of you for your tremendous effort.



Committee members enjoying a Christmas Barbecue on November 25.

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Committee BBQ

We held a committee barbeque on 25 November with nearly the full committee and spouses / children in attendance. It was a nice way to start the Christmas festivities, and we had a very relaxing atmosphere in our club house. There was a wonderful display of salads which everyone enjoyed, and our thanks go to Lisette for being the chief person on the barbeque ... you didn't even burn anything!!! This was a terrific way for the committee to socialise, and an event which everyone seems to enjoy immensely.

MD



Christmas Shoot - Children's activity

(November 27) We felt in Switzerland that day, as the wind was blowing and the temperature was low. Everyone arrived with woollen jumpers or winter jackets!!! We soon warmed up with the shooting and skittling. Watching the busy children attempting different crafts under the watchful eyes of Erna and Heidi was a delight. By the time Erna and Remigi's grand-daughter will be joining in, Erna will be a top craft person. Congratulations on your first grandchild!!! The children all concentrated so much making angels and Christmas bells. Yvonne Werder was so patient helping the little ones with their work. A wonderful buffet lunch was enjoyed by everyone. At two o'clock the most wanted man arrived ... Santa in

his nice red suit and big white beard did a magnificent job, he can joke or even be serious with those little ones!!! Many thanks to all the helpers and the children for behaving so well.

LB

The Christmas shoot was held on 27 November with a good number of participants. People had the choice to Shoot or Skittle and as everyone had brought a prize with a minimum value of \$10.00 so all participants received a prize in return. 35 people took part in the competition, 21 Shooters and 14 Skittlers.

Results : Shooting

Top score of 49 points - Emmi Kiser, Helen Freiman with runners-up with 48 points - Othmar Hebler and Mark Kiser. Third place with 47 points - Regi Mathys, Joe Kaiser.

Results : Skittlers

Top score with 37 points - Walter Seifert with runner-up with 36 points - Marlies Hebler. Third place with 31 points - Heidi Werder.

Lucky Number prize draw winners - 1 Nick Werder, 2 Sepp Kiser, 3 Andrew Zimmermann, 4 Helen Freiman, 5 Mark Kiser, 6 Erna Zimmermann, 7 Kate Mills, 8 Heidi Werder, 9 Peter Arnold, 10 Joe Kaiser, 11 Charlie Schuler.

Other Shooting Results

The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot was held on October 16 with the winner being Helen Freiman 100 pts with runners-up Franz Schuler and Mark Kiser 98 pts.

The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield Shoot was held on November 20. The winner was Erna Zimmermann 98 pts with runner-up Mark Kiser 97 pts.

Congratulations to all the place getters and thanks to all participants for supporting our shooting club. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year 2006.

Mark Kiser

Rifle master, Smallbore.

New Years' Eve

This, of course, was held on 31 December with a good muster of people seeing the 'old' year out and the 'new' one in. There were thirty campervans spread out over the well-manicured grounds - thanks to Johnny and Don for all their wonderful work over the year, the grounds look absolutely great! Happy hour was held

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The entertainment commenced at 8.30pm with music and skits ... our grateful thanks must go to Ruedi and Lisette and Leo and Doreen for always ensuring that terrific entertainment is available to keep the crowds' attention. There was musical talent and various keen participants in the very funny skits ... thank you all very much for your assistance in keeping the crowd entertained and your performances were excellent! We do hope that everyone enjoyed their night, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

End of an era

On Saturday December 10th we were all saddened to hear of the passing on of our Past President and Life Member Ruedi Dudli. Ruedi was instrumental in obtaining land and building our club house in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and was our President for many years. Ruedi was also a Past President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, and during his tenures as Presidents of both organisations worked tirelessly to promote and foster Swiss culture and traditions. We extend our deepest sympathy to Margrit and family.

Forthcoming Events

February 2 & 16 Keglen recommences after the Christmas/New Year break ... so give it a go, and be ready (and skillful!) to do battle against the Wellingtonians on February 11.

11 We will be competing against the Wellington Swiss Club members in the semi-final of the Cowbell competition ... these activities include smallbore shooting, shotput, jassen and keglen ... if you are interested in helping the club by competing in one of these events, or if you would just wish to meet some of our Wellington friends and compatriots, please give a committee member a ring to find out further information. This competition is always played in friendly spirits, and it is a joy to host our southern friends. We look forward to seeing many of the Wellington Swiss Club members for this competition.

12 Our Annual Picnic will be held. Schwingen is always the highlight, with the audiences enjoying the junior and senior bouts seated on bales of hay ... under sun umbrellas if the weather plays its' part!!! If you are interested in competing in the Schwingen, or if you would like to know a little more about it, please ring Othmar on 06 272 2878. He would love to hear from you. Also available on the day are delicious barbequed bratwurst and cervelats ... we are fortunate to have a dedicated bunch of helpers on the barbeque, and we thank them for their efforts. Refreshments by way of beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, icecreams, iceblocks and chips are available. Games will be organised for the children, and the shotput cup will be up for grabs ... so come along parents and bring your children to this very social day ... it is a way for the younger generation to learn to appreciate their Swiss culture and traditions. Swiss music is played all day (both tapes and live), and we appreciate Zeno's efforts in this. We look forward to your attendance, and bring along the fine weather and good humour!!!

March

1 Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.00pm ... come and hear what happened in the past year, and help us look forward to the year ahead. A good attendance is always appreciated.

2 & 16 Keglen at 8.00pm. Come and have some fun ... taking part in keglen, jassen or just chatting ... good social time to be had.

19 Championship / Society Shoot at 1.00pm For further information please ring Mark Kiser.

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where they grow*

Grüetzi Mitand!

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I have recently returned to NZ after 8 years in Latin America & Asia. With Swiss & Austrian parentage, I am fluent in German and Spanish and looking forward to helping with your business trips, visits to relatives or adventures into the unknown!

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Past Events...

The Christmas Function was held Sunday 4th December starting at 11am and for once we had a lovely day with no wind or rain. Most people arrived fairly promptly just in time for the children to be entertained by Theo the Magician. The adults were also encouraged to join in and watch the fun, and at times I think he got more attention from the adults than the children. It was all quite intriguing to try and figure out his tricks and towards the end he made quite a lot of balloon animals for the children to keep (sorry if some of you kids missed out). Following the magic show, lunch was served with delicious grilled Bratwurst for young and old to enjoy as well as plenty of drinks to quench the thirst. Most of the kids were then quite happy to entertain themselves whilst the adults were busy buying raffle tickets. We had about 12 lovely prizes for everyone to choose from. Many thanks to all the people who donated prizes. To top off the day, afternoon tea was served with lots of lovely home-made Christmas biscuits and plenty of coffee and schnapps. We had a very good turnout of families from far and near and many thanks to everyone for supporting our function and of course to



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all the committee members for helping out and doing baking as well as all the other chores.

Forthcoming Events...

In 2006, our Hamilton Swiss Club will be celebrating 50 years, so we plan to have a big function and reunion – probably 22nd July. We will be forming a small sub-committee for this occasion and would like to ask for some volunteers to be a part of this committee, in particular people who might have been involved with the Club during its earlier days. The first committee meeting will be on the 7th February at Vreni's place. If you are interested and can help, please phone Anita on (07) 856-2414 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz

Shooting Update :

50 meter shooting – The next practice shoot will be from 9am on Saturday, 18th February at Elmigiers, 618/12 Maungatautari Rd, Cambridge (100m past the turn-off by the Karapiro Dam). The Swiss Society medal shooting competition will take place at 9am on Saturday 25th February at the above venue. Please call me the evening before the practice to let me know that you are attending.

300 meter shooting – The Hamilton members are booked for 6th + 7th May 06 at the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa. There will be another event coming up in April and I will keep active shooters informed. (Newcomers, please give me a call even if you are only slightly interested).

For any further information on the above events, please call me on 07 855 3294 evenings or 021 658 733, Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster).

26th February 2006 is the date set for our annual Picnic. This year the picnic will again be held at the Newstead Country School, Morrinsville Road (next to the cemetery), commencing at 11.00am. There is plenty of parking beside the school and along the road. We suggest you arrive promptly if you wish to participate in bowling, as there is usually quite a queue later in the day. There will be Swiss Society medal bowling and shot-put competitions, as well as cup and prize (Landjaeger) bowling, and a lolly scramble for the children. We suggest you bring folding chairs and also sun umbrellas, as it will probably be a hot day. The swimming pool should be available for use. Parents please note : you are fully responsible for the safety of your own children, both in and around the water (refer to the notice by the pool), as well as on the adventure playground. The Club has signed a document to this effect. As usual there will be grilled sausages with bread for sale, as well as Swiss baking, coffee and cold drinks. For any further information or if you are able to help on the roster for about 2 hours, please ring Anita, phone (07) 856-2414.

A newsletter and calendar of events for 2006 will be sent out to all Hamilton members mid February. If you do not receive yours or if you have a change of address, please contact Beatrice phone (07) 843-7971

sold later that day. I'm very keen on desserts and enjoyed more than one of these delicious sweets but what I liked even more were the real Swiss sausages and the coffee Traesch. The official programme started with a puppet show for the young visitors. Actually there were heaps of children as this is a particular family event. Santa Claus likes children very much, in New Zealand as elsewhere. But before he himself arrived, the choir announced his coming. English as well as German Christmas songs reminded me of what time of the year it was. In a way, I felt a bit confused to celebrate Christmas in summer next to children waiting barefoot for Santa. However, I cannot believe it was snowing in Bethlehem 2005 years ago. It's just that we are used to a cold and rather dark Christmas in Europe, because it has always been like this.

Finally we could hear him arrive, even before we were able to see him. Santa Claus was indeed coming from above, neither accompanied by angels nor sitting in a sleigh but flying in a helicopter! Quite a number of children were already waiting on the fence and it was worth waiting. Santa was speaking to every child individually and gave them a present. Meanwhile the parents took the advantage to talk to other people, some of whom they have perhaps not

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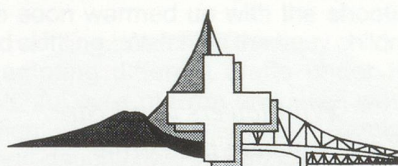
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AZ



Auckland Swiss Club

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Samichlaus in New Zealand

Like many young Swiss, I came to Auckland to improve my English in a language school. I had heard about Swiss clubs all over the world before I left Switzerland and so I wanted to find out whether there is also one in Auckland. I found the society's homepage immediately and ended up going to the Santa Claus on the 4th of December. Let me share some of my impressions with you.

The Swiss farm, where the event took place, is a lovely place, which reminded my very much of our home country. Just after I had arrived I was asked to help prepare the Erdbeertoertli which were



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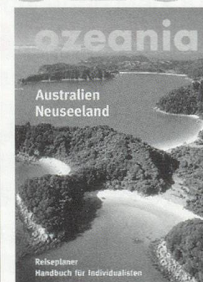
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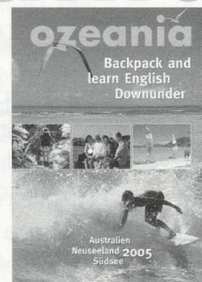
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seen for a long time. Sharing news, drinking coffee or playing cards, it was a truly relaxed atmosphere and I enjoyed being there and having the opportunity to meet people originally from Switzerland but living in Auckland.

After all, I asked myself, was it a Swiss or a Kiwi event, that Santa in summer time? I think it is a bit of both. People took the best of both cultures to create something that has elements of the two cultures but is unique in its appearance. That is also the reason why there were two banners on the flagstaff, the white Swiss cross as well as the Southern Cross of the New Zealand flag.
Dominik Rohrer.

Hi everyone,

Before getting into the nitty-gritty of club matters and plans for the New Year, I would like to thank Dominik very much for the excellent article he has composed for us. While he was here in Auckland, he came to our Jass evenings and made quite an impression there and took an active part in club activities wherever it was. All the best, Dominik and come and see us again some day.

Welcome to 2006 and A Happy New Year!

In 2006 of course we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Auckland Swiss Club. The Jubilee will be celebrated in style at Springs Garden Restaurant, Western Springs, on 7 October 2006. Details and promotions can be found in every edition of Helvetia from February this year.. We sincerely hope that you will mark that special day in your calendar. The 1st August Celebration on 29 July 2006 at the Farm will double as the Jubilee Family Event with fun & games for children and their families.

New Club Members

We would like to welcome to our club Peter & Yangi Schibli, who got married at the Farm on January 29. We wish the happy couple all the best for their future together.

Jass Results

Schuepbach Cup 2005

1	Marie Theres Melville	23524
		Points
2	Heidi Wilson	23290
3	Andrew Bunter	23173
4	Louis Wallimann	23046
5	Nelly Steinemann	22941
6	Hilda Iten	22768
7	Andrew Iten	22463
8	Hans Iten	22404
9	Jakob Preisig	22382

Jass Results 18.11.05

1	Hans Fitzi	4287
2	Hansruedi Wolf	4134
3	Nelly Steinemann	4028
4	Dominik Rohrer	3817
5	Hans Iten	3817
6	Louis Wallimann	3782
7	Adrian Blaser	3619

8	Marie Theres Melville	3645
9	Heidi Wilson	3623
10	Annegret Wolf	3561
11	Andrew Bunter	3552
12	Lea Fitzi	3534
13	Roman	3446
14	Hilda Iten	3371

Heidi Wilson, Secretary.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB NEWS

Past Events

Swiss National Day 2005

What an eventful night! Celebrated in style by close to 100 people, we enjoyed a traditional menu prepared by chef Phillippe Meyer, while Graham Wardrop supplied the soothing sounds from his latest CD, with a charming backdrop of Swiss pictures flickering away in the background.

We listened to the speeches and when it was dark enough, let fireworks off. I seem to recall that the adults had more sparklers than the children did. The Tombola was a tear-away success, hardly surprising when you see the quality and selection of those amazing prizes. This was due to the generous donations made by : Albergo Hanmer, Impex, Swiss Embassy, Hamco, Cracroft Chase Vineyard, myRobot, and Heritage Matters. If and when you visit any of these companies, please THANK them for me. They make our Tombolas!

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Yes, you could say that yet again, the 1st August was remembered in a manner to which we Mainlanders have grown accustomed. I am already looking forward to what the Committee come up with for next year. Aren't you?

Jessica Bagge

Forthcoming Events

Terassen Stammtisch

Tuesday 7 February 2006 at the Belgian Cafe Torenhof, 88 Armagh Street from 7.30pm. Enjoy a summers evening on the Terraces of Torenhof overlooking the Avon - join us for a cool drink and a New Years catch-up.

Culture Galore

Saturday 18 March 2006. Ray Blank Park, Maidstone Road, Avonhead from 12 noon - 4.00pm. The Swiss Club will have a stall again, so come and visit us and enjoy the diversity of Canterbury's cultures with its' food and entertainment.

QUOTES

You're never a loser until you quit trying.
Mike Ditka

There is nothing worse than a sharp image of a fuzzy concept.
Ansel Adams

Recovering from failure is often easier than building from success.
Michael Eisner

What a strange world this would be if we all had the same sense of humour.
Bern Williams

The best way to predict the future is to create it.
Peter Drucker

The brain is a wocerful organ. It starts working the moment you get up and does not stop until you get into the office.
Robert Frost

You cannot hold back a good laugh any more that you can the tide. Both are forces of nature.
William Rotsler

Sometimes something worth doing is worth overdoing.
David Letterman

It's hard to believe that there was a time when clothing and music were handed down to the next generation.
Doug Larson

Nothing is so embarrassing as watching someone do something that you said couldn't be done.
Sam Ewing