**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia: magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand

**Band:** 72 (2006)

Heft: [1]

**Rubrik:** Auckland Swiss Club 1956-2006 : 50-year anniversary

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# 1956-2006 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Auckland Swiss Club is proud to announce 50 years of existence as a club this year, and we have planned a few special events to celebrate this anniversary. In the next few months we would like to present a little overview of the Auckland Swiss Club, its members and its idiosyncrasies.

The club has its beginnings before the second World War when a group of Swiss Immigrants had regular gatherings and managed a communal fund to finance these.

In the late forties this group disintegrated and it wasn't until 1953 when Max Bachmann took residence in Blockhouse Bay, that unofficially Swiss immigrants started to congregate again.

His house served as a meeting place, a safe haven, a place to get together for a game of cards, a childminding place or a right old chinwag venue for the fresh immigrants.

He made a special meal of "Sauerkraut and Schüblig" for the 1<sup>st</sup> August that year. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1956, Max Bachmann called the first General meeting for the official foundation of the new club to which he served as the first President.

Doris Binder was appointed secretary, Toni Sidler Vice president and Arthur Müller Treasurer.

Many keen members were part of this committee.

On the occasion Tony Peyer, Doris Binder's father, presented the club with 56 pounds as a founding donation from the pre-war club.

Since many Swiss arrived at that time by each boat that passed by the Auckland and Wellington port, the club quickly grew and its activities became more and more lively. Official venues were used for the regular gatherings in and around the Mt. Eden area, or at people's houses, as for the picnic in 1957 which took place at Dr. Ferdy Kägi's farm on the Bombay Hills...

## The special events we have on the programme to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

- Special Afternoon for our veterans on Sunday 12 March 2006, at 2pm, venue to be specified, Tel. Trudi 376 4923.
- Special Anniversary Shoot 25 / 26 March 2006: Henry Tel. 410 3476.
- Special Anniversary Ball at Western Springs Saturday 7 October 2006

It's time to celebrate!