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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

Web page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>
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**Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch**

Hamilton Swiss Club

Forthcoming Events...

Weekend Hike and Berner Abend will be held on 24th and 25th March at the Tokoroa Hut on Mt Ruapehu. This weekend will consist of some hikes, either big or small, and a catered dinner. The costs for the hut are minimal and the food costs will be shared amongst participants. The accommodation is in bunk-rooms and will be limited to the first 30 people. Please bring your own breakfast and lunch. If you would like to come along for this weekend, please ring Vitus on (07) 855-2841 or email raevit@xtra.co.nz

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 20th April at Swisscraft premises in Colombo St, Frankton (beside rear entrance to McDonalds in Greenwood St.). There will be an opportunity to do some bowling from 7pm onwards as well as a drink and the meeting will commence at 8pm. The Ambassador, Mr Beat Nobs will be attending this function so we hope to have a very good representation of our club members. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.



We're Ready!
Are You?

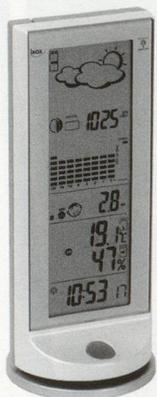
**The team preparing Sauerkraut
for the Berner Abend
on March 24**

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Cowbell Semi-final competitions on 22nd April, Hamilton vs Auckland. The Hamilton club will be hosting this event commencing at 10am at Swisscraft premises in Colombo St, Frankton. If you would like to represent the Hamilton Club, please contact Herbert Staheli (07) 847-7220 daytime or 021 962708. We will be doing bowling, cards and shotput so would appreciate some strong participants in these events.

Card Evenings : our six card evenings will again be held on Friday nights at the same venues, Cambridge and Matamata, at two-weekly intervals.

Friday, 27th April, 1st Card Evening and medal jass at the Union Parish Hall, Queen St, Cambridge, 7.30pm. Please be prompt for the medal jass to begin on time.

Friday, 11th May, 2nd Card Evening at St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti St, Matamata, 7.30pm. (please note : if there are no further participants for the medal jass, the evening card competitions will commence immediately, so please be on time.)

Hamilton Club 300 meter shooting, Weekend 19th/20th May. Club members are invited to participate in the shooting competitions at the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa. This is a weekend of shooting, fun and camaraderie, staying overnight at the clubhouse. Please contact Hans Vetsch on 021 658 733 or (07) 855-3294. - AZ

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Past events:

28 January 07: Family day and shotput
A small crowd of club members met on this surprisingly lovely day to enjoy a BBQ and a shotput competition. It was the first time for little baby Jamie to attend a club event.

4 February 07: Sandcastle Building

Several Wellington Swiss Club families joined together to enjoy good company and good weather building sandcastles at Queen Elizabeth Park at Paekakariki.

Five fortresses quickly appeared on the beach augmented by decorative shells and sticks, and in one case, topped off by the Swiss flag. A very sandy crocodile also made a guest appearance. After receiving their prizes several of the construction crews then cooled off with a dip in the balmy waters.

Thanks to the Hensch, Jessop, Madgwick and Walti families who took part and made it such an enjoyable afternoon in the sun.

11 February 07: Shooting competition
The shooting competition took place at Hans Scherrer's place. Please contact Hans Scherrer (528 76 98) to find out the scores.

Upcoming events:

24/25 February 07: Cowbell Semifinals
The Wellington Swiss Club will be 50 years old in June; wouldn't it be great to have the Swiss Society Cowbell in the Clubhouse, once more?! We need everybody, competitors and supporters, to help. There will be BBQ sausages for lunch, from 12:30 noon onwards. The competition - Shotput, Bowling, Shooting and Jassen - will start from 2 pm onwards. If you are willing to be a competitor, please ring Hans Scherrer (528 7698) for shooting, Roland Schuetz (568 6772) or Trudi Bruehlmann (562 8019) for Shotput, Bowling and Jassen.

Afternoon Tea will be ongoing; any contributions to afternoon tea etc. would be most welcome. There will be a sociable evening with dinner and entertainment; BYO Donations only

17 March 07: Jassen Competition

Another exciting Jass competition will take place on 17 March. For more information contact Trudi on 562 8019. More details will be known closer to the event.

31 March/1 April 07: Kiwi watching on Kapiti Island
Staying on Kapiti Island overnight is the new highlight of this lovely nature reserve island. This will be your chance to spot a Kiwi bird in nature! More information will be known closer to the event. Just contact Craig and Petra on 563-8600.

6 April 07: Easter egg colouring

Lovely easter egg arts painting for your kids but also for yourself is offered on 6 April at the clubhouse in Wainuiomata. When was the last time you've engaged in this fun activity? Call Rahel on 461 7118 for more information.

Cheers, Isabelle



Taranaki Swiss Club



Past Events

On 22nd January, we held a pot-luck tea with entertainment at the Club house. Our President, Othmar Hebler, had fifteen classmates from Agriculture School visiting New Zealand for a few weeks, and thought that this would be a great way for his friends to talk to other Swiss-Kiwis, mainly in the agriculture industry. Especially as all other Swiss tour groups that have stayed in Taranaki have said that the pot-luck tea at the Club house is the highlight of their tour ... and this tour group was no different!!! The tourists couldn't believe the spread of food on the table, and I must say it was truly impressive ... what a huge variety, and all nicely presented!!! And was it delicious? By the amount of left-overs it must have been ... as we certainly made a big dent in the mountain of food on display ... and dessert was still to come!!! The highlight of the selection of desserts, was a chocolate fondue ... and it didn't only attract the children!!! Thanks Marie for bringing it along ... it looked impressive and tasted great!!! Othmar had organised the Hawera Brass Band to come along, and they certainly entertained the crowd well. Everyone present (which was over 100) was entered in several draws for lovely Swiss chocolate, and by all accounts the Band members did very well ... good on you!!! Many thanks to all our members who came along with a huge amount of delicious food, and also for talking with the tourists about their experiences in New Zealand; the tour group certainly appreciated our efforts, and returned to Switzerland with some wonderful memories.

On February 11th we held our Annual Picnic in brilliant weather ... we couldn't have asked for better ... lovely sunshine, but not unbearably hot!!! At 11.00am we wondered whether we would get a crowd at all, as very few cars had arrived ... with 200 icecreams and 55kg of sausages to sell ... we needed people!!! Well, they soon started to arrive, and in full force ... estimates were around 250...so we were very happy ... whether it was word-of-mouth, the Swiss Club programme, the Helvieta, the Daily News advertisement, the radio announcements ... they all came out of the woodwork!!! Soon we had the barbeques up and running ... (with Johnny making sure he had plenty of gas!!!) ... and bratwurst and cervelats from the Swiss Deli were sending delicious wafts through the air ... Leo, Johnny, Walter, Heidi and Erna ensured that they didn't burn any ... thus many customers came back for a second, third or fourth sausage ... that's how good they were!!! Just when we thought the queue was dying down ... back they would come again!!! We finally switched the gas off, knowing that after the schwingen they would be fired up again ... no rest for the wicked!!! Beverages and icecreams also sold well ... and it was a wonderful idea selling the icecreams and drinks outside, as



The tourists giving a song or two accompanied by their personal tour guide, Othmar.

people didn't have to walk into the club house, and the bar person wasn't alienated from everyone (why did it take you so long to think about this Lisette???)

Markus soon had the Steinstossen underway, with Antoni Sherman (once again ... you must have your name on the cup a few times now, Antoni!!!) taking the honours in the men's, and Martin Hess runner-up (yes, a big welcome to Martin, Antoinette and family who have returned to New Zealand, and we look forward to seeing you at our functions). The Ladies winner was Karen Angell ... congratulations and well done. Many thanks to all the competitors for taking part, and we look forward to your support again next year.

In the early afternoon, the "Schwingen" got underway. After many years of refereeing Paul Ruchti decided he needed to have a break ... and I'm sure that you enjoyed catching up with people a little more than what you had previously done!!! While we are thanking people ... grateful thanks to Margrit Dudli who creatively arranges the "Kranz", and to Margrit Suter who has donated the ribbon for many years. We really appreciate your support. The new referee was Franz Schuler ... a man of many talents, eh!!! Thanks for undertaking this duty and we hope you enjoyed the experience. As always, Othmar and Nic had the "Schwingen" well organised. The big crowd enjoyed the action, and as always, the juniors gave a wonderful display of sportsmanship and one sensed that they really enjoyed the experience!!! The winner this year was Bruno Limacher (a Swiss tourist), with Thomas Werder second and Cohan Jenkins third. The juniors was won by Luke Scherrer with Toni Hess second and Zeno Hess third. Many thanks to all those participating and we hope that you enjoyed the experience so much that you'll be back again next year!!! A big thank you to Othmar, Nic, Franz and team for a job well done. "Schwingen" is the highlight of the day for many people, and we appreciate your efforts in keeping this "Swiss" sport alive in Taranaki.

We had children's activities organised, and our very loyal servant Mark Kiser kept the children entertained with the fishing and quoits ... you do a wonderful job, Mark, and keep the children well fed on chocolates and lollies!!! Many thanks to all the children who took part, and we hope that you enjoyed the challenges.

Zeno had the music organised for the day ... everyone appreciated the sounds of your CDs floating through the air ... you must have

a huge selection of CDs, as we didn't hear the same one twice!!!

By the end of the day, all 200 icecreams had gone, along with the 55kg of bratwurst and cervelats!!! A hungry crowd one must think ... and all washed down with the occasional beer, wine, RTDs or non-alcoholic beverages!!!

A big thank you to everyone who, prior to the day, cleaned the hall (inside and out), to Johnny who always manicures the grounds to perfection, to those who helped set up for the day, to those who organised the various activities (entertainment, food or drink) and to those who packed everything up ready for the next function!!! That's quite a list!!! A big event like this wouldn't run smoothly without you. But the BIGGEST thank you must go to everyone who attended to help make the day the huge success that it was ... THANK YOU!!!

Forthcoming Events

March

1 & 15 Keglen is underway ... I hear that a newcomer won last week ... good on you Robert Buhler ... keep it up ... you'll keep them on their toes now!!! If you're interested give Johnny a ring on 06 2748764 and he'll let you know what's on.

3 The Multi-Ethnic parade is on, and the Swiss Club is taking part. Come along in your National Costume, and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere created by all the different nationalities getting together. We'll be walking from the corner of Gill and Gover Streets at 10.30am to the Clock Tower ... come along and be part of our colourful group. Please arrive early, so that we can get ourselves organised. For any further enquiries please ring Heidi Werder on 06 2734286.

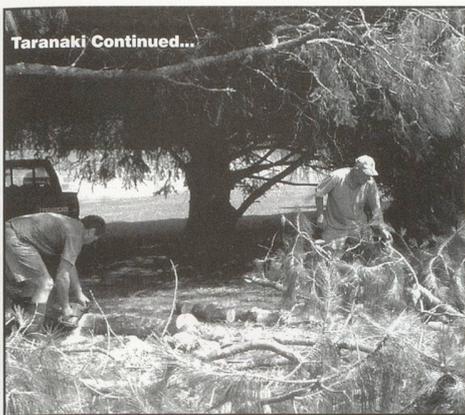
5 The Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Club will be held at the Club House at 8.00pm. Please come along to reminisce about the past year, and let's look forward to an eventful and enjoyable year ahead. Hopefully Othmar will be back from his holiday ... otherwise it will be all yours Heidi!!!

18 Championship / Society Shoot will be held from 1.00pm. Please support Mark in the smallbore section of the shooting club.

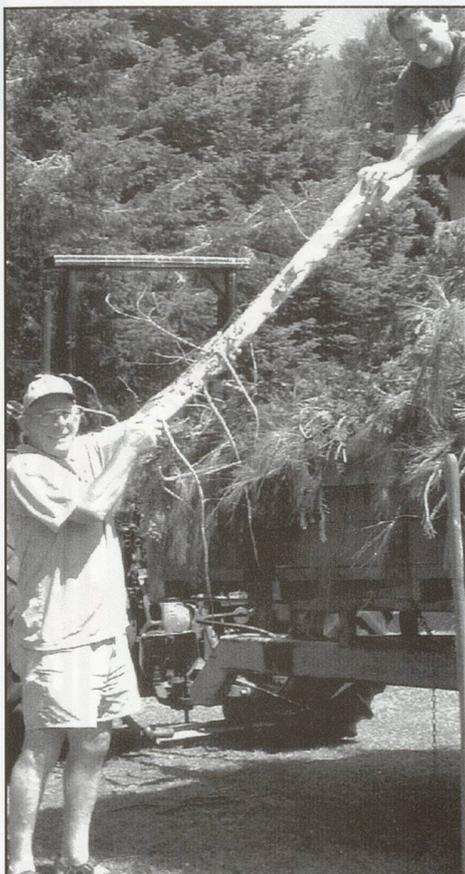
If you are interested or have any queries please feel free to call Mark on 06 7622922.

Your committee will be organising the next years' activities after the AGM, and you will receive the Club newsletter and calendar of events in early April. We do enjoy your support and look forward at seeing you at one of our upcoming functions.

-MD



Taranaki Continued...
Leo & Othmar hard at it... how did Leo find his lost hearing aid amongst all these branches and leaves?



One of the four trailer-loads of the cut-down trees.



Our patron, Charlie, and his wife Doreen, at the pot-luck tea.

Auckland Swiss Club

Hi everyone,

January and February have been good for us. We had a very enthusiastic and hard-working team at the Working Bee and would like to thank all you participants again for tidying and cleaning up the farm so well.

Even though I was over in Sydney watching the Aussie cricket team being thrashed by resurgent England, I am sure you enjoyed the annual picnic at the farm as much as ever. It seems to be a really popular event.

Coming Events

- 16 March Jassen at 20 Ponsonby Terrace, Ponsonby (Gluepot Room) at 7.30. Anyone welcome.
- 17/18 March Feldschiessen at Farm
- 26 March Committee Meeting
- 31 March Stammtisch (BYO)
- 14/15 April Einzelwettschiessen at Farm
- 20 April Jassen at Ponsonby
- 22 April Society Semifinal at Hamilton
- 28 April Stammtisch (BYO)
- 30 April Auckland Swiss Club AGM.

Jass Results from Last Year!

17.11. 2006		
1	Hans Iten	4061
2	Marie Theres Melville	4042
3	Hansruedi Wolf	3986
4	Andrew Buentner	3977
5	Andrew Iten	3946
6	Urs Vogel	3932
7	Marcel Ruedi	3927
8	Annagret Wolf	3796
9	Heidi Wilson	3779
10	Lynne Dumphy	3727
11	Hilda Iten	3726
12	Edith Hess	3688
13	Nelly Steinemann	3652
14	Louis Wallimann	3550
15	Syd Melville	3544
16	Paul Steinemann	3450
17	Verena Ruedi	3367

Thank you for prizes and items for supper!
 Hans Iten, Convenor.

Any ladies out there who like singing Swiss songs?

We are a rather informal group meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 19.30h at Edith's place in Glenfield, North Shore. We enjoy the camaraderie, the practicing of old songs that we learned at school, as well as learning some newer ones. Occasionally we perform for others, but that's not compulsory. Some of us read music, some don't; some are very experienced singers, some are not. We would love more women to join us. For information please phone Edith at 4446972.

Nelly Steinemann.

So, that is all from me. Have a lovely summer!
 Heidi Wilson, Secretary.

Obituary

Henry Sigerist

The editing team was recently advised that Henry Sigerist, life member and past editor of the **Helvetia** when the **Auckland Swiss Club** were at the helm, passed away in November 2006. The **Swiss Society of New Zealand** wishes to extend their sincere sympathy to Henry's family.
 -MD

Max Girsberger

We are saying goodbye to our dear Max, who recently left us so unexpectedly. He joined our Group over 20 years ago. His position was in



the 2nd tenor, where he always managed to keep his fellow singers in line. Max had a wonderful, dry sense of humour and always a witty smile on his face. We will never forget Max as a friend, comrade and member of our Group. Our condolences go out to Max's family. The Swiss-Kiwi Yodel Group, Auckland

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