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Hamilton Swiss Club

A big pat on the back for the inventor, organizers, helpers and participants of a very successful event that is sure to appear again on our events calendar.

It was Vitus' idea, and together with helpers, sauerkraut was made well in advance. (Rumours have it that more than 30kg was made.)

Accommodation was secured through Herbert at the Tokoroa Ski Lodge (a great place to stay!)

An early party of 17 assembled at the lodge on Friday night to be ready to climb Mt. Ruapehu the next day. Friday night's dinner put on by Herbert, was enjoyed by all. The usual activities followed dinner - music by Kurt, sing-a-longs, card playing and plenty of yarns.

On Saturday morning under a cloudless sky, the keen ones left the lodge on foot upwards while others chose to tackle the lower part of the climb via 2 chairlifts. The parties met half way up the mountain and it was fantastic to see all 17 either reach the saddle or Dome Hut. Quite a few surprised themselves by getting up there. Fantastic views at the top were enjoyed by all and the crater lake was much fuller after the dam breaking than I anticipated. We could also see the path of the recent lahar stretching to the Desert Road.

The downhill journey took longer for some than others as the smart ones slid down a snow gully thereby reducing the time of their descent, while the rest found it hard going climbing down the rocks.

Saturday saw the party boosted to 27 for the dinner event. Ages ranged from 8 to over 80. Dinner of Sauerkraut, Speck, Wurst, Karkoffeln und Bohnen was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was a very relaxing evening with more of Friday's activities following dinner and the lights stayed on until the early hours of the morning. Excuses were made like: not finding the toothpaste and having to rinse the mouth with Schnapps (Max) only to find others leaning against the kitchen servery (Tony and Walter.) Richi - thank you for the cow clock wake-up call at 3am from Vitus, Rae, Vreni & Hans - we will remember you!

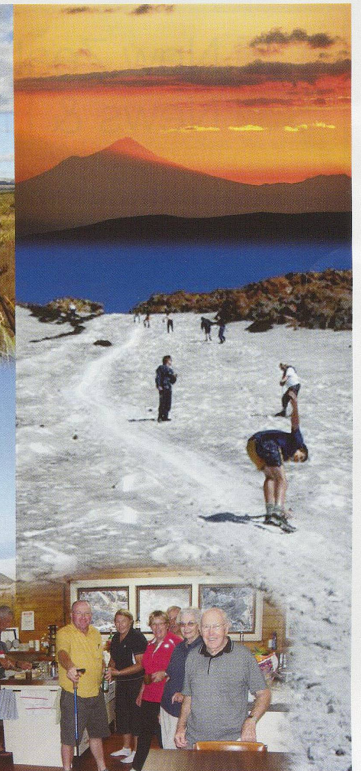
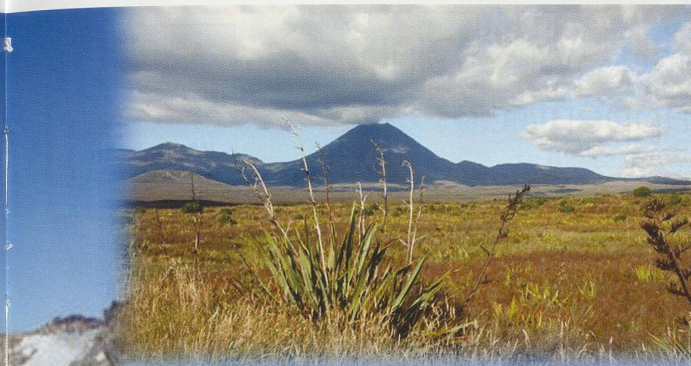
After a great cook up for breakfast, cleaning the lodge and packing up, the party left at 10am for our Sunday walk around Lake Rotoponamu. We had lunch at the lake and on our return to the carpark we all made our own way home.

A great weekend - thank you for all the people who made this event such a success - and this includes the weather gods! See you next year up there.

-H.V.

Past Events...

BERNER ABEND AT MT. RUAPEHU 23-25 March 2007



Forthcoming Events

- Card Evenings :
- Friday, 11th May, Second 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.)
 - Friday, 25th May - Third Card Evening in Cambridge, 7.30pm.
 - Friday, 8th June - Fourth Card Evening in Matamata, 7.30pm.
 - Friday, 22nd June - Fifth Card Evening in Cambridge, 7.30pm.
 - Friday, 6th July - Sixth and Final Card Evening in Matamata, 7.30pm.
- Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2nd & 3rd June - Swiss Society AGM and final of Cowbell Competition in Wellington. Details of this will be finalised at our forthcoming AGM but if you have any queries regarding this weekend please contact Anita 0274 985 170 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz
- Hamilton Club 300 metre 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.