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Melva Street at 11.00 am, where limited transport will be available, or drive directly to the Arboretum for lunch at approx. 12.00 noon. For further details, or uncertainty in bad weather, please contact Kurt, 07 858 3306.

Fondue Evening will be held on **22 September**, commencing at 7.00 pm at the Matangi Hall. Remember to note this date in your calendar now. Further details will follow in next month's Helvetia.

CHRISTCHURCH

Winter is approaching fast ... there is snow in the air! Winter time in New Zealand means that the 1st of August is not far away ...

When: **Friday, 3 Aug 2007, 7pm onwards.**

Where: Old Stone House, 30 Shalamar Drive, Christchurch

Dress Code: Show us your traditional Swiss fashion! There will be a prize for the best Swiss dress on display.

Menu: Aperero - 'Glühwein', 'Bratwurst mit Nudeln und Salat', 'Kuchen mit Rahm, BYO drinks.

Entry:

Adults - Club members: \$30

Adults - Non members: \$35

Children - 14 yrs and younger: \$15

Children - 5 yrs and younger: free

Tickets: Can be purchased at: Hamco Auto Shop Car Accessories 200 Montreal St, Christchurch, Ph 366 3667

Please note: To be able to get the special \$30 offer for members, tickets must be ordered / purchased before Saturday, 28 July 2007. Cash or cheque only!

RSVP: Jürg Hönger via email-webmaster@swissclub.org.nz or ph 942 6211.

WELLINGTON

19 August: Küchlein backen

Do you need a brush up in your Swiss style baking skills? This is the opportunity! Theres Scherrer, the backing guru, will introduce you to her secrets to make every baking attempt a success!

For enquiries and bookings please call Isabelle 934 15 49 or Vreni 526 98 41 or send an email to wellington@swiss.org.nz.

8 September: Bernese Evening

Come to the clubhouse to enjoy a classic Bernese dinner! More details will be communicated later in August.

For bookings, contact Vreni 526 98 41.

AUCKLAND

Past Events

Fondue

It was warm inside, full of happy people, a real success.

The Candlelight Dinner

This event had to be cancelled the second time for lack of interest.

The National Day Celebrations

At the Danish Club in Penrose will be written about next time.

Future Events

Schützenball:

29 September 2007.

No details available yet.

Language War

The Nationalrat has approved a new language law that forces schools to teach a second national language before English. The Conference of Cantonal Education Directors has already criticised parliament's decision, saying it goes against an agreement that allows cantons to decide how languages are taught.

The final vote in the Nationalrat saw 87 members approve the legislation and 68 oppose it. The rightwing People's Party had demanded unsuccessfully that no debate take place, citing fears that the cantons would lose some of their sovereignty in educational matters if the law were accepted, or that it would increase government spending.

The centre-left Social Democrats said a second national language should have priority over English, but they were also backed by some members of the People's Party who said that it was important for national cohesion. A Centre-right Christian Democrat warned it was necessary "to stop the invasion of English". A Social Democrat said it was time to send

a clear signal to the cantons before they cut a second national language out of the school curriculum. It was pointed out that Zürich and most cantons in eastern Switzerland had already introduced English instead of French in second and third years in primary schools and that it was not possible to go back to the old system where French had priority.

The cantonal education ministers complained after the parliament vote that the decision threatened the compromise they had put together and approved, which stated that the cantons could decide alone which was the second language, either English or a national one, to be taught in their schools. In their statement they said that years of talks had shown that no consensus could be reached between the country's different regions, and that leaving the decision in the hands of each canton was not just the best strategy, but also the only one.

The Ständerat will now have to approve the legislation before it can be implemented.

from swissinfo