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TARANAKI

Past Events

On November 25th we held our annual Christmas Shoot / Keglen, with an activity organised for the children and Father Christmas making an appearance. Every adult brings a wrapped prize worth a minimum of \$10.00, and has the opportunity of shooting or skittling with the end result being that everyone receives a prize. Numbers were about the same as previous years, with a good mix of shooters and keglers ... there were some outstanding scores, and speaking for myself, some less memorable scores!!! At the end of the day, participation is the name of the game!!! Erna organised an activity for the children, which involved making lovely Christmas cards ... unfortunately the number of children who attended was very disappointing, but those who did come enjoyed creating some lovely cards for their grandparents. A potluck lunch was enjoyed by everyone, and thereafter Father Christmas made his much-anticipated appearance. The singing was very quiet due to the few children who attended, but Father Christmas seemed to appreciate their effort. Father Christmas generously handed out presents to the children, who eagerly opened them. Next Mark distributed the prizes to all who participated in the shooting or keglen, and then drew the 'lucky draw' prizes. Our grateful thanks to Mark for organising this wonderful day, and next year we hope that more parents / grandparents will come along to enjoy this social event, and allow their children / grandchildren to interact with other 'Swiss-Kiwi' kids.

On December 2nd, the singing group decided to have a night out, and the Two Chefs in Hawera was the venue. Well, what a delicious meal and wonderful service!!! I am sure that everyone enjoyed their meals, and like most times when you go out, ate too much ... well, I

guess I am speaking for myself!!! The company was great too!!! This may have been the last nourishing and tasty meal for some time for Othmar and Marlies who left for a stint in China ... rice may be the only thing on the menu for them now!!! We hope that you enjoy your time over there, and we look forward to seeing 'slimmer' Heblers in January!!! Or so Marlies hoped anyway!!! Many thanks to everyone in the singing group who came along, and thank you for providing entertainment to various clubs and organisations throughout the year ... I know that your audiences appreciate your efforts ... keep it up!!!

On 31 December, New Year's Eve of course, we again held our evening in conjunction with the Campervanners. The Zehnders and Benkerts were at the Club house before lunch to greet any early arrivals ... and boy did those campervans come ... final tally was 50!!! Our very grateful thanks to the campervanners for coming in such great numbers, because you certainly boosted the number of people in the hall!!! Happy hour was held around 4.00pm, with a BYO BBQ held at 6.00ish. Our beautifully manicured grounds, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Johnny, looked great, and the campervans made the place look like a little village!!! We really appreciate the time and effort you put in Johnny ... our most grateful thanks!!! About 8.00pm the entertainment started ... we were very appreciative of having Trevor Sharpe and Alan and Pam Southey in our midst, who provided wonderful entertainment, by playing well-known tunes. Many thanks to the three of you for your great effort, and we look forward to you attending again next year!!! Several skits were performed to the delight of the audience, and we are grateful to all those who contributed. People generously supported the raffle, which was drawn before a delicious supper was held. Glasses were raised to farewell the Old Year and to greet the New Year. This was an excellent evening, with wonderful

entertainment. On behalf of the committee, I would like to extend our grateful thanks to Leo and Doreen Zehnder and Ruedi and Lisette Benkert for organising this popular campervanning and 'Swiss' event, which is thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many campervanners return year in, year out, and bring their campervanning mates along ... so it can't be all that bad!!!

Over seventy people congregated at the Stratford Club for a delicious smorgasbord tea on the 1st ... just to make sure that we start the New Year in a positive way!!! A great meal and good company is certainly the best way to start a year the way we want to keep it going!!! So remember these two nights in not quite a year's time ... you won't regret it!!!

Now just for something different ...

Our vice-president Heidi Werder and her husband Nick must be very proud of their son Samuel ... well, all their children, but especially Sami as his success was mentioned in several papers!!! Sami has been named Massey University's Agriculture and Applied Sciences Student of the Year!!! Well done, Sami, we're all proud of you. Nick and Heidi farm near Patea, and are well-known in our Swiss Club, with Sami attending functions when possible. Sami is a former Hawera High School pupil who has completed his final year of a bachelor of applied science degree, majoring in agriculture and agribusiness. He has been a member of the university's young farmer group throughout his study. He will join BNZ's agribusiness graduate programme as a rural manager based in Wanganui. After a year spent training he will manage the accounts of about sixty farmers, though he plans to return to his parents' property on weekends. His ultimate goal is farm ownership in his own right.

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club we would like to congratulate



you, Sami, and wish you well with your future plans.

Future Events

February 1 & 2

We will be hosting a tour party of 41 from Switzerland, organised through Provimi AG. It is anticipated that they will be arriving via SH43 (Taumarunui – Stratford) and visiting Dani Appert's chicken farm, and then on to the Club House for a potluck tea to be held at approximately 7.00pm. They will be hosted by various members of the Swiss Club for one night before they continue their tour to Palmerston North, having stopped off at Peter and Yvonne Arnold's place on the way south. Even if you aren't hosting people, you are most welcome to bring along some tea and enjoy the company of Swiss and expatriate Swiss for an evening.

February 7 & 21

Keglen recommences under the watchful eye of Johnny, Franz and team ... so if you're interested in taking part, please come along, or if you want to know more, please give Johnny or Franz a call. Get in some valuable practice before the Wellingtonians come to compete in the semi-final of the cowbell competitions at the weekend. They reckon practice makes perfect!!!

February 9 We will be competing against the Wellingtonians in the semi-final of the cowbell competition ... the team from Wellington will be in time for a barbeque lunch, and then the fierce competition begins!!! The disciplines undertaken are steinstossen (shot put), keglen (9 pin bowling), shooting and jassen ... if anyone is keen to compete, please ring one of the committee members who will tell you what is happening and when. The Wellingtonians are a terrific bunch of people, so come along and meet them (if you don't already know them!!!).

February 10

Our annual picnic ... the most popular event of the Taranaki

Swiss Club calendar year. Come along and see your friends, and make new acquaintances ... as always we hope for a beautiful, fine day so that the crowds can enjoy the outdoors, and be entertained by the 'schwingers'!!! Participants range from the young to the young-at-heart!!! Please come and support them ... hay bales are provided for your comfort, and indulge in the delicious barbequed bratwurst and cervelats, enjoy the cold refreshments, and top it all off with an icecream. There will be children's activities organised, with the annual shotput trophies up for grabs. Swiss music is 'live' and also provided through Zeno's many CDs. Our ever-popular tombola tickets will be sold, with many nice prizes up for grabs ... so be sure to bring your change!!! The committee looks forward to your support at this event, which takes considerable time and effort to organise.

March 3

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 3 March at 8.00pm. Please come along and support your club, and hear what happened in the past year and help us to look forward to the year ahead. Bring your ideas, and socialise afterwards over a cup of coffee and supper.

March 6 & 20

Keglen is underway. Please come and join the fun!!!

March 16

Championship Shoot and Society Shoot will be underway at 1.00pm under the guidance of Mark Kiser. If you would like to know more about the shooting club, please give Mark a call. *MD*

WELLINGTON

Past Events

Carol singing on Sunday, 2 December 7 pm at the Botanical Garden Wellington. A perfectly warm

and wind free evening was awaiting Wellingtonians for the Kaleidoscope of European Carols. Linda Clark was the compere and the Rev. Blair Rodgers was telling the Christmas story. Katrin Johnston from the European Forum had also organized some Irish and Danish dancing groups which attracted a lot of young spectators. After 7 different country choirs had sung their Carols the public was invited to join in with the traditional English Carols. It was one of the best attended and nicest Carol singing I had seen. Thank you Theres for finding new Carols and opening your home for the practices. *V.M.*

2 December 2007: Samichlaus made his way from Schwarzwald, together with his helper Schmutzli, to the Wellington Swiss club in the afternoon. They brought along a black book with all their notes. Samichlaus was very popular, with many families. Each child was offered to sit on Schmutzli's lap, but



only some of them accepted the offer. Maybe they knew they did something wrong during the year and were afraid they could be taken with Schmutzli back to the forest? Anyway, each child was also told what things they have done well in the last year, and were given a yummy sack with nuts, mandarins, apples and chocolate coins. A big thank you to all the contributors who made this



event possible, including to the Samichlaus team.

8 December 2007: Christmas Dinner and Celebration. The classic Swiss style Christmas dinner was another highlight of this month. Peter Hynes and Heinz Jaeggi set the scene right by finding the most perfect Christmas tree. It looked just awesome! Savoury ham with a wide selection of freshly prepared salads, Glühwein, Gritibänz and Strawberries with Ice Cream and Meringues were served. The club's committee plus some helpers from the club did a fantastic job in the kitchen.

Barbara Goetschi read the Christmas story from the Bible, then familiar Christmas melodies were to be heard, played by our brave in-house violin quartet made up of Sandie and Sam Simons, Trix Jäggi, and Annie Jessop. They threw in some solos as well. Carolyn Lane played Christmas carols on the piano and everyone enjoyed



the singing. We are looking forward to next year. Thank you Carolyn. In accordance to the occasion, Roland praised the ones that made special contributions to the club during the year 2007, and handed out yummy chocolates. Many thanks for everyone's contribution!

Future Events:

Swiss Society Medal Shooting Competition at Mangaroa Valley Sunday, 3 February 2008, starting at 2pm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Road, Upper Hutt. After some practice it is competition time. Pay

\$5 and you can win a medal. Come, participate and join us in the beautiful Mangaroa Valley. Any enquiries please contact Hans Scherrer 528 76 98.

Cowbell Competition in Taranaki. Weekend of 9/10 February. Arrival time at the Kaponga Swiss Clubrooms is 12noon on Saturday. Come and participate in the Cowbell Competition in Taranaki. We would like to win! It is always a fabulous weekend and the Taranaki-Swiss are excellent hosts. It would be great to see a good number of Wellingtonians travelling to Taranaki. Children are welcome. We are able to camp at the Clubhouse. Enquiries, also for transport and accommodation, please contact Roland 568 6772.

Family Summer Picnic and Games. Sunday 24th February (changed date). The picnic/bbq will be hosted by Heinz and Trix Jäggi at 23 Crest Road, Akatarawa, phone 526 3551, starting at 11.30 am. Please bring your own picnic and/or bbq food. The Jäggis have created a wonderful playground for the children, and also things to enjoy for the adults.

For further information and booking so the organizers will know how many people to expect and who to ring if it has to be cancelled due to marginal weather, please contact Craig and Petra on 563 8600.

Congratulations

Zoe Angela Williams



Born in Wellington on December 8, 2007 to proud parents Mark and Rahel Williams and big brother Jake

HAMILTON

Past Events:

The Pacific Rose Bowl Festival was held at the Hamilton Gardens middle of November and our committee had been approached months ago about participating because the World President would be attending and he was from Switzerland. Therefore we agreed to participate in the form of having a food stall and providing grilled Bratwurst. This was done on Saturday and Sunday and both days



Anita and Herbert preparing sausages at the Pacific Rose Bowl Festival

we had perfect weather and a great atmosphere. We had entertained the president Dr Gerald Meylan and his wife Christina the previous night at Herbert's place. We were not kept that busy on Saturday but Sunday drew quite a lot of local Swiss people because the Swiss Yodel group from Auckland came down to entertain everyone during the lunch-hour. We had a great atmosphere in the lovely gardens and everyone enjoyed listening to the music and eating piping hot Bratwurst. Thanks to everyone for their help and support. Herbert and Anita were then invited to a formal lunch together with the dignitaries at the Café.

The Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday 2nd December at the Newstead School. Again we had a perfect summer's day and many members arrived early to enjoy the facilities with their young children. Many thanks to Vreni for supplying craft materials for the children to do throughout the day. This was very much appreciated by quite a few of the children who



made lovely cards to take home. It wasn't long before lunch was ready and everyone enjoyed some delicious grilled sausages from the BBQ. After lunch raffle tickets were sold. Many thanks for all the donated prizes. Many happy people went home with a lovely prize.



Ursula and the children at the Christmas function

Following this, the children had a special treat organised by one of our committee members, Ursula. Ursula prepared a lovely Nativity scene and organised children to participate in the scene as well as sing Christmas carols. Thanks Ursula, this was very much appreciated by everyone and is a good reminder to families what Christmas is really about. It wasn't long



Vreni helping Santa hand out the presents

before Santa arrived to hand out lovely gifts that had been organised by the club and carefully chosen and wrapped by Vreni. Again, many thanks. Another successful club day to be had by all.

Future Events:

Shooting News

Our 50 metre shooting competition will be held on Saturday 23rd Feb 2008 from 9 to noon on Ueli

Elmiger's place, 618 /12 Maugatauri Road, Cambridge. A practise session is planned for Saturday 16th Feb at the same time and place. I hope to see you there.

The 300 meter shooting weekend has been confirmed for the weekend 24th and 25th May 2008 in Kaukapakapa. More on this later. Please mark these dates on your calendar now.

For more info call Hans on 07 855-3294 or by email verena_vetsch@hotmail.com

It would be much appreciated if all keen shooters please send an email to the above address. I can then email everyone updates when required. See you then. *Hans*

The Annual Picnic will be held at the Newstead School, Morrinsville Rd on Sunday 24th February. Again we hope for great weather and a great turnout. Please arrive promptly if you wish to participate in some of the many events on offer. As usual, we will be doing Swiss Society Medal bowling as well as Hamilton Club trophy bowling, junior trophy bowling (under 12 years and under 16 years), and prize bowling (3 people bowl, 1 person wins Landjaeger prize). There will also be Swiss Society Shot-put competitions for both men and women. Please note: to participate in Swiss Society competitions, you must be an affiliated member. School age children are included in Family sub. School leavers need to be individually affiliated. Also for trophy competitions, you must be a Hamilton Club member. If you are bringing visitors, please make them aware of this. They may compete but will not be eligible for any medals or trophies.

Throughout the day, we will also be offering grilled sausages, cakes, coffee and cold drinks for you to purchase. As always, we anticipate a busy day and therefore ask for some volunteers to help out on the roster. The roster begins at 11-12.30, then 12.30-2 and 2-3.30pm so if you can help during one of these slots, either writing

scores for bowling, selling sausages or cakes, please call Vreni on (07) 855-3294.

Please also remember to bring deck chairs and sun umbrellas as well as wearing your sunhats and sunblock. The school pool will be available for use (weather permitting) but must be strictly supervised by adults. Neither school nor the club can take responsibility for children while swimming and also while using the adventure playground.

The Weekend Hike at Mt Ruapehu will be held 29th and 30th March. For further information or bookings, please contact Vitus (07) 855-2841 or email raevit@xtra.co.nz

Further details in March Helvetia or in the newsletter/calendar.

The calendar for 2008 will be posted out to all members in February about a week before the picnic.

For further details, please call Beatrice (07) 843-7971 or Anita 0274 985 170 or you can email zuber@xtra.co.nz

Community Radio Hamilton on AM1206 (Waikato Region) or 106.7FM (Hamilton City) has advised us that they have a Swiss programme on air each week called "Echo der Zeit" which is on every Thursday between 8 and 9pm. Please tune in if this interests you.

AZ

AUCKLAND

Dear Friends,

The Committee of the Auckland Swiss Club wishes you A Happy New Year! We hope to see many of you at our events, which are printed for you below. Please keep the calendar, so you can look any dates up any time during the year.

Died: Maria Hafner in December 2007. Maria Hafner, one of our club members, died in December 2007 and was buried on Saturday, 20 December in West Auckland.



She had been living in New Lynn. I am sure many of you remember Maria from earlier years in the Club.

New Members:

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Club and hope to see them at some of our events:

Daniel & Pamela Jacot-Descombes
Carolyn & Brent Brunner-Couling
Tanja & David Latham-Zurbrugg
Irene & Anthony Knowles
Chris & Susanne Kaenzig
Lukas & Erika Lanz
Patrick & Vanessa Preisig
Marianne Brunner & William Graf
Peter & Cora Vogel
Wendy Evans & family.

As you can see from the above list, our membership drive had an enthusiastic response and many of the new members have already taken part in some of our events.

If you check the Calendar 2008 for March, you will see that there is a day at the Farm for New Members and their families. New members will be sent an invitation. Please come if you can so that we get to know each other.

Past Events:

The Christmas Party at Rothery Ratepayers' Hall was a great success. New members to the Club Peter & Cora Vogel and Daniel and Pamela Jacot-Descombes came and helped us sing those old Weihnachtslieder. There were between 38 and 50 people there! I would like to thank Nelly and her choir and musician for leading us and giving the afternoon a real Christmas atmosphere. Edith supplied us not only with yummy Christmas baking but she also decorated the tables beautifully, as she usually does.

As you can see from the new calendar, there are some innovative events like the Waldfest on the "menu". Study the Calendar and choose what you would like to come to. See you there. Check on www.swiss.org.nz/auckland if you have the internet.

The Auckland Swiss Club's 2008 Calendar.

(Please keep a copy of this for future reference!)

2 February 08 - Swiss Farm Working Bee Society Shooting
9+10 February 08 - Swiss Farm Picnic/Waldfest and Society Games
16+17 February 08 - Swiss Farm Shooting 300m obligatorisch
2 March 08 - Swiss Farm New Members Day
15+16 March 08 - Swiss Farm Shooting 300m Feldschiessen
14+15 April 08 - Swiss Farm Einzelwettschiessen
27 April 08 - Swiss Farm Cow Bell Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton
3 May 08 - Swiss Farm AGM Auckland Swiss Club
24+25 May 08 - Swiss Farm Shooting 300m Hamilton day
31 May-2 June 08 - Auckland Society AGM
6 June 08 - Auckland Film Evening
7+8 June 08 - Swiss Farm Shooting 300m Swiss Abroad
4 July 08 - Auckland Film Evening
1 August 08 - Swiss Farm Simple 1st of August Fire
2 August - Auckland Swiss National Day Celebration
5 September - Auckland Film Evening
11+12 October 08 - Swiss Farm Shooting 300m any rifle any sights
16 November 08 - Tour
29 November 08 - Swiss Farm Working Bee
7 December 08 - Swiss Farm Children's Christmas Party
13 December 08 - Xmas Carol Singing
Every 2nd Friday, March to November - Auckland City - Jassen
Every last Saturday of the month - Swiss Farm - Stammtisch

Shooting Section - Schützenfest 1 March 08

Details to be emailed and mailed out later.

For the Committee,
Heidi Wilson, Secretary

Top 10 popular names given to babies in New Zealand and Switzerland (2005)

<i>NZ female</i>	<i>CH female</i>
Emma	Leonie
Ella	Anna
Charlotte	Lara
Olivia	Laura
Jessica	Julia
Sophie	Nina
Grace	Sarah
Hannah	Chiara
Emily	Sara
Isabella	Lena

<i>NZ male</i>	<i>CH male</i>
Jack	David
Joshua	Noah
Samuel	Joel
Daniel	Tim
James	Luca
Benjamin	Simon
Liam	Jan
William	Jonas
Ethan	Lukas
Jacob	Samuel

You know you're Swiss IF...

...you've ever been confused with a Swede.

...you laugh when Americans believe that Swiss Miss is a Swiss product, but then have no clue that Nestlé and Rolex ARE

...you get frustrated if you go grocery shopping abroad and there aren't at least 10 different kinds of chocolate and 15 kinds of cheese available.