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HAMILTON

*Past Events:***From the Shooting Corner**

The 50 metre shooting competition was held 23rd February 2008 at Karapiro. It was very windy and it tried to rain all morning. Much to the farmers' disappointment and to the shooters' delight, it stayed dry right through the competition. 20 members and friends took part in the competition, and the top four are: George Russenberger, Heinz Leuenberger, Vitus Achermann and Ueli Elmiger with last year's winner, Belinda Cooper, in 5th equal place with her husband Paul. Thank you to all the participants and a special thank you to Erika and Ueli for their generous hospitality.

The 300 meter shooting weekend is getting closer, ie 24th and 25th May. It will be held at Kaukapakapa (the usual place). I will send you more information next month. Please get those email addresses through to me on: verena_vetsch@hotmail.com

Hans Vetsch

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 24th February at the Newstead School. The previous two days had been quite showery, and we had rain right through the night on Saturday, so there were a few nervous people and we had quite a few phone calls to see if the picnic was going ahead. Much to everyone's surprise, the rain stopped about 9am and started again about 4.30pm, just when we started packing up. It was still a bit windy throughout the day but lots of members and non-members alike turned up in droves and it wasn't long before the Kegel competition got underway and the grilled sausages were ready. This year we had all the food as well as the activities at the rear of the building and together with a few Swiss decorations, big cowbells and some Swiss music there was a lovely atmosphere. After lunch we

were even treated to some live entertainment, thanks to Kurt on the Swiss accordion, together at times with his new-found apprentice, Walter.

We were again supplied with big quantities of Zwetschgen, thanks to Peter Schuler from the White Cross Orchard near Whakatane. This year all our members had the opportunity to pre-order so we hope nobody missed out.

Throughout the day we had queues at the sausage stand as well as big queues when the cakes and coffee went on sale. Many thanks to all the helpers, especially those not on the committee who offered to help as well as doing baking.

The Kegel competition, as well as the shotput was well supported throughout the day. Congratulations to all the winners and to all the hopeful medal recipients. Trophies and medals will be presented at our Fondue Evening in September.

During the afternoon the children were treated to a lolly scramble but for the rest of the time everyone seemed quite happy entertaining themselves, biking around or using the adventure playground. I don't think it was hot enough to use the pool. A great day was had by all and then it was already time to pack up. Thanks to everyone for your help.

Future Events:

The Weekend Hike and Berner Abend 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

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 18th April, 8pm at Swisscraft premises in Colombo St, Frankton. Please avoid driving through the city as it is the weekend of the V8 Supercars in Hamilton. Either arrive from the south via Kahikatea Dr or from the north via Avalon Drive. If you would like a welcome drink then

please come about 7.30pm. Following the meeting, the committee will as usual serve you a delicious supper. Please come along and support your committee, share your ideas or even offer to go on the committee!

Cowbell Competition Semi-Final, Auckland vs Hamilton in Auckland. Date to be confirmed. For participation details please contact Herbert (07) 847-7220

1st Card Evening and medal jass, 2nd May, 7.30pm at the St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti St, Matamata. Please arrive promptly.

2nd Card Evening and medal jass, 16th May, 7.30pm at the Union Parish Hall, Queen St, Cambridge. Please arrive promptly and if no further participants for the medal competitions, then the evening's play will commence early.

300 metre shooting weekend, 24th and 25th May – see shooting report above.

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

TARANAKI

Past Events:

On the 3rd of March we held our 56th Annual General Meeting with a good attendance. Our president, Othmar Hebler, reported on another wonderful year with good attendance at most of our functions. We currently have a membership of 231, which has remained about the same over the past few years. He is appreciative of his hard-working committee and is very grateful for their continued, loyal support of him. Two committee members resigned this year - Paul Amstalden, our club secretary



and editor of the Swiss Society after four years' service; and Silvia Schuler who served on our committee and was also secretary of the Swiss Society whilst Taranaki held office. He thanked them both very much for their valuable contribution to our club, and wished them well in their retirement!!! The vacancies were filled by Marianne Drummond taking on the secretarial duties and by his wife Marlies who has also joined the ranks of the committee. Therefore your committee for the 2008 - 2009 year is as follows :

Patron: Charlie Schuler

President: Othmar Hebler

Vice President: Heidi Werder

Secretary / Treasurer:

Marianne Drummond

Ladies:

Emmi Kiser

Doreen Zehnder

Marlies Hebler

Lisette Benkert

Erna Zimmermann

Men:

Franz Schuler

Leo Zehnder

Zeno von Hospenthal

Johnny Bishop

Mark Kiser

Mathias Seifert

Markus Rufer

Walter Seifert

Remigi Zimmermann

The sub-committee masters remain the same, so if you would like to participate in either of the shooting, 9-pin bowling (keglen) or jassen, please ring the following:

Karabiner Rifle Master:

Remigi Zimmermann

Small bore Shooting Master:

Mark Kiser

Keglen Master: Johnny Bishop

Jassen Mistresses:

Heidi Werder or

Erna Zimmermann

By now you should all have received your bright yellow calendar of events and newsletter, so please utilise these often to remind you of our upcoming activities. Should

you not have received these useful tools, please ring Marianne and she'll post you one. Your committee looks forward to you attending as many of our functions as possible. The better our activities are attended, the more your committee likes it!!! See you there!!!

May 31 to June 2 We will be organising a bus to attend the AGM of the Swiss Society and to play in the final of the Cowbell Competition. Please ring Heidi or Marianne to book your seat ... a great weekend is guaranteed in the good company of our friends from the Auckland Swiss Club. *MD*

Future Events:

April 3 & 17 - Keglen from 8.00pm. Johnny and Franz love a good attendance, so please make every effort to join in the fun.

April 13 & 27 - Jassen / Euchre start again. Please make sure that you are ready to play cards at 1.15pm. The games are fun, and you'll enjoy a delicious afternoon tea at the completion of the games.

April 27 - Also on the 27th, the Society / Championship Shoots will be held at 1.00pm. Mark would love to have more participants, so please don't let him down.

May 1 & 15 - Keglen again ... 8.00pm is the starting time.

May 4 - Cards at 1.15pm ... join the fun!!!

May 18 - Swiss Society competitions from 10.00am, with juniors in a separate division. Lovely medals to be won, with the highest 20% in each division receiving medals. Come along parents / grandparents bring your children / grandchildren along to participate in shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen. Great social day!!! Championship Shoot at 1.00pm ... so there's lots to do on this day!!!

May 24 - Preiskeglen from 1.00pm, where four people compete to win a sausage ... you need luck or skill, but the best is to have both!!! From 6.00pm to 8.00pm fondue and/or sausages and salads will be served. Please remember to book with Marianne on 06 7628757, Lisette on 06 7628718 or Heidi on 06 2734286. Wonderful day, with a delicious meal.

WELLINGTON

Past Events:

Sunday 24th February - Family Summer Picnic in Akatarawa

The weather did not look too good but Heinz and Trix were confident the sun would come out and make the day a perfect gathering for the young families and their children. The playground was groomed and looked so inviting with all the bright colours that the children could not resist trying all the toys out.

To be on the safe side Heinz put a marquee up in case we needed shelter. The sausage-sizzle was soon under way and the families spread the blankets out. We oldies had some seats in the sun or in the shade. Heinz was the barbecue-master and those sausages were cooked to perfection.

After the picnic we had a guided tour around the "Jäggi Park" in the sunshine. Oh, what a beautiful place, but what a lot of hard work must go into it! Heinz's newest project was the "Long Drop" with all comforts [water included] and again tastefully painted by Trix. My American guests enjoyed themselves and were impressed by the friendliness of the "Swissies" and of course "Jäggi Park".

I am looking forward to the next picnic and to see Heinz's new project. Thank you, Heinz and Trix, for inviting the Club to have such a wonderful time at your place.



Saturday 15th March

Goodbye Barbara and Peter

Barbara, Peter and their children have said "Adieu" to Wellington for the next 2 years.

They have returned to Wales to finalize some of their business. They have come to New Zealand to find out what the country would offer and they liked what they saw.

We are missing your contagious "giggle" and are definitely looking forward to seeing you back (and in the committee!), but in the meantime we wish you all the best in the old country.

Saturday 15th March

Society Jassen

Max Fuhrer organized the Jassen and found ten eager jassers to compete for medals. The evening and the first medal was won by the oldest competitor, Frank Rempfle, followed by the youngest player, Sibylle Sharma, who won the second medal. On third place was Roland Schütz. Congratulations to the medal winners! It was a most enjoyable evening, in good company, with lots of laughter.

Future Events:

Saturday 19th April, 7pm

Annual General Meeting

It is the end of our club year again. We need some new "Ideas" to make the Club a vibrant and an interesting place. It is wonderful to have seen so many young people participating in many events. This is your chance to have a say in what you would like to see happening in the club.

So please come to the clubhouse for the AGM. For more information call Roland at 568-6772. *VM*

AUCKLAND

Past Events:

Waldfest and Picnic at the Farm - Overnight stay and a com-

munal evening in the hut, choice of breakfasts, Lunch and bakery items galore: What else could you have wished for? Dry weather!!!!

New Members' Day - It was a wonderful occasion for the Committee to meet ten of the new members of our club for lunch. For once the Committee members had time to talk to our guests without having to do a lot of other things. We had a meal together and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. We got to know some wonderful new club members, the future of our club, and what's just as important, they got to know each other. If some of the new members missed out on being able to attend, we might be able to organise something similar, maybe at Rothesay Bay Hall. The new members' response was positive and exciting.

March Jass Results

1st	Fidel Good	4075
2nd	Lynne Dumphy	4020
3rd	Hansruedi Wolf	3975
4th	Louis Wallimann	3954
5th	Annagret Wolf	3897
6th	Heidi Wilson	3891
7th	Hans Iten	3852
8th	Andrew Iten	3848
9th	Phil Rentsch	3837
10th	Hilda Iten	3753
11th	Marcel Ruedi	3693
12th	Edith Hess	3677
13th	Verena Ruedi	3631
15th	Adrian Blaser	3582
16th	Ernie Menet	3551
17th	Daniel	3460
18th	Ernst Lanz	3360

Auckland Swiss Club Schützenball 2008

This year's Schützenball, held on 01.03.08 on our farm in Kaukapaka, had a little surprise element built in. The evening was structured into 4 parts.

Part 2 was - and are you surprised - dinner and dessert. Once again we have opted to engage a caterer to give all our hard working committee members a break so they were able to sit down once a year and enjoy a meal without preparing it first.

All the trophies have been polished for Part 3 of this evening and we were able to find new caretakers for one year. They were as follows:

The main championship (Val & Terry Mason Trophy) went to Michael Buenter. The Ladies-Cup changed hand for the first time ever (15 years at least) to Andrea Matysik.

There is also a new name on the Heidi & Heinz Leuenberger Junior Trophy: Gerhard Lanz is the new owner. The Round-Robin-Competition went to Gerhard Lanz as well, and Gerhard also claimed the Gold Medal in the Swiss Abroad Shooting Competition! Everyone would agree that this is a good effort but knowing that Gerhard is only 15 years old makes this an outstanding and enormous achievement. Congratulation to you Gerhard and all the other winners! May the cups and trophies come back next year as polished as they went out.

Part 4 of the evening belonged entirely to the "Sounds of Switzerland" with their great reputation of Swiss traditional music. The time just flew away, and too soon the night came to a close.

Part 1 of this evening contained the surprise element and was the main attraction of this evening:

For quite some time the bush telegraph had been in overdrive and the other day I had it confirmed that Hans and Sylvia Enzler have finally made the decision to go back to Switzerland. Mind you: A few years back Hans had asked Sylvia to accompany him to New Zealand for 5 years. Finally she has convinced him that the 5 years are up (50 years later).

Ever since the Swiss National Day 2007, Peter Deutschle, Marcel Ruedi and I have collected information and stories about Hans & Sylvia Enzler's life in New Zealand. On the Day we were able to pro-



duce a lovely book created by Valerie Mason: **This is Your Life!**

The following people told some very funny and moving stories: Hans Fitzi, along with other stories, revealed that Hans lost his freedom on Freedom Hill, as he proposed to Sylvia on Freedom Hill in Appenzell a few many years ago. Terry Mason had some good stories of some great hunting trips, Peter Deutschle spoke about the warm welcome he received from the Enzlers when he arrived in New Zealand, Martin Naef entered the stage yodelling, Marcel Ruedi and I focused on the Enzler's great help and never ending encouragement, their donations and mentorship.

I would like to sincerely thank you all for your contributions as you have created a very moving evening. Thank you all for keeping

it a secret. Just to see the surprise and glow on Hans & Sylvia's face made all the time we had invested worthwhile.

The Riflemaster of the Auckland Swiss Club: Henry Werffeli

Future Events:

14 & 15 April - Shooting

300m Einzelwettschiessen at the Farm.

Sat 3 May, 7.30 pm - Auckland Club AGM at Trinity Church Wai-ake (Torbay), 864 Beach Road, Waiake (between Browns Bay and Torbay). Parking on Hebron Road or behind the church. Supper will be served after meeting.

24 & 25 May - Shooting

300m Swiss Abroad at Swiss Farm. *HW*

You know you're Swiss if:

- you have learned three to four languages and think this is completely normal
- you have ever been asked - upon stating your nationality - whether you live in the mountains and whether you can yodel
- you can pronounce "Chuchichäschtl" and you know what it means
- you have ever been asked who the president of Switzerland is and then failed miserably trying to explain why you've lost track
- you grew up believing all cows must wear bells

Swiss Society AGM in Auckland 31 May to 2 June

This is the Programme as it stands so that people can start making arrangements.

Saturday, 31 May

Holland House, 123 Rockfield Road, Penrose, is open for our guests from outside Auckland from 3.00 p.m. (Tea, coffee, Jasskarten available).

7.00pm: Dinner for those guests free of charge.

Sunday, 1 June

10.00am: Society Games begin at the Swiss Farm (Kegeln, Steinstossen, Jassen).

12.00 noon: Lunch will be served.

2pm - 4 pm: Society AGM at the Swiss Farm. People return to their hotels, motels, homes.

Sunday night at The Sorrento in the Park (One Tree Hill)

Address: In the One Tree Hill domain, near Greenlane. You will be given a map of the area earlier that day.

6.30pm - 7pm: Doors open

7.30pm: Dinner, Entertainment, Speeches and Dancing

Accommodation:

If anyone or any Club would like some help finding accommodation, please phone Heidi on 09 478-975.

Invitations to the Queen's Birthday Weekend in Auckland, including prices for Sunday Lunch and Dinner at the Sorrento will be sent to the various Swiss Clubs as soon as possible and the final Programme will be printed in the May edition of *Helvetica*. Once the final Programme is out, we would appreciate it if everyone could let us know the number of people attending and for which functions.

For the Committee of the Auckland Swiss Club
Heidi Wilson, Secretary

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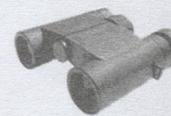
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