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CHRISTCHURCH

Future Events:

12 May 08 - Film Evening (and AGM)

Please join us for a delicious piece or two of Pizza, followed by a very quick AGM, before we all settle down to enjoy one of the biggest Swiss films ever - "Die Herbstzeitlosen" (with English subtitles)!

When: Monday, 12 May 2008, from 6:30pm (Pizza)

Where: Old Stone House, Cracroft, Christchurch

HAMILTON

Past Events:

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 24th February at the Newstead School. The report was included in the last *Helvetia*, however the following results were not available when the last issue went to print.



Kurt and Walter entertaining members at the picnic



Hanspeter and Max busy cooking sausages at the picnic

Adult's Bowling trophy winner: Vitus Achermann with 26 points

Ladies Teapot for Bowling: Willetta Staheli with 22 points

Junior Bowling under 12 years: Anilise Fitzi with 20 points

Junior Bowling 13-16 years: Deanna Studer with 20 points

Shotput Trophy: Adrian Stevanon throwing total 26.15 metres

Shooting Trophy: George Rusenberger shooting total 73 points.

Congratulations to all the above winners as well as all the participants. Total medal participation was :

Bowling 57

Shotput 24

Shooting 16 - making a total of 97, consisting of 72 Adults and 25 Juniors.

The Weekend Hike and Berner Abend. On March 28-30, a group of 19 keen walkers met for the annual club weekend of the Hamilton Swiss Club at Whakapapa. Like the previous year, they stayed at the cozy hut of Tokoroa Alpine Club. Friday evening saw president Herbert prepare his traditional and delicious beef Stroganoff dish, which, as he claims, is the only dish he can cook. Saturday was the day for the Tongariro crossing. Despite uncertain



Some of the trampers having a rest during the Tongariro Crossing

weather forecast, the walkers enjoyed good weather and gorgeous views. They were not the only ones tackling the track at Mangatepopo on this day though. Bus loads of hikers were dropped off and it was difficult to keep track of the group in such crowds. Descending through lush rain forest, the happy

but tired hikers eventually made it to the end of the track at Ketetahi car park where they were met by transport back to the lodge.

Ruth Waldvogel and Vitus Achermann had again prepared plenty



Ueli enjoying the lovely view of the crater lake

of sauerkraut as the centre piece of the Berner evening meal on Saturday (despite no members from the canton of Bern being present this year!). After such a strenuous day, all enjoyed the speck, wienerli, potatoes and veges served with it. Some of this excellent Sauerkraut will actually be for sale on the next card evenings (contact Ruth Waldvogel for details).

On Sunday, the weather turned wet so many walkers simply returned home but some headed for a soak in the hotpools. Thanks to both Vitus and Herbert for organizing this successful weekend!

(Report written by Kurt Hess)

Future Events:

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

Cowbell Competition Semi-Final, Auckland vs Hamilton in Auckland will take place on Sunday, 4th May. We would love to have a good participation from all members for this occasion, especially the top medal participants. For participation details please contact Herbert (07) 847-7220.

2nd Card Evening and medal jass, Friday 16th May, 7.30pm at the Union Parish Hall, Queen St, Cambridge. Please arrive promptly and if no further partici-



pants for the medal competitions, then the evening's play will commence early.

300 metre shooting weekend, 24th and 25th May – Hans Vetsch is organising a group of keen shooters to travel to Kaukapapa for the weekend. Please contact Hans immediately if you are interested, phone (07 858-3294 or 021 658 733.

3rd Card Evening Friday 30th May, 7.30pm in Matamata.

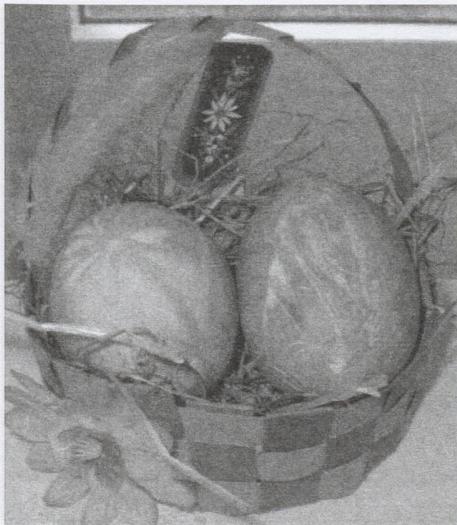
Swiss Society AGM will be held on 1st June in Auckland. Check for further details in the Auckland section of this *Helvetia*. If you would like to represent the Hamilton Club and attend any of the functions, please call Anita (07) 856-2414 as we need to make a group reservation as soon as possible. Also if you would like to do an accommodation booking as part of the group, then please call me, or you are most welcome to do your own accommodation booking for either Saturday and / or Sunday night.

AZ

WELLINGTON

Past events:

Easter Egg Colouring - On Good Friday Sandie was so kind as to host the Easter Egg Colouring event at their place. The Madg-



wick, Richter and Simons families attended. They enjoyed experimenting with tying different kinds of leaves to eggs and colouring them in onion skin coloured boiling water. Also, most participants crafted a lovely easter egg nest. With the wonderful weather yummy freshly baked muffins were enjoyed by everyone outside on the deck. Many thanks to Sandie for hosting and to everyone for contributing to the event.

Future events:

The club's annual programme for the next club year will be set up and confirmed after the AGM on 19 April. It is quite likely that the next event could be a Fondue evening in the second half of May. More details will be communicated once they are known.

TARANAKI

Past Events:

Keglen has recommenced under the watchful eye of Johnny, Franz and team, and by all accounts much fun is had. Please call either Johnny or Franz if you are interested in participating ... they would love to hear from you.

The cards afternoons are underway and we had a good attendance for the first day. Results were as follows :

Jassen

1st Ruedi Benkert
2nd = Josie Gillbanks
Robert Buhler

Euchre

1st Marianne Drummond
2nd= Bertha Kuriger
Edi Fuglistaller

The lucky raffle winners were Jean Fuglistaller and Joe Buhler.

Sadly we advise that our loyal and supportive member, Nick Werder passed away recently. He will be greatly missed by all our

members, and to Heidi, Marianne, Sami, Thomas, Sonya, Helen and Yvonne we extend our most sincere condolences on the loss of a very much loved and treasured husband and father. An obituary will follow in a future issue.

Future Events:

May 1 & 15 Keglen at the Club house at 8.00pm. Come join this fun-loving group of keen keglers, who also love a chat.

May 4 Cards ... both jassen and euchre are played ... come and join the fun and friendly rivalry.

May 18 Swiss Society Competitions will be held from 10.00am, with juniors in a separate section. Come along parents and grandparents and bring your children along.

Championship Shoot will also be held from 1.00pm. If you would like to know more about the shooting club, please ring Mark on 06 762 2922.

May 24 Preiskeglen from 1.00pm, with fondue / sausages served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

A fun afternoon followed by a delicious meal. Please phone either Lisette on 06 762 8718 or Marianne on 06 762 8757 to book in.

From 31 May to 2 June we will be heading to Auckland to participate in the final of the Cowbell Competition and also attend the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. These weekends are always great fun, with the hosting club putting on wonderful entertainment. Please ring Marianne to book your seat.

June 8,15,29 Cards will be held at 1.15pm. Come along and support these afternoons, which are always followed up with a delicious afternoon tea.

June 15 Final Championship Shoot at 1.00pm. Happy hour will then be held at 5.00pm, with the Swiss Club providing nibbles. Enjoy a potluck tea in good company.

We look forward to seeing you at as many of our functions as possible.

MC



AUCKLAND

Dear friends,

What does the immediate future hold? Cowbell Semi-final against Hamilton, Club AGM and Swiss Society AGM in Auckland!

Please note that I shall not be in New Zealand from 9 May until 10 June. So please contact Marcel Ruedi 09 413 5338 or another Committee Member.

Heidi

Future Events:

3 May Club AGM at Trinity at Waiake, 864 Bach Road, Waiake, Torbay, North Shore

4 May Cowbell Semi-final against Hamilton at the Farm

9 May Jass Evening at Holland House, Rockfield Rd, Penrose.

24/25 May Shooting

31 May & 1 June Swiss Society AGM, Cowbell Competition & Dinner hosted by Auckland Club.

6 June Film Evening

13 June Jass Evening.

Jass Results from 11 April 2008

1st	Hans Iten	4223
2nd	Louis Wallimann	4014
3rd	Fidel Good	3997
4th	Renato	3938
5th	Hansruedi Wolf	3924
6th	Frank Krieger	3829
7th	Jakob Preisig	3786
8th	Adrian Blaser	3781
9th	Nelly Steinemann	3765
10th	Marcel Ruedi	3764
11th	Hilda Iten	3708
12th	Edith Hess	3696
13th	Marie Theres Melville	3657
14th	Annagret Wolf	3647
15th	Andrew Iten	3623
16th	Verena Ruedi	3611
17th	Heidi Wilson	3573
18th	Elisabeth Preisig	3563
19th	Lynne Dumphy	3493

Kind regards,
Heidi Wilson, Secretary

In loving memory of a NZ Swiss Soldier

Alfred Leo John Steiner

10 May 1921 – 13 March 2008

Alfred Leo John (Fredi) Steiner died in his 87th year. Up to a severe stroke two and a half years ago, he was a very strong and healthy man with still a full head of hair and his own teeth.

In 1942, he joined the New Zealand army and went into camp in Cambridge. He had his 21st birthday on the boat, the Aquitania, on the way to the Middle East. There he worked in a pie factory for the troops for a time. Then he went to Italy where he drove the ammunition trucks. At Monte Cassino his job was to feed the big guns. In the night he had to drive around dead people, donkeys and pot-holes in the dark, and he never had an accident.

At the end of the war, he went to the Swiss border. He told the Swiss border guards where his father came from (Baar) and his mother (Walchwil). There was great excitement, but the Swiss guards would not let him in.

He came home with the last lot of returning servicemen on 12th June 1947 to his parents, Karl and Pauline Steiner, and his four sisters and three brothers, to Springdale, Waitoa in the Waikato. He married Magdalena Mary Nolly.

In 1952 he and his wife shifted to Galatea, to a Rehab farm. The government provided these farms at a favourable rate to returned servicemen. He really loved the family and farm life. Fredi and Lena had two sons and three daughters, and later the family grew to eighteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Fredi had deer and pigs and built an aviary of fifty pens, where he had peafowl, ostriches, parrots of many kinds, budgies, canaries, pigeons, doves, finches, youldians, rosellas, quails, Java sparrows, black and white nun pigeons. Of course he had a herd of cows, too. He grew lots of lucerne, so that the cattle always had plenty of food.

Fredi altered the house and built swimming pools. He also helped build the RSA Club rooms and the Galatea Community Hall. He always kept himself busy. He and his wife went to Switzerland twice and had relatives come to New Zealand.

He had a great funeral, as he was well known. May he rest in peace.

(written by MM Steiner)

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*Roland Schütz
President*