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Wellington

Past Events:

Working Bee on the weekend of 11 and 12 October. The Swiss Club would like to thank the hard working participants of the Working Bee event for their time and contribution they have made. Thanks to Peter Hynes and Fleming Sorensen the outside windows got repainted. This took a total of four days to be completed! Heinz and Trix Jäggi as well as Trudi Brühlmann and Odile Stotzer were busy with gardening and chopping trees, which is appreciated a lot. *RS/IR*

Jass Clinic On 19 October at one o'clock, nine eager Jass players and a toddler met at the club house in Wainuiomata. After a quick chat we split up into teams and played till five in the evening. The only break we had was for a quick coffee with yummy baking, otherwise it was full on applying our Jass skills. Everybody had a great time, and we are looking forward to the next Jass gathering. *Sibylle*

Hutt River Trail bike ride, Sunday 2 November 2008

At the start of November a small group of club members enjoyed the sunshine and great riding conditions to complete the Lower Hutt part of the Hutt River Trail. Our route took us from Lower Hutt to Stokes Valley along the western and then the eastern bank of the Hutt River. A friendly tail wind, good company and pleasant scenery made for a very enjoyable few hours.

The Hutt River Trail is now a well-developed and very popular route and a far cry from the barren river bank and disjointed sections of track that existed before the trail was developed.

Ariana and Sam's energy were impressive, and based on their riding performance, we may see

them on some very fast bikes in a silver fern uniform some time in the future. Also, the upper Valleys section of the Trail beckons and may be on the agenda for a future ride. *Craig*

8 November: Garage Sale

Our Garage Sale has become a bit of a tradition, and the evening before, too. It is not quite clear why the organizers choose to spend the night amongst the treasures: Is it to guard them, or to be there first thing in the morning, or because they don't want to encounter the boys in blue? Anyway, their dedication pays off: The signs throughout Wainuiomata go up before 7, and by 8, official opening hour, \$200 were in the kitty already. It always amazes us what does sell - and what doesn't. All in all, a lot did sell, and the result is a proud \$860. Thank you, Heinz Jaeggi and Peter Hynes and helpers - and thank you, all club members and friends who contributed to the excellent result! And: Start collecting for next year's Garage Sale! *tb*

Future Events:

6 December: Christmas Dinner

This will be the last function of a very busy year. It promises to be a wonderful evening, so please come and join us for this function. All club members should have received an invitation by now. For further information, ring Sandie Simons 528 69 60 or Vreni Madgwick 526 98 41 or Roland Schuetz 568 6772.

7 December 2.30pm: Children's Samichlaus afternoon

Samichlaus and Schmutzli are looking forward to see all the children in the clubhouse. For further details, ring Samichlaus's liaison officer, Sandie Simons 528 69 60

Steinstossen/BBQ 1 February

09 - Come and enjoy the relaxing backyard atmosphere at the club house, bring something to throw onto the BBQ, and give throwing

big rocks and bricks a whirl. This is also an opportunity to practice the art of shotput/Steinstossen for the Cowbell Competition on 22 February.

For more details contact Vreni 526 9841 or Isabelle 384 73 73.

Shooting Practice 8 February

09 - Shooting Practice is taking place on Paul Scherrer's farm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Rd, R.D.1, Mangaroa Valley. For more information contact our Riflemaster John Jordan 528 7846.

Family Day and Picnic 15 February 09

The Family Day will take place at Heinz and Trix Jäggi's place, 23 Crest Road, Akatarawa in Upper Hutt, starting at 11:30am. The ones who have been there last time know that this event, held in the beautiful and genuine garden of Heinz and Trix (so called "Jäggi Park"), is the perfect occasion and venue for a lovely summer gathering and a chat while enjoying a BBQ and other nibbles. 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, booking so the organizers will know how many people to expect and cancellation if the weather should be marginal, please contact Sandie 528 6960 or anyone from the committee.

Cowbell Competition 21 February 09

- Wouldn't it be great to have the Swiss Society cowbell in the Clubhouse, once more?! We need everybody, competitors and supporters, to help. There will be BBQ sausages for lunch, from 12.30pm onwards. The competition - Shotput, Bowling, Shooting and Jassen - will start from 2pm onwards. If you are willing to be a competitor, please ring John Jordan (528 7846) for shooting, Roland Schütz (568 6772) or Isabelle Richter (384 7373) for Shotput, Bowling and Jassen. Afternoon tea will be ongoing; any contributions to afternoon tea etc. would be most welcome.



Hamilton

Past Events:

Family walk - 12 walkers met on 2nd November at the Waiorongomai Valley parking lot near Te Aroha. It had rained during the previous night but as we set out for the hike, the weather had cleared up. There are many relics of former gold mines in the area but trails have been developed so hikers can enjoy the beautiful bush. As a matter of fact, there was a small town at the entrance of Waiorongomai Valley which was all but abandoned once the mines closed. Accordingly, local club member Anna Blättler



Group of keen walkers

guided the party past old mine shafts, rails and rusty mine equipment. Some members including Rinaldo Rust took the



Rinaldo's funny hat which he had taken along in case of rain

challenge to scramble the last steep 15 minutes up Buck Rock, a marvelous view point overlooking the Haurakai Plains and Thames Valley. The others enjoyed an extended lunch further down. All in all, an enjoyable walking day and thanks to Anna Blättler, who suggested this climb.

KH

Thanks to Kurt for organising this and taking the pictures and writing the above report. Kurt and Elisabeth are off to Switzerland for 6 months in January. We wish them a pleasant stay and look forward to seeing them again in the middle of winter.

Future Events:

The Family Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 7th December, 11.00am, at Newstead School. We would like to invite all our members and their families to come along to our informal gathering to celebrate Christmas. The club will again be organising small gifts for the younger children, but we ask for donations for the raffle table and also if possible a plate with baking to share for afternoon tea. Also, please bring along some small change for purchasing of raffle tickets. For lunch the committee will provide grilled sausages, bread and drinks. We will again be having a table inside for children to do some crafts so if any parents have ideas or talents to share, please help out on the day. We will also try and organise some outdoor activities so any help there would be much appreciated. The club has recently purchased two children's bowling sets which we will try out. We thought it would also be nice if children could prepare a small poem to recite or sing a song when receiving their present from Santa. Any further queries please ring Anita (07) 856 -2414 or email: zuber@xtra.co.nz

Calendar for 2009 - Following are a few dates for you to write in your Calendar for next year. There will be more details in a newsletter sent out to members in February prior to the picnic.

14th February : Shooting practice at Elmiger's property, Karapiro

21st February : Shooting competition 50 metres for Swiss Society medals at the above venue.

22nd February : Annual picnic to be held at Newstead School, 11am

23/24th May : 300m shooting weekend for Hamilton Club members in Kaukapakapa

(for shooting enquiries please contact Hans (07) 855-3294 or 021 658733.

31st May : Swiss Society AGM to be held in Hamilton.

For further details you can contact Anita (07) 856-2414 or email: zuber@xtra.co.nz

The committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year 2009. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday period and look forward to seeing you again at our functions next year.

AZ

Taranaki

Past Events:

Sadly on November 9 we farewellled our loyal, dedicated and well-respected Taranaki Swiss Club Life Member and Patron, Charlie Schuler. To Doreen and family we extend our deepest sympathy on the loss of a much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather (obituary to follow). He will be sadly missed by all our members.

Future Events:

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club committee I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year.

December 31 - New Year's Eve is upon us again!!! This event will again be organised in conjunction with the Campervaners... with the chiefs being Leo and Doreen Zehnder and Ruedi and Lisette Benkert. Happy hour



will be from 4.00pm with a BYO BBQ to follow at 6.00pm. Great entertainment is assured ... we just want your participation!!! Everyone welcome!!!

February 5 & 19 - Keglen re-commences after the summer break ... come along and give this a go ... it's fun and you'll enjoy being with a group of fun-loving people!!!

February 8 - Our annual picnic will be held from 11.00am at the Club grounds in Kaponga. We will have barbequed cervelats and bratwurst available, together with liquid refreshments. For dessert, why not treat yourself to an icecream? The highlight of the day is the 'schwingen' which sees the young and not-so-young participate in this 'Swiss sport', so come along and give it a go!!! There will be other activities available for the children. Also the shot put trophies will be up for grabs, so take part in this sport too!!! Our grounds are always in superb order, thanks to our dedicated groundsman, Johnny ... many thanks for doing such a wonderful job. You'll never be made redundant!!!

March 2 - Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.00pm ... come and hear how the Club events ran over the last year, and listen to what can be expected for the coming year. We look forward to your attendance!!!

March 6-8 - SWISS FAMILY REUNION 2009

100 years ago three Styger family members settled in Taranaki, New Zealand. They were Anna, in 1908, with her husband Joseph Burkhart; her brother Anton (Tony) Styger and sister Regina Styger came in 1909. In 1917 Regina married Kaspar Hermann (in NZ) a Swiss from Stans, NW. Anton made a trip back to Switzerland and married Kathy (Katie) Marty, from Kussnacht, SZ, before returning

with her to NZ in 1922. The three Stygers in NZ had, between them, 20 children, and eight of them married Swiss immigrants to NZ.

Relatives (family names are Burkhart, Styger, Marty, Hermann, Hurley, Meier/Meyer, Dettling, Hiestand, Gwerder, Fluhler, Robinson, Sattler, Fluher) and friends of all these families are invited to the Reunion to be held at the Memorial Hall in Stratford. This reunion is open to all Swiss descendants and will be held from 6 to 8 March 2009.

Registration fee is \$15.00 per person to be paid by 31 December 2008 (this covers hall hire, bar licence, printing and administration costs etc).

Programme

Friday 6th March - Cheeseboard and light supper from 6.00pm. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Bar facilities will be available for purchase at own cost.

Saturday 7th March - Tour - "On the path of the pioneers" in the morning. From 2.00pm the Hall will be open for people to catch up. A dinner with entertainment will be held from 6.00pm at a cost of \$30.00 per person. Bar facilities will be available for purchase at own cost. Would people attending this function please wear their Swiss national costume?

Sunday 8th March - A Family Reunion Mass will be held at 10.15am with a light lunch thereafter costing \$10.00 per person.

Contacts:

Albert and Mary Dettling:
06 762 8660
John and Barbara Styger:
06 764 8850
Maurice and Trisha Hiestand:
09 238 8582
Joan Coles: 06 752 1313
Website:
www.swissfamilyreunion.org
Email:
info@swissfamilyreunion.org

Please register your interest to one of the above at your earliest convenience. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at one of the organised events.

Auckland

Past Events:

Coast to Coast - Tasman to the Pacific 2008

Sunday's 16k tramp from the Viaduct to the Manukau Harbour was attended by a congenial Group of 36 Swiss Club members and their friends. Adrian led the group with Nelly bringing up the rear - making sure that none were lost along the way. The youngest was 3 (complete with Mountain Buggy) and the oldest 79, and the chatty interaction with new and old friends made the 3 hour 40 mins total walking time a most enjoyable outing.

We admired the beautiful legacy of parks and walkways, volcanoes and farmland left to us by



the generous and farsighted forefathers of Auckland's yesteryear. We passed many other groups and families enjoying each other's company under the magnificent trees, BBQing and picnicking on a mild Spring day.



An hour and a half later, at the top of Mount Eden we had morning tea and coffee with chocolate muffins, and after another hour or so we stopped for lunch in Cornwall Park for chicken salad and Profiteroles (Thanks to our in house Chef - Edith Hess).

The Swiss flag gave us a welcome rallying point and we flopped on the grass to catch our breath! The keen ones went up to the Top of One Tree Hill to see the view after lunch while the rest of us had a bit of a rest.

At 2pm we started off again, and with perfect timing we arrived at the Onehunga Lagoon 3



minutes before the bus was due to leave back for the Viaduct.

Thank you everyone for coming! It was a great day!

Our Club seems to acquire keen young Swiss families recently, which is so good to see.

New members:

Mirco & Andrea Merazzi and their son Sean.

Future Events:

7 December - Samichlaus: A family event at the Swiss Farm.

11.00am sharp: Kasperlitheater (Puppet theatre).

12.00 noon: Lunch - Sausages & Swiss bread, drinks, Swiss bakery items & bags of Swiss Christmas cookies for sale. Later: Santa Chlaus arrives. Children can see Santa if they so wish.

13 December - Christmas carol singing and Christmas Party at Rothesay Bay Hall.

Where? Rothesay Bay Ratepayers' Hall, Corner Rothesay Bay

Road & Beulah Ave, Rothesay Bay, North Shore City.

Musicians? Players of instruments please contact Nelly Steinemann as soon as possible (479-4038).

What? There will be afternoon tea, singing of Swiss Christmas carols, great company in a lovely Hall. From 2.00pm, 13 December.

Cost? Very little. There will be an email later.

2 February 2009 - Society Shooting and Working Bee on the Farm.

14/ 15 February 2009 - Wald-fest & Picnic at the Swiss Farm.

Jass Results for November

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	4115
2nd	Hans Iten	4046
3rd	Paul Steinemann	3956
4th	Annagret Wolf	3936
5th	Lynne Dunphy	3869
6th	Molly Gianotti	3791
7th	Marcel Ruedi	3741
8th	Verena Ruedi	3715
9th	Nelly Steinemann	3660
10th	Hans Fitzi	3619
11th	Edith Hess	3587
12th	Louis Wallimann	3549
13th	Hilda Iten	3536
14th	Emil Tellenbach	3532

Final 2008 Jass Results

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	28,697
2nd	Annagret Wolf	27,805
3rd	Hans Iten	27,232
4th	Louis Wallimann	27,211
5th	Lynne Dunphy	26,870
6th	Marcel Ruedi	26,422
7th	Nelly Steinemann	26,404
8th	Heidi Wilson	26,122
9th	Verena Ruedi	25,898
10th	Edith Hess	25,300
11th	Hilda Iten	24,989
12th	Adrian Blaser	22,769
13th	Andrew Iten	22,692
14th	Molly Gianotti	18,121
15th	Fidel Good	15,454
16th	Paul Steinemann	15,313
17th	Emil Tellenbach	14,371

Well, that's all from me. Have a non-hectic Christmas and a lovely summer!

Heidi Wilson, Secretary

Kaspar Josef Kopp (Joe)



Joe was born at Beromünster on June 1st 1924. He was one of 9 children, 5 girls and 4 boys, him being the oldest of the boys. Joe's parents were farming on 4 hectares of their own land with some lease land near by. As a young boy he would have seen his parents battling to make ends meet and worse still he experienced the depression years in the Thirties. World War II was the next dark cloud on the horizon. In 1943 Joe was called up for Swiss army training followed by one year of active service. The following years saw Joe working on farms and as a truck driver for an industrial firm. On 15th November 1951 he emigrated, owing his passage to his future employer, the Hurley Family in Taranaki.

In 1962 Joe married Grace Buckwell and they started married life as farm workers at Hangatiki/Otorohanga. Over the next years the family grew by 4 girls and an adopted son. Then followed a time of sharemilking at Parawera until they managed to buy their own dairy farm at Korakonui near Te Awamutu. Joe and his family worked very hard to improve the farm, and to augment their income, Joe started contract work for local farmers.

Joe's wife Grace died in 1982. A few years later Joe suffered ill-health himself and decided to sell his farm. He bought a 2-acre life style block at Pirongia. Some happy years followed for Joe, raising young stock, pigs and laying hens. Joe was a man of many talents and his knowledge to produce a very fine "Chrüter Schnapps" brought many a Swiss friend to his door.

Old age made life difficult, with loss of hearing, visual impairment and finally lung cancer. He was fortunate only having to stay in Waikato Hospital and the Rest Home for a few days before his Creator called him back.

The funeral service for Joe Kopp took place at the Catholic Church of St. Patrick's in Te Awamutu on 11. November 2008. A good number of Swiss friends attended the funeral. During the service the Swiss National anthem was sung to the accompaniment of the accordion by Peter Ganziani, and Rinaldo Rust delivered the Eulogy. The sound of Swiss cow bells mingled with the tunes of the accordion as the hearse departed the church for private cremation. - May he rest in peace.

RR