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Taranaki

Past Events:

On November 30th we held our Christmas Shoot / Keglen with a good turnout. Thirty-four participants either shot or skittled, with others just content to catch up with each other. Erna had organised 'Christmas Angels' for the children to make and decorate, and several youngsters enjoyed creating these colourful angels. They looked great, and I'm sure that many were hung on Christmas Trees at home. Everyone enjoyed a pot-luck lunch amid chatting with friends. Father Christmas arrived and after a few Christmas Carols, gave each child a parcel. All participants were then called up and received a wrapped prize, followed by several name draw prizes. It was a great social day, and big thanks must go to Mark and Emmi for organising this fun day ... thank you very much for the great job you do!!! We all enjoyed ourselves!!!

New Year's Eve was attended by members of the Campervan Association together with members of the Swiss Club. We were very fortunate to, once again, have musical entertainment by Alan and Pam Southey and Trevor Sharpe ... they provided wonderful music for everyone to enjoy ... some just listened, while others danced. Othmar, Leo, Silvia, Lisette and Marianne also provided musical entertainment, while Doreen had organised a wonderful beauty pageant ... the contestants were of a high calibre, the judges great at the job and very witty, and the compere Lois and Doreen truly entertaining!!! You did a terrific job, and the audience loved your skit!!! Raffle tickets were sold with several people lucky to get some lovely prizes. A delicious supper was held followed by more music for people to dance

off the extra calories!!! A glass of wine was poured to everyone just before midnight, to toast the New Year in, with more music to come. A group continued singing and talking until the wee hours of the morning. A great night was had by all, and a big thank you to Leo, Doreen, Ruedi and Lisette for organising a wonderful evening.

As tradition has it, many campervanners and swissies went to the Stratford Club on New Year's night for a delicious smorgasbord meal. The food was great, the company excellent, so what more could you want????!! A wonderful start to the New Year, and we hope that 2009 will be good to everyone!!! Many people drove through Stratford and admired the wonderful display of Christmas lights that people throughout the town put up ... it was truly a great pleasure looking at them all. Congratulations to everyone who makes the effort to display these lights for everyone to enjoy.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Swiss Society members, and we look forward to you supporting the various Swiss Clubs this coming year.

Future Events:

February 5 & 19 - Keglen recommences 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 Kapiroga. 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 tro-

phies 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!!!

21 February - Semifinal Cowbell Competition in Wellington. A bus will be organised. Please ring Othmar 06 272 2878.

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 5 & 19 - Keglen at 8.00pm... come and join this funloving group, who enjoy a chat as much as the keglen!!!

March 6-8 - SWISS FAMILY REUNION 2009

Relatives (family names are Burkhardt, 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.

Programme

Friday 6 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 7 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 8 March - A Family Reunion Mass will be held at 10.15am with a light lunch thereafter costing \$10.00 per person.

Website:
www.swissfamilyreunion.org

Email:
info@swissfamilyreunion.org

March 15 - Champion-
 ship / Society Shoots from 1.00pm. Come and see the great facilities we have. Coaching is available from Mark, our dedicated small bore rifle master. Please contact him on 06 7622 922 if you have any questions.

Your committee will be organising the new 2009 - 2010 calendar after the AGM and this will be sent out to you. Should you wish to make any comments regarding our programme for the coming year, please attend the AGM, or alternatively ring either Othmar, Heidi or Marianne with your suggestions. We would welcome any input!!!

of the "would be singers" attended the botanical garden festival. It was a near perfect summer night and many Wellingtonians had their usual pic-nic in the park.

Christmas Party 6 Dec - To start it looked as if we were going to be a very small group for our traditional Christmas hot Ham and salad dinner, but as time went by, more and more bookings were made. The club room was wonderfully full, and the special smell of the beautiful decorated Christmas tree greeted the guests on arrival.

The Sangria was served, and the members and guests mingled and chatted.

Roland did us proud again with his perfected cooking skills. Thanks Roland.

The Christmas story was presented by Murray, the house music played some well known Christmas songs and Carolyn led all of us in the "Weihnachts-singen" with her enthusiasm and fabulous playing of the piano.

The dessert of strawberries and ice cream followed by coffee and Mailänderli finished a great evening.

It was wonderful to see so many new and young people attending. We hope to see them again soon.

Samichlaus Visit 7 Dec - Santa was not disappointed when he saw 14 little children waiting on his arrival. Some children played some instruments, some sang songs and some recited some



poems. Santa reminded them of what they had done well and on what they had to improve in the coming year. He gave them a

small gift and with that he went on his way again.

Parents, friends and grandparents enjoyed a cup of tea and a nibble before they all went home too.

Happy New Year to you all

The Wellington Swiss Club is starting the New Year with enthusiasm and is preparing for the Cowbell competition.

Now is your time to support your club and come to practice. It is fun and we would like the cowbell back in the Wellington Clubhouse.

Future Events:

**Sunday 1 February - Stein-
 stossen /Jassen and BBQ at the Clubhouse 12.30pm**

Here is your opportunity to practice for the semi final of the Cowbell Competition, the big event between Taranaki and our Wellington club. Practice your Jassen or come and show off your Steinstossen skills and be in to win a medal from the Swiss society.

If you decide to do Stein-
 stossen for the medal a cover charge of \$4.00 is required.

Bring your own food for the BBQ. Odile will bring an extra BBQ for vegetarian food. Peter our BBQ chef will be ready to help.

Sunday 8 February - Shooting 1pm at 146 Mangaroa Valley

Shooting practice and practice for the Swiss Society medals is as usual at Paul Scherrer's farm. 146 Mangaroa Valley Road, Mangaroa Valley, Upper Hutt. Paul has built a shooting range for the Swiss Club to use. If you decide to shoot for the Society medal, a cover charge of \$4.00 is required. Come and enjoy a Sunday afternoon in the beautiful Mangaroa Valley. If you need more information give John Jordan our rifle master a call at 528 7846.

Past Events:

Shooting for Medals 23 Nov - A beautiful sunny day offered a great opportunity for the young and not so young "Schützen" to practice their skills. Paul had the Shooting Range ready and the Jordan and Scherrer families had fun. Roland brought his grandson for the first time to the shooting practice and enjoyed seeing him doing well. Thanks Paul for letting the Swiss club use your farm.

Carol Singing 30 Nov - Unfortunately we were not able to get a singing group together, but many



Sunday 15 February - Family Day in the Akatarawa Valley starting at 11.00am, 23 Crest Road Akatarawa, Upper Hutt

This is the family picnic day definitely not to be missed. Heinz and Trix have created what we call the "Jäggi Park" with entertainment and fun for young and old. The children just love it, and the adults will have a guided tour through the park with either Heinz or Trix, and can admire the flowers, trees and bush-walk.

Please bring your own food for the BBQ or a picnic and drinks, sun protection and let Sandie (528 6960) or Heinz (526 3551) know if you would like to attend. Should the weather be marginal please contact Sandie.

Saturday 21 February - Cowbell Competition against Taranaki

This is our sporting event of the year. Please make an effort and come to the Clubhouse. We need as many people as possible to participate and host our friends from Taranaki. Anyone from Wellington who would like to help is welcome. It is also fun to meet the Taranaki Kiwi-Swiss and make new friends.

Our friends and competitors from Taranaki arrive in the bus about lunch time and after a strengthening BBQ it is off to defend all the 4 disciplines.

All competitors need to assemble in the Clubhouse by 1pm. Transport for bowling and shooting will be provided. Anyone who would like to participate in any of these events will need to contact Sandi at 528 6960 or Roland at 568 6772.

- Bowling at Bowlingland Petone
- Shooting at Paul Scherrer's farm 146 Mangaroa Valley
- Jassen in the Clubhouse
- Steinstossen in the Clubhouse

The "volkstümlicher Abend" with buffet dinner and entertainment will start approximately 6.30pm; BYO. Everybody is welcome. The dinner will be by

donation. It will be an evening of fun.

Saturday 14 March - Jass for Gold 7pm

This is another opportunity for the keen Jassers to have an evening of showing off their skills. The competition is for the Swiss Society medals.

For more information please ring Sibylle at 461 6147 VM

Hamilton

Past Events:

Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday 7th December at the Newstead School. It was a perfect summer's day and very warm so luckily we were able to make use of the shade provided by lots of big trees. It started with a leisurely morning and everyone was busy chatting and catching up with friends whilst the children were quite happy playing in the playground. Soon lunch was served consisting of delicious grilled sausages and lots of liquid refreshments. We were very lucky to have a bit of background music played by Kurt and Bruno on the Schwyzer Oergeli. After lunch the children all participated in a very creative



Heidi and daughters playing Christmas carols

Christmas play directed by Ursula and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Ursula for all the hard work and also to Heidi and daughters for playing some music

to accompany the carol singing. It was much appreciated by all. Santa also turned up to enjoy the play and after that he had a small



Ursula and Santa

gift for everyone. Then it was time to buy raffle tickets and again this was popular as always because there were lots of prizes that had been donated by the committee and members. Soon it was time for coffee and cake. We had a great selection thanks to some families bringing along a plate as well. This was much appreciated as it is always quite a chore for the committee to provide lots of baking for everyone, especially this time of year. Soon it was time to pack up and say farewell after another successful year.

Future Events:

We would like to welcome you all to the New Year and trust you had a restful break with family and friends.

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

14 February - Shooting practice at Elmiger's property, Karapiro - 9am.

21 February - Shooting competition 50 metres for Swiss Society medals at the above venue - 9am.

23/24 May - 300m shooting weekend for Hamilton Club mem-



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

Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday 22 February 11am at the Newstead School on Morrinsville Road (east of the cemetery). Plenty of parking is available. Please arrive promptly if you wish to participate in bowling, as there is usually quite a queue later in the day. There will be medal bowling and shot-put competitions, as well as cup and prize (Landjäger) bowling. In addition to the senior and ladies trophies, we also have two junior bowling trophies (12 years and under and 16 years and under). All trophy events as well as Swiss Society medal competitions, you must be a financial member of the club. Visitors may pay and participate, but will not be eligible to win either a trophy or a medal. Last year's trophy winners can keep their trophies until the Fondue Evening. You do not need to bring them to the picnic.

Please bring along your outdoor tables, chairs, umbrellas and picnic rugs. The pool should be available for our use, especially if the weather is very hot.

Parents please note: you are fully responsible for the safety of your own children, both in and around the water (refer to the notice by the pool), as well as on the adventure playground. The club has signed a document to this effect.

As usual there will be grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats for sale, as well as plenty of Swiss baking, coffee and cold drinks. For any further information, or if you would be prepared to help on the roster for about two hours, please phone Vreni (07) 855-3294.

Ruapehu Weekend will this year be held on the weekend of 27/28 March for those interested in spending a night or two at Tokoroa Hut and doing short or

long walks in the area. For further details or to make a booking please ring Vitus (07) 855-2841.

Swiss Society AGM will be held in Hamilton on Sunday 31 May. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all Clubs from New Zealand to travel to Hamilton for this weekend. Please mark this in your calendar. Invitations and details will be sent to all club secretaries in due course.

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

The club and committee would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the Arnold and Wehrle families on the recent loss of Alice Arnold who passed away in December. Please see enclosed Obituary. AZ

Auckland

Hi everyone,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. At least the weather has been very kind to us, has it not. Have you all been for a swim yet? I have.

Past Events:

The Christmas Party at Trinity Church Hall in Torbay was a wonderful affair. There was plenty of Christmas food, cold and hot drinks and a great Christmas ambience created by the music played by Nelly Steinemann's group, the singing and reading.

It is special for us Swiss to hear and sing the old tunes and Weihnachtslieder. I am sorry that there had to be a change of venue in the last week due to double booking at the Rothesay Bay Hall. The kitchen and equipment at the Church hall is definitely superior.

If you ever want to communicate with the Swiss community or tell them of a special event, please do not hesitate to write a note or an article and send it to me by the 12th of the month and I shall have it published in the *Helvetia*.

Future Events:

22 Februar - Picnic at Farm-
Start: 10.30, Lunch at 12.00 sharp! Kegeln, air rifle shooting, Sack gumpen and much more entertainment. Lunch \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, children up to 12 \$5.00, frankfurters \$2.

28 Februar - Shooting Obligatorisch Competition

1 March - Shooting Obligatorisch Competition

13 March - Friday Evening Jass at Holland House, Penrose.

28 March - Stammtisch at the Farm.

Well, that's about all from me for today. We hope to see many of you at the Picnic.

*Kind regards,
Heidi Wilson,
Secretary.*

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Hours: Monday to Friday 8am-4.30pm
Saturday 8am-2.30pm
Sunday closed