

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 75 (2009)
Heft: [3]

Rubrik: Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

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Taranaki

Past Events:

On behalf of the members of the Taranaki and Wellington Swiss Clubs, I would like to thank Othmar and Marlies Hebler very much for organising the "Zwetschgen" order. You did a great job ... it's no mean feat when you have about one tonne of them!!! We all really appreciate your efforts. I'm sure that plenty of jam, kuchen and schnaps has been made out of them!!! MD

On the 21st February, members of the Taranaki Swiss Club had an early start because they had a big weekend ahead of them. Othmar picked the first ones up at 6.45am from Eltham and by the time he reached Patea, the bus was nearly full. In Sanson we were ready for our first break for morning tea and were cheerfully joined by Luzia Noetzli who drove all the way from Hastings to spend the weekend with us. For some it was the first time on one of our bus trips ... Sabina Nef, Gabriel Nedelcu and Margrit Gut as well as a couple of young Swiss tourists. To spice up the trip a little bit, Heidi had organised a "pass the parcel" and we also enjoyed some drinks and snacks on offer. After raining nearly all the way, we arrived at the Wellington Swiss Club in beautiful sunshine and a wonderful welcome by our southern friends. A delicious lunch was ready for us to enjoy.

Trudi started to hand out the half a tonne of "Zwetschgen" which we had loaded on the bus (probably the reason for us being late in Wellington)!!! Under Roland Schütz's instructions we were divided into two groups. The shooters left for the Scherrer's shooting range. After chasing away a few animals, Taranaki won this competition. The other group went to the new bowling alley in Petone. Here

everybody was free to join in for some bowling. We tried very hard but didn't manage to get enough points to win. Then back to the club for refreshments to reenergise our minds!!! And boy did the card players have energy, winning this event by far. We then went outdoors for shot put, and Wellington out-muscled us farmers!!! This meant that we ended up with a draw, and that we would have to play off with cards. Thanks to the skills of our card players we are now off to the finals in Hamilton. All this competing made everyone hungry; just as well, because a banquet of roasts, vegetables and salads, followed by a delightful dessert was waiting for us!!! Peter Canziani entertained us with beautiful accordion music with just a small break for the announcement of the raffle winners. All three prizes went to Taranaki!!! After a good night's sleep in the motel (except for four ladies who hadn't had enough of card playing!!!), we headed to the Ambassador's residence where Beat and Irene Nobs warmly welcomed us. What a way to start off the day!!! We were treated to continental breakfast with a huge selection of specialty foods, which we all really enjoyed. A special 'thank you' to Beat and Irene's boys and other helpers for their waitress skills ... you did a superb job!!! On the way home we decided to stop at the chocolate factory and Prenzel shop. We weren't really hungry after the huge breakfast we had had, but we still stopped in Foxton for a break. On the last stretch home Heidi was testing our IQs - and what a quiz it was!!! Congratulations to Maya for being such a smart cookie!!! A big thank you to Othmar, our bus driver, for bringing us all home safely. Hope to see you all, and many more, on the next trip to Hamilton at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Heidi and Marlies

On the 2nd March we held our 57th Annual General Meeting

with Othmar presiding over the meeting with an attendance of 24 members. With regret Othmar had accepted Heidi Werder's resignation as Vice President, but we are grateful that she is continuing on the committee. Our new Vice President is Zeno von Hospenthal who has been on the committee for many years. We are grateful that you accepted the nomination, and we look forward to hearing more from you!!! The entire existing committee was re-elected, and we thank you all for your loyal and continued support of the Taranaki Swiss Club. Sepp Kiser humbly took on the role of Patron of our Club, left vacant when our longstanding Life member Charlie Schuler passed away during the year. Sepp and Emmi have been loyal, dedicated, generous, and very supportive members of the Taranaki Swiss Club for many years, and this accolade is well-deserved. Congratulations, Sepp, and we look forward to you being Patron for many more years. The meeting soon concluded, and a delicious supper was held.

From 6th to 8th March the Swiss Family Reunion was held at the War Memorial Hall in Stratford. On the Friday night a cheeseboard and light supper was served, with drinks available for purchase, while everyone mixed and mingled ... found who was related to who and made new friendships. People travelled from all over New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland to attend this gathering. Zeno and Maria played background music which was enjoyed by all. Many of the overseas contingent arrived to meet their Kiwi relatives and the evening flew by. Approximately one hundred people attended this function. On the Saturday people visited whatever interested them, or caught up with more relatives and friends until everyone started gathering again in Stratford around 5.00pm. A drink or two while chatting, then dinner was served ... a fine affair by the sounds!!! Well done Albi



and Mary ... how you could organise all the food and organise the weekend is beyond me!!! And you did it well!!! Congratulations!!! Soon the sound of bells was heard, as members of the Taranaki Swiss Club started the entertainment programme for the night ... duets were sung by Silvia and Lisette, Othmar played the alphorn, Remigi threw the flag, the singing group sang several songs, and Leo, Zeno, Maria and Marianne provided musical items. Martin re-enacted his gig (with minor alterations) of the 1st August with the "Kiwi relatives" competing against the "Swiss relatives" ... this was really great with both the participants and the audience enjoying the item. Well done, Martin ... everyone enjoyed it!!! Two of our elderly members, Lena Hermann and Laura Hiestand, were there until nearly the end, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves ... I'm sure we're all hoping that we will be able to enjoy ourselves like you did when we're your age!!! That will remain to be seen!!! On the Sunday a Family Reunion Mass was held in Stratford followed by a light lunch. By the sounds of all the positive comments, everyone thoroughly enjoyed their weekend, many thanks to Albi, Mary and helpers. I'm sure you were all hanging out for a rest, after the hectic weekend!!! Actually everyone attending probably needed a rest too!!! Long may the Styger, Burkhardt, Hermann, Hurley, Marty, Dettling, Hiestand, Gwerder, Fluhler, Robinson, Sattler, Fluher etc families enjoy each other's company and get together again for a chin-dig!!!

Forthcoming Events:

The Swiss Club newsletter, calendar of events and subscription notice is currently at the printers, so by the time you get this *Helvetia* you should have received our envelope ... if this is not the case, please ring Marianne and she will post you one. Your committee really ap-

preciates you making every effort to attend as many functions and events as possible. Thank you.

April 2 & 16 - Keglen is in full swing for this season. Starting time is 8.00pm. Come and enjoy the fun and rivalry that this sport offers, have a good chat and laugh with friends, and enjoy a delicious supper. Anyone interested can ring Johnny, Franz, Walter or Mark and they will give you more information.

April 19 & 26 - Jassen and Euchre start for the year, with eight card afternoons being organised. Should you wish to know more about these afternoons, please ring Erna or Heidi, and they'll talk you into coming!!! You'll enjoy the cards, a chat and afternoon tea, and perhaps more cards later!!! The cards start at 1.15pm sharp. Come along and join us!!!

April 19 - On this day, Mark will offer all shooters the chance of shooting for the Society Competitions and/or the Championship Shoot. Mark has a good team of supporters, but would love to see some new faces ... so come along and make his day!!!

May 3 - Cards will be on again ... either Jassen or Euchre whichever you prefer. Please be there before 1.15pm so that the competition can start on time.

May 7 & 21 - Keglen will be on again, from 8.00pm ... Johnny is sure to have the alley polished up and ready for use (like it always is) and looks forward to seeing you.

The Swiss Society competitions are here again. The top 20% of participants in each discipline will receive a medal, so come along and give it a go. The sports played are: Keglen (9 pin bowling), Jassen, Shot put, and Shooting. There is a separate division for under 16s so please bring your children or grandchil-

dren to give these 'Swiss' sports a go. This year every person who competes in at least three of the four disciplines goes in the draw to win two meals at the Swiss Club ... you may choose the Fondue and/or the Anniversary Shoot. So come along and give these competitions a go ... plenty of fun, with a wee bit of rivalry!!! What a good tonic!!! Bring along your lunch and a plate for afternoon tea ... the bar will be open ... we're just waiting for you to come!!! See you there!!! MD

Auckland

Past Events:

The Annual Picnic at the Farm - took place on Sunday, 22 February and a lot of fun was had by all who attended. There were about 50 people who had a really good time. As usual there were the sporting activities: Air Rifle Shooting and Kegeln (Bowling). For the children and older brave people there were Stelzenrennen (races on stilts), Sackgumpen and throwing coloured tennis balls into a big bin. The children and parents loved it, and so did Nelly and I, the organisers. We got to know the participants much better and loved our fun & games on the lower meadow/lawn, which is an ideal place to hold this event.

I would like to thank Nelly for meticulously planning the event and our Committee member Hans Iten for making new stilts especially for this activity.

The raffle prizes were: a big basket of growing herbs (won by Liz Preisig), a Nusstorte, Sauerkraut and potted flowers. I cannot tell you who all the winners were as we were busy with the children's games at the time. The weather was not too bad either.



Future Events:

10 April 7.30pm - Jassen at the changed venue: Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

18 & 19 April - Shooting

25 April - Stammtisch at Farm.

3 May Sunday - Society Games Semi-Final at Hamilton. We want Kegler, Steinstosser, Jasser. Keep this day free.

4 May 7.30pm - Auckland Club AGM at Trinity Church, Waiake, Torbay. 864 Beach Road, Waiake.

8 May 7.30pm - Jassen at Danish House.

23 & 24 May Shooting (for the Hamilton Club only)

30 & 31 May Society AGM at Hamilton.

Hamilton

Past Events:

Shooting Report - The 50 metre shooting event was held on Saturday 21st February and went very well although the results were a little disappointing. The weather was very marginal too but despite this, we still managed to get a total of 17 shooters through the program. There were 4 juniors amongst the competitors. Winners of the day were: Vitus Acherman (overall), Belinda Cooper (ladies), Florian Hurscheler (juniors).

Don't forget the 300 metre shooting competition - It's on 23/24th May 2009 in Kaukapakapa. More news closer to the event. Your challenge now is to register by email before I send the info out. There will be a prize for everyone emailing me before 15th April confirming attendance and giving me his/her contact email address. My email is: hans@new-tec.co.nz Good luck! Hans Vetsch, mob: 021 658733.

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 21st February. Once again we were extremely lucky with the weather, especially after Friday having torrential downpours all day and Saturday being a bit drizzly throughout the day, but Sunday turned out perfect with blue skies and just a bit of wind off and on. I think we had a very big crowd but it's always hard to say, especially as this year we changed the layout again slightly and tried to make use of the shade under the big trees. We had a lot of young families and probably a fair few overseas visitors, but it was also great to see a lot of the older faces and I think we had a good representation of all the decades from the little tots right through to several people in their eighties and possibly even in their nineties. The Kegel alleys were busy right from 11am onwards, especially for the medals and trophies. This year the club also bought two sets of children's bowls whereby the children formed a team of three and the highest scorer got a peanut slab. Congratulations to all the trophy winners :

Bowling - Cup: Joe Kennel and Vitus Achermann tied on 24 points; **Ladies' Teapot:** Clio Fitzi with 22 points; **junior trophy - 13 to 16 years:** Annilise Fitzi with 17 points; **12 years and under:** Thomas Fitzi with 15 points. **Shooting - Cup:** Vitus Achermann with 68 points. **Shot Put - Cup:** Bruno Rufer with 22.9 metres.

The food and drinks stand was also very busy throughout the day and once again the committee and several other helpers provided a great selection of baking which is always very popular in part due to the very reasonable prices charged in comparison to bakeries and cafes! The BBQ was running hot for several hours whilst people enjoyed grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats. We also had several packs of fresh sausages for sale which were snapped up in record time. Many thanks also to Peter Schuler from the White Cross Orchard in Whakatane for attending our picnic and delivering hundreds of kilos of mostly pre-ordered Zwetschgen.

The children were busy for most of the day, either participating in bowling, using the adventure playground or the pool and also participating in the sack races and lolly scramble. The adults were also provided a bit of extra entertainment by one of our overseas visitors who accompanied a group of singers on his Schwyzer Oergeli.

A great day to be had by all and many thanks to the committee and all the extra helpers who offered to help on the roster. This is always a big day for the club and many hands make light work.



Future Events:

Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 1st May at Swisscraft premises in Colombo commencing at 7pm for those who wish to have a bowling practice and a few drinks. The meeting will start at 8pm sharp. I think we have a great hard-working committee but we could always do with one or two more helpers so please come along and give your support to the club. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Hamilton versus Auckland will be held on Sunday 3 May, 10am at Swisscraft premises in Colombo Street, Frankton. If you would like to represent the Hamilton Club in bowling, cards or shot-put please contact Herbert Staheli (07) 847-7220 daytime or 021 962708.

Card Evenings - Please note we have this year reduced the card evenings to five, all of which will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge, commencing at 7.30pm sharp. The four top scores will count towards the overall prize.

8 May - First Card Evening and Medal Jass - (to avoid delays, please save your sub payments for subsequent card evenings.)

22 May - Second Card Evening AZ

Wellington

Past Events:

Cowbell Competition: Semi-final against Taranaki - Saturday 21 February midday, where is the Taranaki Bus? They were delayed a bit because of heavy traffic and roadworks , but at 1.00pm

the Bus turned into the Clubhouse parking.

After a warm welcome and a tasty BBQ prepared by the Wellington crew young Taranaki tourists unloaded Zwetschgen - and more Zwetschgen - and more Zwetschgen: No wonder the bus was a bit slow, with an additional 420 kg of Zwetschgen. Thank you very much, Othmar, for offering us this delicious, rare fruit, for getting them, storing them, loading them! All the Wellington Zwetschgen customers really appreciate it!

Then the shooters left with Hans Scherrer to Mangaroa Valley. Thanks John Jordan, for an excellent organisation and Theresli for the afternoon tea.

Some of the bowlers left also at 2pm on the bus, with Peter Hynes and Heinz Jäggi in charge, as some of the bowlers were also involved in the Jassen.

By late afternoon the two groups were back and the serious Jass-Competition started.

The Steinstossen was also completed before dinner.

As Taranaki had won the Shooting and the Jassen, and Wellington won Bowling and Steinstossen, it was a draw, and a second card game had to be completed after dinner.

Roland and his team did us proud again with a delicious roast meal. The raffle tickets sold well between the main course and the dessert and some great prizes were won, all by our friends from Taranaki, who were very generous buyers of tickets..

We all waited anxiously for the final result of the Ausjassen. Well,...

Taranaki will go on to the finals.

All competitors from the Wellington club and all our Taranaki friends (they are still our friends, in spite of...) were invited to have breakfast at the Ambassador's residence.

The Cowbell Semi-final is always a good day, and we look forward to next year, in Kaponga!

Last but not least, an important part of this event are the

background activities behind the scene, i.e. the kitchen and logistical event organising. A big thank you to the organisers and the multitude of volunteers (we know who you all are!!!!) who diligently gave their time and effort undertaking a variety of tasks. Without you, this event would not have been the success that it was.

VM/RS/tb

Jass for Gold - 14 March Large numbers of keen Jassers came to the Clubhouse. For a while we wondered whether we'd have enough tables and space to accommodate them all... A special welcome back to a long-lost friend, too! Great to see you back! After a bit of a chat and a cup of coffee things got serious. You could feel the concentration and strategical thinking, and the counting was quick and accurate. Two medals will go to the same address: Fred and Christine Flühler scored highest; congratulations!

It was a good Swiss evening, an evening of support and friendship - thank you all! tb

Future Events:

18 April - AGM 7pm at the Clubhouse. Another year has gone and we are planning the activities for the next year. We are urging you to come to this meeting. This is your chance to have a say and to get involved.

It is your club and we need you!

A light supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. For more information please call Roland 568 6772 or Vreni at 526 9841. VM

*Wenn einer, der mit Mühe kaum
Gekrochen ist auf einen Baum,
schon meint, dass er ein Vogel wär,
So irrt sich der.*

Wilhelm Busch