

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 76 (2010)
Heft: [1]

Rubrik: Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

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Taranaki

Past Events:

Bertha Zimmermann's 90th birthday - On the 16th October Mavis Schuler, together with her daughter Margaret, organised a wonderful lunch in their home to celebrate Bertha's 90th birthday. Some Swiss friends and many of Bertha's jass friends were invited to share some wonderful memories of her life and enjoy a little "Swiss" entertainment by some members of the Swiss Club. Bertha, together with three of her brothers, came to New Zealand in 1939 by boat with forty other Swiss people; all but one of the group stayed in Taranaki. In her early years Bertha knitted many baby garments for young Swiss families when they had had a baby ... she always had an outfit ready for a boy and a girl for such occasions. Often she was the first to visit mother and baby in the maternity. She always had a big vegetable garden, and often gave away some of the proceeds to young Swiss immigrants. We would like to thank Mavis and Margaret very much for organising that friendly day, and we wish Bertha many, many more happy years in her own home playing Jass and Euchre. *LB*

During November many committee members and helpers gave the **Club house a good clean** from top to bottom ... inside and outside ... emptying cupboards and tossing out surplus or unwanted items ... you name it, it was cleaned and spruced up. Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time to assist with the clean-up, as the hall looks great again.

On November 27th **the committee held its annual barbeque** with all committee members and their spouses attending. It was a great time to catch up while en-

joying a drink or two and a delicious tea. It's great to have casual functions like this and have the time to enjoy each other's company, rather than manning the bar, selling raffle tickets, doing dishes, providing entertainment etc.

On 29th November we held our **Christmas Shoot**, in which people brought a wrapped \$10.00 prize and either shot or skittled, and at prize-giving received a prize. This year we had a disappointing crowd where only 28 people participated ... unfortunately this function clashed with a local school gala day and also the Stratford A & P Show which was holding its 100 year jubilee celebration!!! Many thanks to the families who rushed around at attending the school gala and then came to our Christmas function ... we really appreciate the extra effort that you made!!! A pot-luck lunch was held, with absolutely delicious food available to everyone ... and this included some lovely desserts ... so no-one went home hungry ... I hope!!! Lou even brought a huge amount of lollies to keep everyone sweetened!!! Thanks Lou. After lunch a very special person made an appearance ... Of course the children were all anxious to see Father Christmas!!! He even brought a sack full of presents!!! The children all sang some Christmas carols, with the help of the adults, and then Father Christmas kindly distributed the presents. The children were all great, and Daniel thanked Father Christmas for coming to the Taranaki Swiss Club and gave him a small present. Mark then presented two recent shooting trophies to worthy recipients. The Trudi Ott Belt shoot was won by Mark Kiser, with Lou Butler a very close second; and the Ted Napflin Memorial Shield was won by Susie Kiser ahead of her brother Mark by a smidgeon!!! Well done Susie ... we haven't seen you shoot for a while, but you obviously still have the

skill!!! Congratulations to you both. Mark then called the best of the shooters and skittlers to collect a prize - well done to Emmi Kiser, Regi Mathys, Irene Biddle and Mark Kiser in the shooting, and Peter Arnold (who was streaks ahead of the rest of us ... well done, Peter), Paul Amstalden, Tracey McKenna, John Kuriger and John Bishop in the keglen, followed by the remaining participants collecting their prizes. Mark then had several mystery prizes to draw. It was great seeing the young and not-so-young come along to this day and enjoy a social chat ... we were all glad to see Regi come along with chauffeur Irene, as Regi hadn't been well enough to attend functions in the past few months ... we hope you continue to improve and look forward to seeing you again, Regi. Many thanks Mark, for organising this day, and a big thank you to everyone who came along and participated. We look forward to a bigger crowd next year ... and perhaps we will change the date to avoid a clash with the Stratford Show!!! If anyone has any other ideas to make this day more successful, please do not hesitate to tell a committee member as we would love to see more attendees. Thank you.

During November and December the **Swiss Singing Group members**, together with a few other members who assisted with musical entertainment, performed for several Christmas functions and were very well received. This group has a very varied repertoire which the crowds seem to enjoy. Thank you to all the members of the group for voluntarily sharing your talents so that others can enjoy your entertainment. Long may you continue to perform, and show that you enjoy what you are doing!!! *MD*

Wer sich heute freuen kann,
der soll nicht warten bis morgen.

Heinrich Pestalozzi



December 12th - Eltham and Districts 125th Jubilee parade

I would like to thank the following members who helped work on the prize-winning float the Taranaki Swiss Club entered

ers (Mathias and Heidi Seifert, Margrit Dudli and Ernst Denzler) to use on the back of the truck ... thanks for your contribution. To all the members who took part in walking behind the float in their

Johnny Bishop for maintaining our grounds to such a high standard ... there were many favourable comments from our campervan friends too, so THANK YOU VERY MUCH JOHNNY!!! Campervans started arriving at around noon, and taking their favourite parking places, and at 4.00pm everyone congregated outside the club house for happy hour ... or happy hours!!! We have been so lucky being able to have happy hour outside most of the time at these New Year's Eve rallies, and it is such a lovely setting with Mt Egmont in the background. Everyone then enjoyed their dinner in their own vans and started coming into the hall around 8.00pm. Well ... were we spoilt with the entertainment ... you better believe it!!! We had Alan and Pam Southey and Trevor Sharpe, wonderful entertainers from Eltham, several campervans providing musical items and sketches, the Swiss Singing Group ... what more could you want?!!!! The raffles were then sold ... with a little banter about an orange book that never seemed to have a number drawn ... Marianne had sold the book and off-handily said "I threw that book in the bin"!!! Thinking about it, she thought that perhaps the book had been left in the container of money ... and lo and behold that is where it was found; well after the prizes had been drawn. No-one thought to look in the containers before drawing the raffle, so I am very sorry and apologetic to those people who purchased tickets from that book!!! I even sold some to my husband!!! Never trust me again!!! A delicious supper was then served, and enjoyed by all, before further music was played. All too soon midnight was here ... everyone was served a drink and the New Year was toasted in ...let's look forward to another good year, with good health and happiness wished to all. Morning tea was held with the campervanners the following morning, and lucky van prizes drawn. Many thanks to all the



in the 125th Jubilee celebrations at Eltham on 12th December. To Allan and Maria Nolly - thanks Al for the use of your truck, workshop and tools and also your help with the float, and also to Maria for the coffees and cakes. To Peter Canziani for coming all the way down from Turangi in the early morning on such a rainy day - thank you for helping with the music and Monique for taking part in the parade. Thanks to John Bishop for finding the cheese vat and then transporting it, and the flower pot plants, over to the Nollys. Many thanks to Mark Kiser for his help on the float and coming up with the idea of the fire under the cheese vat. Sepp Kiser was our fabulous 'cheese stirrer' ... many thanks Sepp for being a great stirrer ... you used the same patience as when making schnapps!!! Othmar, thanks for your assistance with the float and for the use of your chainsaw. We thank the Scherrer family for the loan of the two goats and to Martin and Antoinette Hess and family for transporting the goats and then leading them in the parade. Martin, thanks for your help on the float as well. Kelly and Rosanna Sherman kindly supplied the table and chairs for the Jass play-

"tracht", carrying flowers and cowbells, distributing lollies and the Drummond boys on their pedal tractors ... thank you all very much for making our float in the parade such a success.

Regards, Zeno

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank Zeno and his merry band of helpers for coming up with the ideas and making such a terrific float for the Eltham parade. It was a credit to all your hard work that the float was awarded the First Prize. A huge thanks must go to all our club members who participated in the parade ... from the young to the elderly, and of course all the ones in between!!! There were a couple of three generations of one family participating ... great to see. Once again, thanks Zeno and team for your great contribution.

Othmar and Marianne

New Year's Eve was once again upon us ... and 38 campervans and several members of the Swiss Club enjoyed each other's company at the Club house. What a sight to see so many campervans on our beautifully mowed lawns and lovely grounds ... once again, a big thank you to



Swiss club members who made the effort to come along and also to our campervan friends to ensure we have a great number of people in attendance.

To get the **New Year** off to a great start, 50 people enjoyed a delicious smorgasbord meal at the Stratford Club. Marianne was presented with the 'illustrious' raffle book by a campervanner ... so cheeky of them ... hmm ... I might just use that part of the book this New Year's Eve!!! I'm sure everyone will be looking out for the 'orange circles'!!! MD

Future Events:

February 4 & 18 - Keglen recommences after the summer holidays ... Johnny looks forward to a great attendance, and much more fun. Come along and see for yourself the fun that this crowd enjoys.

February 14 - This is the day of our **Annual Swiss Picnic** held at the Clubhouse in Kaponga from 11.00am. Always a terrific day (providing the weather plays its part!!) with plenty of action, together with catching up with friends and acquaintances that you may not have seen for a while ... please make the effort and come along. Children's activities will be organised, Swiss music will fill the air, and of course the highlight of the day is the "Schwingen". Food and beverages are always available, together with tombola tickets ... so please support your Club on this wonderful, social and entertaining day!!! We look forward to seeing you there.

Assuming the weather is fine, Richard and Jolanda Foale, from Heliview, will be attending our picnic, and people can purchase tickets for helicopter rides around the mountain. Last year one of our older members, Mavis Schuler, took a flight and thoroughly enjoyed herself. So if you are interested, bring some money and approach Richard and Jolanda ... they have different trips available.

February 27 & 28 - These are days set down for the **semi-final competitions in Wellington** ... yes although we travelled to the capital last year we are going again!!! This has been done to avoid one club travelling to the other club twice in a year ... and anyway we love going to Wellington to lap up their wonderful hospitality, and I believe we can look forward to seeing their brand new roof!!! Well done, Wellingtonians ... at least one of Roland's New Year's resolutions will have eventuated!!! If you have never been on one of our bus trips you are missing out on something!!! Great fun, plenty of laughter, good company, delicious food ... all at an affordable price!!! Would all those interested in this bus trip please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878?

March 1 - Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Club house at 8.00pm. Come along and hear what happened in the past year, and let's all look forward to the year ahead!!!

March 4 & 18 - Keglen at 8.00pm ... come along and join Johnny and his merry band for a night of skittles, chatter and a delicious supper. Fun is assured!!!

From 15 to 19 March, Othmar is organising a **bus trip to the East Coast** visiting Beni and Luzia Noetzli at Hastings and also the Schulers (from whom we get the Swiss plums) at Whakatane amongst other sights in the area. The cost hasn't been finalised yet, as exact numbers aren't known. Would all those interested, please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878 as soon as possible? The maximum number of people that Othmar can take is 27 and seats are filling very fast ... so please ring quickly to avoid disappointment!!!

March 21 - The Championship / Society Shoots can be done on this day, from 1.00pm. Please attend and support Mark

in the small bore shooting programmes. Mark is more than willing to help coach young and old alike, and looks forward to seeing you there!!! MD

Hamilton

Past Events:

The **Family Christmas Party** was held on Sunday 6th December at the Newstead School. We had our usual number of families turn up, maybe a few more than usual. Again we had lovely weather and the children were quite excited about playing on



the new adventure playground that the school had erected since last year's function. Soon it got too hot, so the children were quite happy to sit inside and do some crafts. They were able to decorate gingerbread men and Christmas trees, then pack them in cellophane bags especially



brought back from Switzerland. There were also lots of stickers and fancy Christmas decorations that the children could use to make Christmas cards. Soon the cooks had the grilled sausages ready and everyone gathered



around for some lunch. After lunch Ursula did her Christmas presentation involving all the children with singing and dancing and accompanied by Heidi Fransen and her girls. Santa even turned up for these items and enjoyed them very much. When the presentation was finished, Santa handed out gifts to all the children. These were lovely bright red Santa bags filled with lots of goodies. We also had our usual raffle table and sold lots of raffle tickets. Congratulations to all the lucky winners and many thanks to all those who brought something for the raffle table. Before everyone headed home, we served coffee and home-made Swiss baking, some of it brought by the families and some done by the committee. Many thanks to all the helpers.

Future Events:

13th February - 50 metre shooting practice at Elmiger's place, 618/12 Maungatautari Rd, Lake Karapiro, Cambridge from 10am to 12 noon.

20th February - Swiss Society Medal Competitions - 50 metre shooting from 9am at the same venue as above. Please bring your own lunch if required. For further details please phone Hans 021 658 733 or email: hans@new-tech.co.nz

21st February - Annual Picnic to be held at the Newstead School, Morrinsville Rd commencing at 11am. This is a day for family and friends to come along and meet other families and join in the traditional competitions of bowling and shotput. There will be grilled sausages, drinks and coffee and cakes for sale. Please remember to bring some picnic tables, chairs and sun umbrellas. The pool should be available for the children but parents must take full responsibility for their children at all times in or near the pool as well as on the adventure playground.

All club members will receive a newsletter and calendar of events for 2010 in the post or emailed prior to the picnic. AZ

Auckland

Greetings to the Auckland Swiss Club members and best wishes for the remaining eleven months of 2010 and always. The Swiss Club year is about to start now. We have planned many exciting events already, and hope you can join in. As usual, you will get email reminders. Remember to check our website too: www.swiss.org.nz.au/auckland.

Past Events:

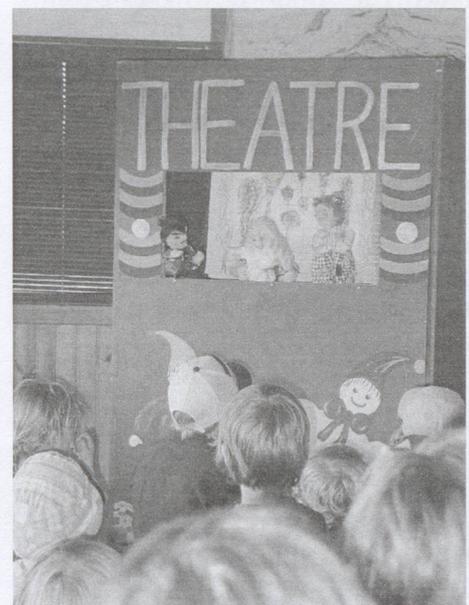
Working Bee Saturday 29 November: What a wonderful turnout we got. I was wrong last time - the covered 'Kegelbahn' (Bowling alley) was not there to stay, too flimsy, it needed to be dismantled. Job got done in record time, and best of all, nobody got injured! Thank you very much all you helpers, also to the ladies who did some not so nice cleaning and fed the troops.

The drowned pub night - which turned out a non-event: It was pouring as it can only do in Auckland, on Friday 04 December, and none of the organisers could make it to the Hilton pub on that day. Our sincere apologies to the lonely couple who came and just could not find anyone Swiss. It won't happen again, we promise.

Santa's visit - Sunday 06 December: Once again the weather did its best; young and young at heart thoroughly enjoyed the day. Did you know that Osci Roggen our Santa has been doing his job for THIRTY years! He tried to come with a donkey originally,



but the animal proved too stubborn, so a chopper it was to be. There were only a couple of occasions when he had to walk, due to bad weather. Isn't he just wonderful with the children, he just has a way with them.



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This time we had changed the usual timetable: Santa came before lunch rather than in the afternoon, and we had the Kasperle (puppet show) after lunch. We feel it worked out well for everyone; please give us your thoughts.

Christmas Carol Singing: 40 odd people felt all nostalgic singing 'Stille Nacht', 'Ihr Kinderlein, kommet' and much more, and we choir ladies thoroughly enjoyed being able to share our singing for once. A special thanks to Oliver the Drummer Boy - fantastic!, also to Peter Vogel who played the Alphorn, to Edith for the decorations, to my choir friends and to all the guests.

The Rothesay Bay Hall is a lovely place to have these events, but we gather some find it too much out of their way. We will probably have this year's Christmas singing on the other side of the bridge for a change, to give others an opportunity to participate.

Future Events:

Friday 05 February from 8pm: PUB NIGHT - On the North Shore this time: R'toto Beach Club, 134 Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna. The Swiss and Knusprig Team and the rest of us are looking forward to having a drink with you and getting to know you.

PROBABLY Friday 26 February 7.30pm-10pm: JASS CLINIC - at the Danish Club House, 6 Rockridge Rd, Penrose. Pencil it in at this stage, check the Swiss Club Website or wait for email to confirm the date and place. This is for newcomers as well as people who know a bit about traditional Swiss jass and would like a refresher. Enjoy a few games in a totally non-threatening environment, with some of the regular jassers coaching you. Cost \$ 5 per person to cover expenses. We will repeat the coaching at some later time if the first evening

proves a success, so please come along.

Sunday 13 Feb from 11 am: ANNUAL PICNIC AT THE SWISS FARM - Enjoy the company of other Swiss families, join in some fun games, play bowls (Kegeln) , buy some Swiss sausages and baking for your lunch. Why not make it a weekend outing for the family and go there the night before with your tent, or sleep in the hut (but let Marcel know if you would like to do that. marcel@igrin.co.nz or 09 4135338)

Looking forward to the rest of the year:

07 March: Beach Party, Long Bay. More details in March Helvetia.

Hike Day, Bike Day, Ice Skating, 10 pin bowling and more are planned later in the year. Watch this space!

Market Day pencilled in for: Saturday 19 June at the Danish Club in Penrose (Date will be confirmed next month). Note in your diary now. We will endeavour to give all Swiss Club members a chance to show and sell their wares: food, arts and craft, services etc. We are very keen on YOU participating. Please think about what you might want to offer. Any thoughts at this stage, please contact Marcel. More in the March Helvetia.

Enjoy the summer!

Nelly Steinemann

Wellington

Past Events:

Christmas celebration - Around fifty guests attended the annual Christmas celebration evening at the club house on Saturday 5 December. Thanks to busy helpers in the kitchen, a lovely ham, a salad buffet with a great selection of salads, and a cheese platter was served. Ignaz, now back

from Switzerland, and his wife Erika fitted into the kitchen team very well. A yummy dessert of meringues and strawberries and Christmas cookies were available also. In between the courses, Murray Simons told the Christmas story in a great way; it was well received by everyone. Thank you Murray.

The Christmas carols choir led the Christmas singing, with Carolyn Lane at the piano. Thank you, Carolyn! The Christmas tree was once again donated and brought to the Swiss Club and installed by Peter Hynes, sparkling and filling the clubhouse with the true Christmas scent. Thank you, Peter! A shame you couldn't celebrate with us!

Before dessert was served, Roland thanked all the helpers of the club that have contributed to yet another successful year at the club. Namely he thanked Heidi and Trudi for editing and publishing the monthly Helvetia magazine, Theres for supporting the kitchen as well as designing and sending out the club invitations, and Heinz and Trix for holding the family day at their stunning gardens.

Samichlaus - On Sunday 6 December, quite a crowd of children with their parents and grandparents gathered at the clubhouse in hope to encounter Samichlaus and Schmutzli. And indeed, they



did turn up! Samichlaus and Schmutzli got to enjoy many concerts and songs all performed by the children. In return, the children received a bag with delicious Mailänderli cookies, chocolates and nuts. Everyone present got an update on what the children have been mastering



well in the past year, and what they should focus on to improve this year. Thank you, Bruce and Mani!

Future events:

Please note: Some dates are different from the ones originally published in the calendar!

Sunday 31 January: Medal Steinstossen Competition, Jass Practice for the Cowbell Competition and BBQ - Come to the clubhouse and enjoy a BBQ at 12.30. Bring your own meat and lunch, we provide the BBQ facilities.

Practice your Jass- and Steinstossen skills for the Cowbell Competition semifinal in February and/or compete for a Society medal in Steinstossen! As the price for the medals has gone up, participation in the competition, where one out of five competitors wins a medal, has gone up to \$5, but practicing for the Cowbell Competition is free!

Sunday 14 February: Medal Shooting Competition - The Shooting competition will take place on Paul Scherrer's farm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Rd, R.D.1, Mangaroa Valley. Participation \$5. For more information contact our Riflemaster John Jordan 528 7846.

Sunday 21 February: Family Day and Picnic - The Family Day will take place at Heinz and Trix Jäggi's place, 23 Crest Road, Akatarawa in Upper Hutt, starting at 11:30am. Those who have been there last time know that this event, held in the beautiful 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, bookings 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

27/28 February: Cowbell competition - This is the sporting event of the year! Wouldn't it be great to have the Swiss Society Cowbell in the Clubhouse, once again?! We need everybody, competitors and supporters, to help. Our friends from Taranaki should arrive around noon. There will be BBQ sausages for lunch, from 12:30 noon onwards.

The competition - Shotput, Bowling, Shooting and Jassen - will start from 2pm onwards, but all competitors need to assemble in the Clubhouse by 1pm, to get transport organized: Bowling at Bowlingland Petone Shooting at Paul Scherrer's farm Jassen and Steinstossen at the clubhouse.

If you are willing to be a competitor, please ring John Jordan (528 7846) for Shooting, Roland Schütz (568 6772) or Vreni Madgwick (526 9841) for Shotput, Bowling and Jassen. Afternoon Tea will be ongoing; any contributions to afternoon tea etc. would be most welcome.

A **"Volkstümlicher Abend"** with buffet dinner and entertainment will start approximately 6.30 pm, BYO. Come to this evening of fun and good company!

Saturday 13 March: Medal Jassen Competition - From 7pm onwards we shall compete for the Swiss Society medals in Jassen. Participation in the competition is \$5; a delicious supper will be served. Please ring Trudi (562 8019) if you intend to come. *IR*

The Wellington Swiss Club, after many, many years, has finally achieved one of its long-term goals: the building of a new roof on our existing clubhouse.

The realisation of our roofing project began with Daniel Keller's commitment and support late last year. Daniel is a qualified builder with all the technical expertise needed. From that point on, our building project gained momentum, due to the combined efforts of Hans Scherrer and Heinz Jäggi, whose enthusiastic support and commitment brought project leadership and professional experience into our team.

Our 'Building Team' included Christian Keller, Ignaz Krähenmann, Paul Scherrer, along with the much appreciated assistance from Felix Röthenbacher, Andrea Haag and Erika Hagen (flown in especially from Zürich for a working holiday). The roofing project was a typical kiwi 'hands on' D.I.Y. experience for those involved. It's not everyday that you can participate in building a roof!

After the building project was completed, the issue of aesthetics was addressed, with the Painting Team, under the professional leadership and supervision of Flemming Sörensen, the Danish influence, and Adi Eibl, providing skilful assistance with his paint roller imported from Austria. The hardworking painting team consisted of Erika Hagen, Peter Keller and son Daniel, Craig Press and Odile Stotzer. During the building and painting process, Trudi Brühlmann provided continuous sustenance to keep the teams in top form.

On behalf of the Wellington Swiss Club, I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time so freely to make this project a great success.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to be involved in a major project that came together so harmoniously. Awesome!

Roland

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