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Hamilton

Club News

All our members should have received a newsletter early February prior to the Picnic. About half of our membership should have received their first electronic newsletter sent via email. If you didn't receive one and would like to receive one in future, please email Beatrice: bea.leun@xtra.co.nz

This will be our preferred medium to send out news, as it saves quite a lot of time as well as saving our precious resources of paper, postage etc. For those who don't have email, we will of course still send you the newsletter via the traditional post delivery.

Future Events:

Friday to Sunday 26th - 28th March - Ruapehu Weekend Hikes staying in bunk-style accommodation at Tokoroa Hut. For further details please ring Vitus (07) 855-2841. There will be various walks organised to accommodate all levels of fitness, depending on demand, and a Saturday night Fondue.

Friday, 30th April - Annual General Meeting - 8.00pm, at Swisscraft premises, Colombo Street, Frankton. The committee would really appreciate your feedback on both past and future events, as well as any other thoughts or comments, so please come along.

Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Sunday, 2nd May - Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Hamilton vs Auckland. The Auckland Club will this year be hosting this event. If you would like to travel to Auckland to participate in the bowling, cards and/or shot-put (where we would appreciate some

strong participants!), or for further information, please contact Herbert Staheli (07) 847-7220 daytime or 021 962708.

Card Evenings:

Venue: all five card evenings will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge, commencing promptly at 7.30pm.

The four top scores will count towards the overall prize.

Attendance at last year's card evenings was encouragingly higher than the previous few years, so we hope that this trend will continue. We look forward to seeing you again at these popular evenings.

(To avoid delays starting the Medal Jass, no sub payments will be accepted at the First Card Evening. Sub notices will be issued for payment on subsequent evenings. Thank you for your cooperation).

Friday 14th May - First Card Evening and Medal Jass. Please be prompt to start at 7.30pm.

Friday, 28th May - Second Card Evening

Friday 11th June - Third Card Evening

Friday, 25th June - Fourth Card Evening

Friday, 9th July - Fifth and Final Card Evening

If you are able to assist with baking or help in the kitchen to prepare supper, please ring Beatrice on (07) 843-7971 or e-mail bea.leun@xtra.co.nz AZ

Past Events:

Sunday 31 January: Medal Steinstossen Competition, Jass Practice for the Cowbell Competition and BBQ - Sunday dawned late; it was grey and wet and cold and didn't look like summer at all. The dedicated committee members Sandie and Barbara were still optimistic and got everything ready, supported by their families: The BBQ was cranked up, the Shotput stones were polished, the measuring tape was checked whether all numbers were still there - and then: nothing happened, and nobody turned up to win a Steinstossen medal. And it would have been so easy! True, the stones might have disappeared in the mud, and potential competitors would have had to swim to the starting blocks, but still: what an opportunity missed to win a medal!

The jassers came in the afternoon - not exactly in vast numbers, either. They had a good afternoon, playing, catching up, enjoying the various cakes. Let's hope we'll have a bigger crowd turning up for the Cowbell Competition! And let's hope the weather is better, too!

Saturday 6 February: Thank-You BBQ - All the generous volunteers who had helped with the new roof and their families were invited to a BBQ - and all came, and it was a great evening. The food was superb: Roland had organized meat and sausages from Auckland, Theres, Monika, Maria and Trix contributed delicious salads, and for dessert we had a selection of mouthwatering, tempting baking - a fitting finale for an experience that will not be forgotten for a long time!

Saturday 13 February: Hans Scherrer and Matthew Jordan replaced the old, rotten window in the clubhouse with a brand-new window, tailormade from scratch. What would we do without you? Thank you very much for your dedication!

Wellington

Well, you read about our exciting news in the last Helvetia. This time our news are more modest.



Sunday 14 February: Medal Shooting Competition - The rifle master John Jordan organised the medal shooting on Paul Scherrer's farm. The shooters from the Scherrer/Jordan clan, Murray and Sam Simons and Roland Schütz had a good afternoon competing for the medals. After the medal competition they had a second competition, a fun competition for a bottle of wine. John Jordan and Paul Scherrer went head to head, but in the final shoot-out John prevailed. Zum Wohl, John!

Future Events:

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 80 19) if you intend to come.

Saturday 17 April: AGM - Our Annual General Meeting starts at 7pm. Come and show your support and appreciation for the committee that has worked so hard in the past year. Let's share the work to make it a vibrant club also in the coming year! After the meeting there is time for supper and maybe even a game of cards. *tb*

Auckland

Future Events:

05 March (Friday) Pub night. The venue this time will be "De Post", 466 Mt. Eden Road, Mt. Eden. Finish the week in good Swiss-Kiwi company. All welcome, from 8 pm onwards.

07 March (Sunday) Beach Party at Long Bay. From 11.00 a.m. There will be an e-mail informing you of further details.

Games for children and grown-ups; have fun!

12 March (Friday) First Jass of the year 7.30pm. Same place as last two years: Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose. Did you know this is very easy to get to and fast for most of us, 5 minutes or less from the motorway exit Penrose?

We have had a good turnout lately, and are very happy to report that the Jass group is now financial. Earlier we had a very generous sponsor who helped paying for the venue, and we'd like to thank her very much.

26 March (Friday) Jass Clinic 7.30pm. Place to be announced. Another opportunity for newcomers and hesitant players to have a go with some of the more seasoned Jassers, in a relaxed atmosphere (as if our usual jass evenings were not relaxed) You will receive an email closer to the time, or check the website.

Mark your diary now:

3 May (Monday) Auckland Swiss Club AGM at the Danish Club, Penrose

The Swiss and Knusprig Team - The Swiss Club has been greatly rejuvenated since Tanja, Lukas and Erika have been involved. They are not even officially committee members (yet) - we hope very much they will be elected at the AGM. Many of our events have been planned by them - pub nights, Beach party and much more. One of the highlights will be:

19 June (Saturday) Swiss Market Day. If you have not replied yet to our email, and you want to offer some of your wares or services, do it now. The Swiss Club website has details, or enquire at Tanja swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or 09 627 8777 or 0211 01 4432.

German Books anyone?

The Swiss Club has frequently been offered German / Swiss

books from people who leave the country. We have no space to keep them, as they get too mouldy at the farm. Is anyone interested in keeping an informal library? We are thinking of members either being able to acquire books at no cost apart from postage, or even being able to borrow them, with perhaps a list of books on the website. If you have any thoughts or are even able to help, please contact Nelly: nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz

Nelly Steinemann

SIMONE ROGGEN, Violinist, will be playing in the St. Matthews Church on Sunday afternoon 21 March. Not to be missed!

Simone is NZ-lander, her parents are South African and Swiss. Her studies of the violin culminated last year with her Soloist Diploma in Lucerne, where she gave an awesome performance in the KKL (Kultur Kongresszentrum Luzern). In her younger years she had spent many hours at Swiss Club events, and has many friends in the club. Simone and her pianist friend Petya are touring New Zealand at present, performing in both islands, in the afternoon of 21 March in St. Matthews. Simone will be the soloist in the Beethoven Violin Concert in D.

St. Matthews in the City is easy to get to, and parking is free on Sunday.

Find out more from: www.simoneroggen.com

Taranaki

Past Events:

A big thank you to all those committee members who painted the front wall of the Club house ... it looks great!!! It certainly makes the place look tidier. A great job, guys.

Future Events:

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!!! Your input is valued, so please come along. Shortly after the AGM, some committee members will get together to compile an interesting programme of activities for the coming year ... if you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to contact Othmar, Zeno or Marianne as soon as possible.

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!!!

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

Tough times don't last - tough people do.

Hilda Schicker-Steiner, 1919 - 2010

Hilda Josephine Schicker - Steiner was born in 1919 in Kaponga, the 6th child of 7 to her parents Anton and Elisa Steiner-Betschard. Hilda and her siblings were brought up on a dairy farm near Stratford, where she was involved in farm chores and rode bareback to school. Later the family moved to Ngahape, then farmed at Tahuna before settling at Lichfield, Putaruru.

Hilda married Albert Schicker in Putaruru in May 1946. They moved to their ballot farm in Waikite Valley in 1951. Life became very involved for Hilda, raising 9 children, helping with cows and calves, building their herd up to 120 cows. They also raised 20 pigs, which they sold as porkers, and had 100 hens.

Hilda had a passion for gardening; her huge vegetable plot extended to a potato patch at the cowshed, and she absolutely adored flowers. Hilda was a very diligent, graceful, serene person, with a kind, caring, trusting, patient personality.

Sadly Hilda lost her husband in September 1967 when he was only 48. She had to learn to become independent. When her four sons settled in their own careers, she sold the farm in 1974. She moved to Hamilton and 16 months later took a 3 months' world cruise, spending her 12 free days leisurely exploring places and visiting relatives in Switzerland. Hilda had a cleaning job at the nearby school. At first she biked there, but eventually passed her drivers licence aged 62.

She returned to Switzerland in 1999, aged 80, for 5 weeks, picking wild mountain flowers, playing in the snow, drinking coffee schnaps and eating apfelstrudel, and speaking fluently in her mother tongue. She thoroughly enjoyed her holiday.

Hilda belonged to the Hamilton Swiss Club and loved to play Jass. It became difficult for her to remember the cards, but she had the luck of an Irishman, and won many games. Hilda was close to her sisters and brother who lived in the Waikato.

Hilda had a very strong faith all her life, which kept her persevering. When her dementia took over, her Guardian Angel still looked after her. Hilda now rests peacefully in heaven with the Lord our God. God Bless You, Hilda.

The Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Hilda Schicker's family.

Obituary provided by Theresa Fitzl

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