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**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.

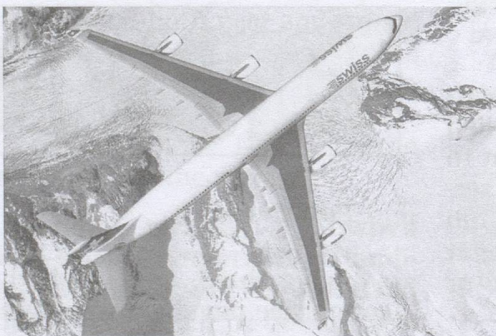
Hilda belonged to the Hamilton Swiss Club and loved to play Jass. It became difficult for her to remember the cards, but she had the luck of an Irishman, and won many games. Hilda was close to her sisters and brother who lived in the Waikato.

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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