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Hamilton

PAST EVENTS:

Mountain weekend 27th and 28th of March 2010. A good bunch of people travelled towards Ruapehu on Friday. Some of us left early to give Herbert a hand painting the hut. The weather was outstanding for this and we got a few hours in before it became too cool and we had to retreat to the hut for "refreshments". Everybody got nested in and the best part of Friday began with R+R and Herbert's famous mountain stew. Great stuff Herbert.



On Saturday we arranged two walking groups; one to walk on the "Round the Mountain Track" from the Bruce road to the Turoa Skifield road. The other one planned to walk the Horopito to Ohakune track.

The day was fantastic and eight of us walked to Turoa. Well, I think we underestimated the track and although we all made it without any incidence it was a 7 hour hike with plenty of ups and downs despite ending up at the same altitude as we started!! It was a great day and, I think I can say we all enjoyed it although some had very tired limbs.

The other group had a good walk too with plenty of surprises. I believe navigational skills, whilst leading them astray at times, managed to get them to Ohakune too. The track is under construction and was incomplete. We were just a bit too early. It was a 5 hour walk too, well done you easy walkers!!

All of us looked forward to that cool drink in Ohakune, guess what - most pubs were shut to 4 or 5pm on this Saturday, unbelievable! We finally found a watering hole and the beer went down extremely well.

Thank you Herbert for dropping us off and picking us up at the top of the mountain. Won't go into

the mode of transport in this report. I did mention to the others that it looked just like a bunch of sky divers were about to jump!!



Late Saturday we got back and settled in for the night with fondue and a selection of desserts on the menu. The night went on and as some crawled into their sleeping bags, the others pulled out the cards and carried on.

Sunday, another great day and everybody did different things, some went to inspect the progress on the new Knoll Ridge café, some just strolled around the hut, some painted, but some managed to get carried away and ended up doing another 5 hour walk (well done Anna, Martin and Rosa).

After lunch, it was time to say goodbye to this fantastic place and we made our way home.

What will we do next year was asked several times. Probably come back again as we all enjoy this annual pilgrimage.

Thank you Vitus for organising it all.

Hans

FUTURE EVENTS:

Friday, 30th April - Annual General Meeting - 7.30pm for drinks and 8.00pm for the meeting, at Swisscraft premises, Colombo Street, Frankton. The club has had a very successful year and has had great numbers at all of our events. The committee would really appreciate your feedback and support 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 co-operation).

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

300 metre Shooting will be held on the weekend of 22nd and 23rd May. This event is for Hamilton Club Members at the Auckland Swiss Farm Clubhouse in Kaukapakapa. Hans is hoping not to have to write separate letters about the shooting, so shooters, please book for this weekend now (e-mail: hans@new-tech.co.nz, or phone 07 855 3294 home, 021 658733 mobile). Hans will then contact everyone who has booked regarding food and transport, and can answer any questions. A good crowd of "old" and new shooters are most welcome. AZ

Wellington

PAST EVENTS:

Sunday 28 March: Medal Shooting Competition

The shooting at Paul Scherrer's place in Mangaroa Valley has become very much a family affair, supported by our loyal president. It would be great if more Wellingtonians would join in!

Sunday afternoon was perfect, no wind, good light for the targets and a great atmosphere

amongst the shooters; it couldn't have been gmüetlicher, in spite of the fierce competition. Very much to the dismay of the men the two ladies scored highest, no matter how hard the men tried. Well, they weren't far behind, but they were behind.

And of course the same ladies also looked after the shooters with their excellent baking (there would have been enough for many more participants!) - so maybe they deserved to win, after all. Thank you very much, Paul Scherrer, for the use of your shooting range, and thank you, the Scherrer and Jordan families, for your tremendous contribution.

Shooting for the medals and afternoon tea took up so much time that the Mad Minute Shooting (and the bottle of wine as a prize for the winner) will have to wait for another time.

Saturday 17 April: Annual General Meeting

Many members came and enjoyed a glass of mulled wine. The AGM went smoothly. Our president Roland Schütz mentioned all the functions we had - and of course the highlight of the year, the new roof. The auditor John Alderdice, who presented the treasurer's report, pointed out that the club had a good year financially although it has spent a lot on the new roof. Once new shares are issued, the money will show up again as assets. The riflemaster John Jordan reported on a very successful year (and did not mention his and his family's overwhelming share in the success).

The committee was elected, with

Roland Schütz, president
Verena Madgwick, vice president
Odile Stotzer, secretary
Sibylle Sharma, treasurer
Sandie Simons, Pitsch Leiser and Peter Hynes committee members.

Again there was talk of rejuvenating the club; but where are the young club members at the AGM?

Roland thanked all the committee and club members for their contribution, and Flemming Sörensen thanked Roland for his leadership.

Supper went down well, and there was time to catch up with friends and for a chat. The lights went out shortly before midnight.

FUTURE EVENTS:

The new committee will meet in the near future and come up with a rich and varied programme for the new club year; watch this space! In the second half of May there will be our usual **first fondue** of the year; members of the Wellington Swiss club will get an invitation - all our other friends are welcome, too; just ring one of the committee members!

tb



Auckland

PAST EVENTS:

Jass Clinic at Edith's, Friday 26 March

The group was small, two tables. The fun was great, and everyone even learnt something. Several members would like some more practice; we are planning to have another clinic on Friday 21 May. And if you like a short refresher right now, check at the Swiss Club website, Jassen, you'll find a two page word document. It's rather personal, the way my mother taught me. Comments welcome from the professional jassers!

Jass Evening Friday 09 April. What a great turnout we had! We were particularly pleased to see several new faces. Watch out for Cornelia, first time player, and she beat us all. Congratulations!! And special thanks to Natalie, who was just going to watch, but got dragged into playing anyway, and did so well. Of course it's in the family, can't help it! To top it off, she made a wonderful carrot cake for us. Keep on coming, Natalie!

Results:

1st	Cornelia Luethi	4167
2nd	Edith Hess	4142
3rd	Nelly Steinemann	4034
4th	Hansruedi Wolf	4029
5th	Heidi Wilson	4010
6th	Emil Tellenbach	4004
7th	Marcel Ruedi	3912
8th	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon	3890
9th	Lynne Dunphy	3809
10th	Hans Iten	3795
11th	Amelia Fitzi	3789
12th	Natalie Hess	3756
13th	Andrew Iten	3671
14th	Heinz Matysik	3667
15th	Louis Wallimann	3667
16th	Annagret Wolf	3652
17th	Matthew Kaiser	3646
18th	Ian Gordon	3641
19th	Othmar Wyss	3607
20th	Daniel Hirschi	3564
21st	Neil Kaiser	3552
22nd	Erwin Steiner	3546
23rd	Hilda Iten	3493
24th	Renate Meyer-Knecht	3389

FUTURE EVENTS:

Sunday 02 May, Swiss Society of NZ Cowbell Competition semifinals, at the farm: The Auckland Swiss Club is the host for this year's semi final. We

need all the stone-throwing muscle, the card-playing brain/speed/boldness and the bowling prowess of you Aucklanders coming to the farm, and we have a pretty good chance of making it to the finals and get back the Cowbell, which we lost to the Taranaki Swiss Club in 2009. The Final will be held in Taranaki at this year's Society AGM on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Monday 03 May 7.30pm: AGM of the Auckland Swiss Club. Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose. This is not going to be one of these boring meetings that goes on and on, Marcel will make sure. It's your chance to have a say how your club is run. For agenda see website. www.swiss.org.nz/Auckland. A delicious supper follows, not to mention the excellent company. Please come along.

Friday 07 May, Pub Night at Africa, 495 Pakuranga Rd, Highland Park. From 8pm onwards. Interesting venue, nice people to meet, do join us. Our Swiss and Knusprig Team and everyone else are looking forward to meeting you.

Friday 14 May, 19.30: Jassen at the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Sunday 16 May Bike Day at Woodhill Forest, Swiss and Knusprig event.

No matter whether you are an occasional or a well trained biker, the bike park at Woodhill Forest offers courses for every level of difficulty. There are six courses between 6km and 25km, for beginners to advanced, children and adults, so everyone should be able to find a suitable track.

We will meet at 11am at the entrance of the bike park as some people may like to ride together. After two hours of fun (hopefully) we will meet for byo lunch at 1pm, again in front of the entrance.

Friday 21 May 7.30pm: Jass Clinic at Edith Hess, 5 Glenvista Pl (basement), Glenfield, ph 4446972. Whether you are totally green, or have some experience, come and enjoy an evening of cards without any pressure. Only winners, no losers at the end of the night.

Saturday 29 May: Shooting at the Swiss Farm. For information please contact Henry Werffeli werffeli@orcon.net.nz, 09 410-3476, or Marcel Ruedi marcel@igrin.co.nz 09 4135338.

Friday 04 June: Raclette and Film Evening at the Danish Club in Penrose. Details of film to be announced.

Queen's Birthday Weekend 5 - 7 June: NZ Swiss Society AGM and final of Cowbell Competition in Taranaki

Enjoy a weekend away, meet fellow Swiss from all over NZ, enjoy the party! For details see website.



Swiss Market Day Saturday 19th June 2010. We still have a few tables to fill – and the hall has to be full! So come on you Swiss, be brave and book a table! It would be great if we could get a few exhibitors from the Hamilton region or from up North. It does not have to be a Swiss product as such, just come and show what you have to offer! It will be a fun day out! For any further questions please contact swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or call Tanja at 0211 014432.

Taranaki

PAST EVENTS:

Keglen has been going fine, with good numbers. These are truly fun evenings, with plenty of chatter, laughter and some mixed results in the keglen!!! Please come along and give it a go ... there is plenty of coaching available ... just make sure that you get it from the right person!!!

Remigi has recommenced Karabiner Shooting for this coming season, so please give him a call on 06 2726438 if you are interested in participating.

On 11th April the first card afternoon was held with a good attendance. Our new “card master” is Walter Seifert, so if you would like any further information regarding the cards please give him a call on 06 7628559 ... he will be most obliging!!! The results are as follows:

Jassen

- 1st Lisette Benkert with 20 points.
 - 2nd Berta Sidler also with 20 points (lost the cut ... bad luck Berta!!).
 - 3rd Walter Seifert with 18 points.
- Booby: Berta Hughes.

Euchre

- 1st Doreen Schuler with 16 points.
 - 2nd Eddie Fuglistaller with 12 points.
 - 3rd Fred Kalin with 8 points (Fred was very lucky as Kathleen Zehnder and John Kuriger also had the same points, but he won the cut!!! Well done, Fred!!!).
- Booby: Joan Goodwin.

Raffle winners: 1st and 2nd Othmar Hebler and 3rd prize Josie Gillbanks ... must have been your lucky day, Othmar ... maybe you needed it after surviving your son's 21st Birthday party the night before!!!

MD

East Coast Experience

On 15th March, on a cool Monday morning a group of 25 Swiss got picked up from Inglewood,

Stratford, Eltham and Hawera ready for our trip to the East Coast. The entire trip was organised by Othmar and Marlies. On our first day we headed to Feilding for our lunch stop and afterwards through the Manawatu Gorge towards Tikikino for our visit at Noetzli's Vineyard. We enjoyed a really hot summer's day and received a very warm welcome with an amazing afternoon tea, complete with freshly picked grapes. We were impressed that a humble woolshed could be turned into an awesome welcoming home with a large balcony; well done!!! Then for dinner we headed through the grapes to the bach (card players' house) for a wonderful BBQ complemented with Swiss music by Leo Zehnder. It was hard to leave such a great place and atmosphere for our accommodation in Hastings. After breakfast we were back on the bus ready for our trip to Gisborne. To keep us entertained Marlies had organised various games and quizzes. One bus tyre was marked with numbers from 1 to 25, and each time the bus stopped the person with the corresponding number received a point. Mathias Seifert and Berta Sidler did really well with this. No matter how hard the quiz, Jennifer Bosch and Maya Stutz excelled, but no, Maya, “Hone Heke” is not a native tree!!! Around four we arrived at Wainui Beach Motel with free time to head to the beach for a walk or to Gisborne to do a little shopping. Happy Hour with wine, beer and snacks awaited us before another great BBQ. That evening Leo really needed to go, so asked the ladies if he could use their toilet since his unit's one was occupied. “Of course as long as you leave no smell”. Coming out he said, “It's all okay. I used the fresh airspray!!!” “Oh no, that was my hairspray” grinned Emmi!!! Poor Leo got a hard time for the entire trip!!! On our third day we were heading through Tolaga Bay and stopped at the longest wharf of the Southern Hemisphere, and most of us walked the length of it. What a great achievement for this remote area at the time. The wind suddenly picked up and by the time we stopped at Ruatoria for lunch rain fell for about ten minutes. The food was very good, only first and last orders got really mixed up; they don't get bus tours very often here!!! On the way we saw horses everywhere; must be still used for transport. Heading along the windy road to the East Cape Light House, Doreen made the remark, “You really are the first President to drive us around the bend!!!” The wind blasted not just sand, but small stones into the front window!!! Amazing!!! We really had planned to walk the hundreds of steps up to the Lighthouse, but you could barely stand in that gale. Back into the bus when Lou, as always, spoiled us with an ever changing offer of lollies; thanks again Lou. A yummy dinner awaited us at the Hicks Bay Motel. This evening some star players put on such an act; with John Schuler the main performer, that we could not not enjoy it!!! Even our musician sometimes lost concentration. While Leo was playing a big Maori came up to him and said, “You remind me of my dad the way you



give people pleasure with music". It turned out his dad was Howard Morrison!!! The fourth day brought us mainly along the beautiful coast towards Whakatane. The White Island never had any clouds. We enjoyed lunch and a little window shopping or ... well, our Lotto ... sorry, no luck!!! In Te Teko, Arthur and Martha Schuler had afternoon tea ready for us with fruit, cakes and coffee schnapps; just delicious. It was a very cosy setting on their lawns surrounded by the White Cross Orchard. Accordion and Alphorn sounds were well received. We all went for a walk through the thirty acre orchard run by their son and daughter-in-law. Arthur told us the ground is ash from Mount Tarawera and the top soil is two feet deep!!! After finishing the walk we ventured into the Orchard shop and added a little extra weight to the bus from all the produce we bought!!! In Rotorua we all found different places to dine; some ate at the Pheasant Pluckers, a Pub, KFC or even the Fat Dog Bog had some food, as well as the Police Station. We also heard that Tilly was dancing at the Station????!! That night the card players did not quite play as long as other nights????!! Our last day we took our time home and as always Mark Kiser, our navigator, filled any gaps in the entertainment with various music CDs, or even video tapes of past Taranaki Swiss Club events (eg: the Club's 50th Jubilee celebrations, Eltham parade and also our recent picnic). The grand winner of all the quizzes was John Schuler, with the booby going to Joe and Berta Buhler.

Well, I'm sure everyone will agree with me that we had a great time, excellent company, an awesome driver (Othmar) and the best hostess (Marlies).

Doreen Zehnder

Ambassador's visit

The Taranaki Swiss Club had the pleasure of hosting our Ambassador of Switzerland, Beat, his wife Irene and their youngest son Christian from the 15th to the 18th of April. They appreciated being hosted by Othmar and Marlies who took them to visit places and people all over the province, and fortunately they had fine weather most of the time. On the Thursday we were to meet Zeno at the Kaponga Tavern before going to the Heblers for tea ... after half an hour we wondered whether Zeno was joining us, and a quick phone call revealed that he had forgotten ... oh no, sorry Zeno, "lost track of the days" you said!!! I think the Swiss Club might have to invest in a 'white board' for you so that you remember your engagements!!! We enjoyed a delicious meal, and interesting conversations during the evening. The Friday entailed a trip around the mountain visiting several Swiss people, and on the Saturday the Nobs family enjoyed Karabiner Shooting (Beat shooting very well), Preiskeglen and then our famous fondue / sausage and salad meal. We thank you Beat, Irene and Christian for taking the time to visit us, and we wish you well in your new position in Switzerland.

Our **Fondue Evening** was held on 17th April, with a wonderful crowd of 101 adults and 20 children. During the morning Remigi had organised Karabiner Shooting, and from 2.00pm Preiskeglen proved popular with Johnny kept busy the entire time. Three people competed with the winner receiving a 'salametti' ... there was intense rivalry ... no, just joking ... everyone enjoyed competing with some tasting the salametti immediately ... even sharing, eh Robert and Joe!!! We caught you!!! Was it in case you didn't get sufficient fondue????!!!! No just teasing you!!! The eventual winners were Peter Canziani and Michael Wolfe ... well done to all the competitors for your support and congratulations to the winners! Thanks Johnny for your great effort!

The 'workers' ate their fondue at 5.30pm, with many people arriving early to catch up with friends. We were thrilled to see many new faces, and we hope that you enjoyed your evening ... of course we appreciate seeing all our regulars too!!! The smell of cheese filled the air and must have got the appetites going, as soon pot after pot of delicious fondue was served ... it takes a bit of organisation being prepared for 120 mouths to feed!!! Thank you to Lisette for getting the ingredients ready, to our excellent bread-cutters (and it was appreciated that non-committee members pitched in to help ... many thanks Christine and Michael), the cooks Erna and Leo, and all the rest of the team who heated sausages, waited on people, cleaned many pots, plates and cutlery!!! To all the ladies who made the tasty salads, thank you ... I heard many wonderful comments. The efforts of the working team were greatly appreciated. Soon after the raffle tickets were sold, and we appreciated everyone's generosity in purchasing so many tickets ... thank you very much. Many thanks also to Peter, Zeno and Maria for your music ... we always appreciate your talents. The singing group, joined by Beat and Irene, sang several lovely songs in four different languages ... aren't they talented?!!! The biggest applause came for the 'Ticino' song, where they all had gorgeous, colourful hats and a glass of wine ... well done, guys, it was great!!! Beat gave a lovely farewell speech, and thanked us very much for our hospitality ... and ... you're welcome!!! We loved hosting you and we hope to see you here again some time!!! A delicious supper was enjoyed, before people started heading for home ... well most of them anyway!!! The Zehnders and Benkerts stayed the night ... and we're very grateful ... as they cleaned the hall!!! Thank you guys, we appreciate your work.

FUTURE EVENTS:

May 2 & 23 - Cards at 1.15pm. Come along and have some fun ... if you don't play jassen, then euchre is played too.

May 6 & 20 - Keglen ... again ... lots of fun, a bit of sport, and much chatting!!!

May 16 - The Swiss Society Competitions will be held from 10.00am. The cost this year is \$5.00 per discipline ... which consists of shooting, shot put, keglen (9 pin bowling) and jassen. Juniors (under 16) are in a separate section, so come along parents and grandparents, bring those youngsters along!!! Should you take part in at least three of the four sports, you will go in the draw to win two dinners at the Swiss Club (Queen's Birthday Weekend, Anniversary Shoot or 1st August) ... so compete in as many disciplines as possible!!! Championship Shoot will also be taking place from 1.00pm. Thereafter everyone can take part in a potluck tea at 6.00pm ... just bring sufficient food for you / your family and you will enjoy a delicious meal!!!

May 24 - This is the LAST day to order sausages which will arrive prior to Queen's Birthday Weekend. Please ring Lisette on 06 7628718 or Marianne on 06 7628757 to place your order as soon as possible.

May 25 - Any Taranaki Swiss Club members wishing to attend any of the functions at Queen's Birthday weekend must ring Marianne on 06 7628757 or Othmar on 06 278 6878 by 25th May 2010 for catering purposes and also so that we can organise name tags. Payment would be appreciated as soon as possible. We would love to have a strong Taranaki contingent present, so please make an effort to attend.

June 5 & 6 - Queen's Birthday Weekend, and we are hosting the final of the **Cowbell Competition** between Wellington and either Auckland or Hamilton and the **Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**. There will be a dinner on the Saturday evening, we will be providing lunch to everyone present on Sunday and a smorgasbord dinner will be served on the Sunday Evening (see programme in Helvetia). If any of our members are able to help in any way at some of our functions, please ring a committee member. We would appreciate your help.

June 13 & 20 Jassen and Euchre at 1.15pm. As always, Walter would love to see some new faces ... not that he doesn't like the ones that already come!!! So come along and enjoy a few games of cards and a delicious afternoon tea. The final Championship Shoot will be held from 1.00pm too, so come along and support Mark. Then enjoy a few drinks and at 6.00pm a potluck tea will be served ... bring along food for you and your family, and enjoy a delicious meal!!! The company will surely be great too!!!

June 20 - This is the LAST day to order sausages which will arrive prior to the Anniversary Shoot. Please ring Walter on 06 7628559 to place your order. Please note that this will be the LAST SAUSAGE ORDER until November! So order now! MD

MARIA EMMA ALPIGER-BONI

25 January 1935 - 7 November 2009
Born in Amden SG

JOSEF ALPIGER

25 May 1928 - 27 March 2010
Born in Engelburg SG

Both were born into hard working farming families, and life was tough. They both had a remarkable sense of adventure, a daringness and a willingness to try new things - which led to them meeting and marrying in Tillamook, Oregon, USA in 1959. Three years later, after having returned to Switzerland, they were off on another daring adventure to the other side of the world with two young children in tow. They arrived in New Zealand by ship/plane in 1962 where they made a farming life for themselves and the growing family in the Waikato and King Country Districts. Both worked extremely hard, and the children Beatrice, Lawrence (deceased), Irene, Yvo, Denise and Rita have many fond memories of family life on the farm at Waitomo, which they broke in from raw bush, building a home and lifestyle. Both have been able to take trips back to their homeland. Their memory lives on - the family home was relocated as a trampers' hut to Leach's Clearing in the Whareorino Forest south of Pio Pio - known today as the ALPIGER HUT.

May they both rest in peace.

The Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Beatrice, Irene, Yvo, Denise and Rita and their families.

Happy Mother's Day

I Love You Mum!

*Mum's smiles can brighten any moment,
Mum's hugs put joy in all our days,
Mum's love will stay with us forever
and touch our lives in precious ways...
The values you've taught,
the care you've given,
and the wonderful love you've shown,
have enriched my life
in more ways than I can count.
I Love you Mum!*

Author Unknown