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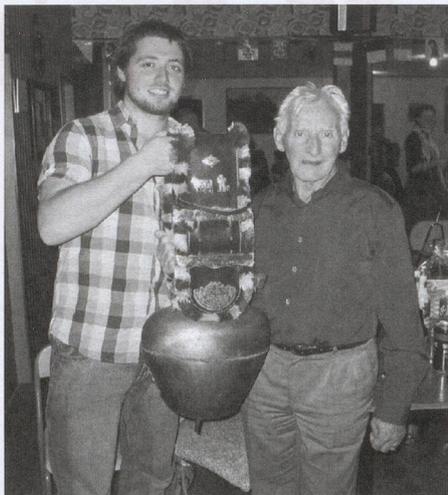


On behalf of the Swiss Society, I would like to thank the Taranaki Swiss Club for hosting the Swiss Society

Annual General Meeting, and the final of the Cowbell competition between Auckland and Wellington Swiss Clubs. We are very grateful for the helpful assistance and organisational expertise of the Taranaki Swiss Club, who ensured that the events were successful and highly enjoyable. (This year had to be the 'wettest' Swiss Society AGM that I have ever attended; the rain just wouldn't stop. Now I know why farming and grass growing is so prosperous in Taranaki).

I would like to acknowledge Othmar Hebler and his hardworking team, who not only organised the logistics but also ran the kitchen, 'cooking up a storm' during the entire event. One of the culinary highlights, one of my favourites, included dinner – 'lamb on the spit'. Yum. Quite frankly, Taranaki Swiss Club's wonderful spread could compete with anything on offer at a restaurant.

Entertainment was provided by the Taranaki Chörli, accompanied by the accordionist, Zeno von Hospenthal, who was superb. The combined talents of musician and singers just seem to improve each time I see them in leaps and bounds. The Hawera Brass Band also made a really good impression. Perhaps one day the band will be able to travel to Switzerland, and take part in the international brass band festival (this is a challenge for Othmar!). I must say that listening to the sweet sounds of Othmar and his alphorn made many of us feel a bit homesick. I would like to thank Peter Canziani from Turangi for playing the accordion during the evening, the melodies were both uplifting and refreshing.



Two Wellington competitors with their coveted trophy

In conclusion, the final of the Cowbell competition between Auckland and Wellington was

hotly contested. I would like to acknowledge Marcel Rüedi and his team from the Auckland Swiss Club for picking up the second prize, because Wellington Swiss Club really really wanted it. My personal appreciation towards the team members of the Wellington Swiss Club for your time, commitment and effort participating in the event.

Please remember that YOU (that's everyone) are warmly invited to attend and participate in the next Swiss Society AGM to be held on Queen's Birthday weekend in Wellington next year!

Roland

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