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Auckland

Past Events:

Pub Night, Friday 05 November, Malthouse Pub, Greenhithe.

A dozen of us enjoyed a lovely chat with chips on the North Shore. Being a bit ancient, I particularly liked the fact that there was no music, I didn't actually have to shout at anyone, and my ears were not ringing afterwards. It's always nice to see a few different faces at these club nights. Why not come along next time? De Post in Mt Eden, nice and central, see below.

Jassen Friday 12 Nov 2010

1st	Neil Kaiser	4218
2nd	Hansruedi Wolf	4184
3rd	Edith Hess	4102
4th	Andrew Iten	3999
5th	Hans Fitzi	3991
6th	Heinz Frei	3979
7th	Dominic Hess	3926
8th	Annagret Wolf	3882
9th	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon	3825
10th	Ernst Meier	3795
11th	Louis Wallimann	3788
12th	Heidi Wilson	3776
13th	Amelia Fitzi	3766
14th	Ian Gordon	3765
15th	Pascal Nosetti	3734
16th	Franz Krieger	3709
17th	Jakob Preisig	3617
18th	Elisabeth Preisig	3582
19th	Lynne Dunphy	3537
20th	Marcel Ruedi	3531
21st	Hilda Iten	3502
22nd	Matthew Kaiser	3486
23rd	Adrian Blaser	3482

Jassen: Top 20 for the year

1st	Hans Iten	23,580
2nd	Edith Hess	23,476
3rd	Hansruedi Wolf	23,461
4th	Louis Wallimann	23,387
5th	Heidi Wilson	23,312
6th	Andrew Iten	23,116
7th	Annagret Wolf	23,044
8th	Fidel Good	22,912
9th	Emil Tellenbach	22,841
10th	Lynne Dunphy	22,521
11th	Franz Krieger	22,356
12th	Hilda Iten	22,245

13th	Marcel Ruedi	22,137
14th	Neil Kaiser	21,952
15th	Matthew Kaiser	20,527
16th	Nelly Steinemann	19,757
17th	C. Fitzi-Gordon	19,325
18th	Adrian Blaser	18,784
19th	Amelia Fitzi	15,411
20th	Jakob Preisig	15,098

Boulders and great company in the Hokianga - weekend 13/14 November

Driving up North will never be the same, now I know all about the Northland Allochthon, the Kerikeri Volcanic Field, the limestone quarries and much more. On our previous excursion with Bernhard Spörli we had learnt about the Waitemata sandstones and mudstones, now we heard more amazing stories about masses of rocks travelling over vast areas. In a way it did remind me of Maori legends - although their accounts of what happened would be a little different from the geologist's. Thank you very much Bernhard for being prepared to come down to our level and make some sense of what happened all those millions of years ago.

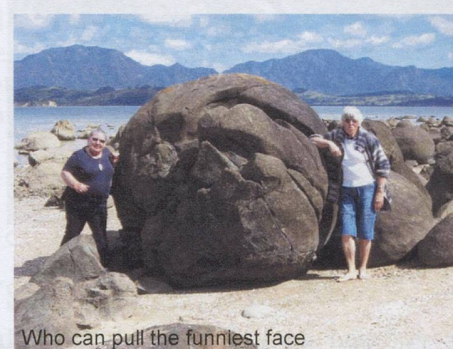
35 of us took the journey to the North in perfect weather on Saturday morning, some in our own car, some in a minibus driven skillfully by Marcel our president. The 11 of them seem to have tremendous fun together, judging by the noise that came out of that vehicle.

The visit to the Wairere Boulders was quite mindblowing. We learnt that this is the only area in the world where they have fluted basalt rocks, and there were lots of them! They really did look impressive - and are attracting geologists from all over the world. The Swiss couple who owns the property, Rita and Felix Schaad, have created paths and bridges through the valley, there was a choice of walks, and so much scenery. We enjoyed meeting them, they had lots of stories to tell.

As it happened, our overnight stop was hosted by Swiss as well: Helen and Simone had bought



Attentive group



Who can pull the funniest face



Bernhard, a wealth of knowledge



Two sisters in the Hokianga



Erwin with Rita and Felix Schaad



the Rawene Holiday Park last year, and done it up beautifully. It proved an ideal place for us to spend the night. The motor camp is a large park which has a great view over the Hokianga. It is very welcoming and clean, we can warmly recommend it for anyone who would like to stay in this beautiful area. We enjoyed a yummy meal in this lovely setting: A delicious assortment of salads and desserts to go with the barbequed Bratwurst and Cervelat.

A visit to the Kouto boulders in the Hokianga, near Opononi, fitted in very nicely after breakfast on the Sunday morning. A well hidden treasure, not advertised much, no signs on how to get there, quite surprising to see these huge rounded rocks strewn over the beach. Certainly worthwhile to see. Being Swiss we did enjoy having another stroll on sand and rocks, before the drive back home. A further stop to look at the huge sanddunes and the treacherous entrance to the Hokianga Harbour, and a look at Tane Mahuta in the Waipoua Forrest completed a very successful weekend. We were quite a mixed group - from two years of age to not so young, from fit to not so active. It was good to get to know everyone, and we do look forward to organise another weekend away next year.

Thanks a lot to Marcel and Edith for organising, and again to Bernhard for your input.

Future Events:

Pub night: Friday 03 December from 8 pm onwards: De Post, 466 Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden. Pub nights have become such a nice tradition this year. It would be great to see you there.

Santa: Sunday 05 December at the Swiss farm. Santa will arrive at 11.00. It's not too late for you to give the old man a whisper and register your child(ren). Please see Swiss Club Website for online registration. With a click of your mouse your form will fly straight to the Northpole. We look forward to meeting our guest of honour: Our new Swiss Ambassador Marion Weichelt Krupski and her family will be there.

Santa's visit will be followed by a tasty lunch - barbequed Swiss sausages, the traditional Erdbeertörtli and more Swiss delicacies, then a Kasperle Theatre (Puppet show), in English, painting of biscuits, and socialising. Bags of Swiss Christmas cookies will be for sale. With or without children, you will love the atmosphere and the company.

No charge for children of Swiss club members; \$5 per child for non members.

Swiss Carol Singing: Saturday 11 December, 2pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Rd, Penrose.

Just when you are getting a bit sick of hearing 'Jingle Bells' in every shop, you are invited to join us in singing Swiss Christmas carols, interspersed with some musical items, just like back home. Afternoon coffee / tea with homemade goodies follows.

Cost \$5 for members, \$10 non members, \$2.50 children.

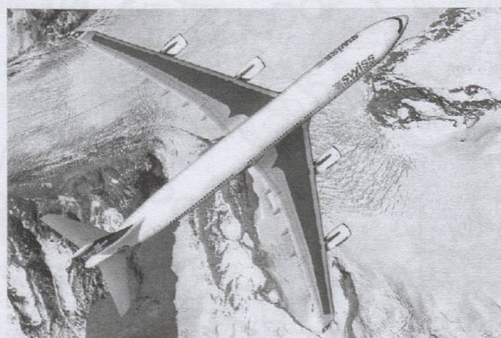
LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD

Our club has had a happy year. We would like to thank everyone who made this possible. The list of names is too long to mention, and I fear I may forget one of the main players, so just a big thank you to everyone who plans, organises, helps, participates, and is just there. I keep being amazed how well the club works, with such a diversity of people running it.

Pencilled in for early 2011:

Sunday 23 January: New Members Day at the farm. Lunch with the committee, then a walk through the farm, and / or let the kids enjoy the playground, or

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just get to know each other. You will receive an invitation closer to the time

Friday 04 Feb Pub night: February Pub night will be out East again as we had a huge amount of people joining us last time - we would love to get a few suggestions for the Pakuranga, Botany area. Preferably a pub without live music. Please contact T a n j a b y e m a i l: swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or 0211 014432. Many thanks.

Sunday 13 February: Annual picnic at the farm. Another opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

We will be drafting the plan for 2011 soon. Please share your ideas, wishes - let Marcel or any of the committee members know what you would like, and even better, where you would like to help. Talk to us at one of the next few events, drop us an email (ruedi@orcon.net.nz).

Some of the plans for next year are: After this year's success we will hold another market day, probably in May. Several events are planned for families with small children, plus film evenings, 10 pin bowling, weekend away, and much more. And of course our regular monthly get togethers - Pub nights on the first Friday of every month, Jassen on the second Friday. Do give us your comments and suggestions please!

Welcome to our new members

Patrick and Kay Arnold with Timo

We look forward to meeting you and hope you have a happy time in the club.

Nelly Steinemann

*Zmittst i der Nacht
sind d Hirte verwacht
händ d Aengeli gsunge
händ bbätet, sind gschprunge
go Liechtli aazünde
und d Wienacht verchiinde.*

anonymous



Taranaki

Past Events:

Keglen has been going well with good numbers attending the evenings. By all accounts they're having great fun ... so if you want a bit of a laugh, some nine-pin bowling and a good supper go along on the first and third Thursday of the month from 8.00pm.

On the 13th November the Taranaki Swiss Club had the pleasure of hosting our new Ambassador Dr Marion Weichelt Krupski. We decided that a potluck tea would be a good way to go; we thought that mixing fine food with good company is always a winner!!! Othmar and Marlies kindly picked Marion up from New Plymouth airport and took her for a drive around the mountain, enjoying a lovely lunch at Okurukuru by the sea ... the only thing being that due to the misty drizzle they could only just see the sea!!! Erwin and Angela Kiser kindly allowed them to visit their cowshed, so Marion was able to see cows being milked ... something quite different for a 'city girl'!!! After a short break to freshen up, Marion was picked up by Adrian and Marianne Drummond and taken to our Club house in Kaponga for a drink and meeting our fellow members before tea. Approximately sixty members turned up for potluck tea, which was a fine affair ..., a great selection of food that was sure to please everyone's taste buds!!! We had then decided to have a bit of musical entertainment ... but where was Zeno, our talented accordion player? At the stock cars!!! What were we going to do? Marianne can only play a few of the singing group's songs, and she had no accordion with her!!! Aaron kindly lent his accordion, but the singing group didn't have the words to the songs!!! So some of

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the singers started to write down the words ... well ... they struggled a bit to say the least!!! Margrit Dudli, the oldest singer in the group, was the one who could remember the most words!!! Well done, Margrit ... you did very well!!! Then Silvia suggested that if she went home she could print the songs off the computer ... and away she went!!! Only to find upon her return, that Zeno was back from the stock cars ... and they would be able to sing the songs that they originally had intended to sing!!! Good one Zeno ... you sure know how to stress us out!!! I guess all ended well!!! We had a lovely evening getting to know our Ambassador, and we thank her very much for making the effort to come and see us. We were very impressed and appreciative with how Marion made her way to every table to talk to our members ... thank you very much. Many thanks to our members for making the effort to attend this function and for bringing along so much food ... the selection and quality was impressive to say the least!!! On the Sunday, Ruedi and Lisette Benkert picked Marion up from the motel, and visited the Rhododendron Dell in Stratford which was very beautiful, went up to the Plateau on Mt Egmont (and even got a good view) and visited the Drummonds farm, before heading off to the airport. Marion, we hope that you enjoyed your visit to Taranaki and we look forward to seeing you and your family again in the near future.

Future Events:

December 31: Once again, our **New Year's Eve function** will be combined with the Campervan Association. We would like to see as many Swiss there as possible ... the entertainment is great, the company excellent ... and it's a great way to see the old year out and the new year in!!! Come along for some great fun!!!

February 1: This is the last day for you to **order your sausages** with Lisette on 7628718 or Marianne on 7628757 ... please be timely to make our job easier.

February 3 & 17: Keglen starts again after the Christmas break ... come along and support Johnny our keglen master ... and have some great fun!!!

February 12: We will be **hosting the Wellington Swiss Club for the semi-final of the Cowbell competition.** The visitors will arrive for lunch on Saturday, with the competitions starting thereafter. We will need accurate 'keglers', skilful card players, strong men and accurate shooters ... if one of these is you, please let Othmar or Zeno know ... they will be very pleased to hear from you!!! We will let you know closer to the time what we will be organising for the evening meal ... so remember to keep this weekend free ... just for the Taranaki Swiss Club!!!

February 13: Our **annual picnic** will be held on the 13th February ... this is the highlight of our club calendar ... an excellent day for socialising, as we always have a great crowd. Musical entertainment as well as activities for everyone to participate in. Barbequed cervelats and bratwurst available, as well as liquid refreshments, and top it off with a delicious icecream. Schwingen is the highlight of the day, with juniors and seniors able to compete ... come along and participate or just be a spectator. We look forward to you supporting this function. MD

*Am Himmel schint en Schtärn,
im Schtall e chlini Latärn.
De Wind blöst um d Schüür,
de Josef macht es Füür.
D Maria rüschtet Windle
für ires Jesus-Chindli.*

anonymous

Wellington

Past Events:

Saturday, 6th November: Garage Sale

This year we had an exceptional quantity of goods for sale, and many high quality articles. Heinz Jäggi spent days and days collecting things and getting it all ready for the garage sale. The signs went up all through Wainuiomata, and the Garage



Peter ready for the crowds

sale was advertised in the newspaper. The weather was less than perfect; it was cold and wet and windy, but dealers and private buyers came anyway - and most people went home with a bargain or two. Thank you, Heinz, Trix, Peter, Flemming, Vreni for giving so generously of your time! A big thank you also to all who contributed items to the garage sale. It looks as if thanks to your effort we'll get the new toilets we so badly need!

Saturday, 13th November: Homedale Village Fair

As we had quite a bit left over from last Saturday and as Homedale had a Village Fair, we decided to give everybody another chance. Heinz put up all the signs again, and many of last Saturday's clients came again, for another bargain. Flemming, Sheila and Peter were busy - and pleased they managed to sell some more treasures. Thank you very much for your dedication!



Future Events:

Sunday, 5th December: Samichlaus – Samichlaus will come to the Clubhouse at 2pm. He will be happy to hear a poem or a song from the children. Parents, please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Please let Samichlaus's secretaries Vreni (526 9841) or Sandie (528 6960) know if you intend to come, and give them some information for Samichlaus.

Saturday, 11th December: Christmas Dinner — We'll have our traditional Christmas Dinner from 6.30pm onwards at the Clubhouse. The Christmas tree will be decorated to set the atmosphere; we will hear the Christmas story and sing well-known Christmas carols. Come and join us for a glass of sangria and enjoy our sumptuous buffet dinner, followed by coffee and biscuits! Please book by Tuesday 7th December with Vreni (526 9841) or Sandie (528 6960).

Sunday, 12th December: Carol Singing – Carol Singing will take place from 7pm at the Sound Shell at the Wellington Botanic Garden. A group of keen singers have already started practicing; if you want to join them contact Vreni (526 98 41) – or go and listen to their singing on a lovely summer Sunday evening!

Sunday, 30th January: Medal Steinstossen and BBQ at the Clubhouse

Come and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere in our Clubhouse – or, with a bit of luck, in our backyard outside; bring something to throw on the BBQ and have a chat with friends. – And then have a practice run at Steinstossen! We'll compete for the Steinstossen medals and also practice for the Cowbell Competition on 12th February in Taranaki. – The Jassers might want to brush up their skills, too, for the Cowbell Competition on 12th February and for the Medal Jassen on 12th March.

Sunday, 6th February: Shooting practice – We'd love to keep that cowbell in our clubhouse, so come and practice your shooting skills! It starts at 1pm at Paul Scherrer's place. For more information contact our riflemaster John Jordan 528 7846.

Saturday/Sunday, 12/13th February: Semifinal of the Cowbell Competition/Taranaki Picnic – The famous Taranaki Picnic is as close as you can get to a Swiss Chilbi, so come and experience it! There will be fierce competition for the cowbell – but it is also a great opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere in the Kaponga clubhouse. Highlight this weekend on your calendar already now. More information will be in the next Helvetia and in a special invitation; for details contact Roland (568 6772).

Sunday 20th February: Family Day at the Jäggi's

A day not to be missed! Highlight that date in your calendar; details will be published in the next Helvetia *tb*

Hamilton

Past Events:

The Family Walk was held on Sunday 31st October at the Puke-mokemoke Reserve on Tauhei Road north of Gordonton. This is a 40 hectare reserve that has been donated and is administered by the David Johnstone



The group of 32 heading off for the walk

Trust. There are nine sites along the track which are marked and are of special interest. There are over 300 native plant species including matai, totara, kauri, kanuka and kahikatea. We had 32 people attend, including the oldest at 84 and the youngest at 8 months. We were also accompanied by a lamb on a lead! The walk was a fairly easy 1.5 hour trek with most of the group doing this quite comfortably in that



Rosa with the lamb

time. A couple of the slower ones did a shorter walk. At the end, everyone sat around the parking area and enjoyed a picnic lunch. Unfortunately it clouded over and the wind came up, so everyone packed up and headed home. Some headed off to Meier's nearby and played cards for the rest of the afternoon.

If anyone has ideas for walks next year, please contact someone from the committee with details.

The World Rowing Champs were held at Lake Karapiro from 30 October to 7th November and two of our Hamilton Swiss Club members were very busy with volunteering. Heidi and Richard Wehrle were there every day



Heidi with some of the Swiss rowers



helping at different parts of the event, scanning tickets, ushering people to seats and lots of other jobs. Switzerland had a group of 20 rowers and supporters who stayed nearby in Karapiro village. We visited the event on the Friday and had a great day out meeting some of the Swiss team including the coach and manager. It was a fantastic event and a once in a lifetime experience.

Future Events:

Christmas Party for Families will be held on Sunday 5th December 11.30am at the Newstead School on Morrinsville Road. Again the committee will try and provide some Christmas themed activities for the younger members. If anyone wishes to share a craft or activity, please don't hesitate to come along and help out. We will be serving grilled sausages for lunch and families are asked to bring a plate of baking to share for afternoon tea. Santa will be attending and I'm sure he will have some gifts for the children. We will have the usual Christmas raffle so if you are able to donate a prize, please bring this along together with some spending money to purchase tickets.

There's also a great adventure playground and sports field, so any games like cricket, touch-rugby or tennis might be an option. Bring along whatever sport equipment you have.

Swiss Farmers Visit - 27th and 28th January and 4th/5th February - Home Stays needed!

Both groups have now been confirmed and Group 1 has 37 people and Group 2 has 36 people. These groups are quite a bit bigger than anticipated so we therefore ask members to please consider hosting some of these people. We are quite happy to have people living in town as well as on farms.

The group this time will be Dairy Farmers from Switzerland and we are looking for host families. Hosts will be paid \$80 per

person per night and for this you will need to collect guests from a central point, provide dinner on the first night, 2 x breakfasts, one lunch and something for a shared pot-luck dinner on the second night. You will need to drop them off at the central point on the last morning.

We are planning some activities for the afternoon of 28th January and 5th February which will include visits to some places of interest yet to be confirmed. This will be followed by a pot-luck dinner at a central point and families will be asked to bring something along to share. This will be sorted closer to the time.

Please phone or email me if you are able to host one or more people at your place. Please indicate if you prefer singles or couples. Some of the guests are fairly fluent in English, so hosts do not necessarily need to speak Swiss.

If you have any further queries, please contact Anita Zuber (07) 8562414 (evenings or leave a message) 0274 985 170 or email: zuber@xtra.co.nz

50 metre shooting will take place on Saturday, 19th February.

Annual Family Picnic will take place on Sunday, 20th February.

Please mark these dates in your diary. Further details in the February issue of the Helvetia as well as in the Newsletter and calendar to be sent out to members early February. AZ

Billions sent home from foreign workers' wages

A World Bank study ranked Switzerland behind the United States and Saudi Arabia as the third largest country in 2009 for transfer payments; foreign workers in Switzerland - including those who cross the border each day - transferred \$19.6 billion back home.

Of this, \$5 billion was sent home in remittances to families to meet daily needs and other expenditures - double Switzerland's official aid budget - up from \$4.1 billion in 2007.

Not all the money goes to the most needy, however. It can also create dependency, especially among states with high emigration rates.

Yet there is more or less consensus on the positive impact of stable remittance payments in lifting people out of poverty.

from swissinfo

Planned nuclear plants pass initial hurdle

Three sites for new nuclear power stations have been given a stamp of approval by the national regulatory authorities. The Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate said nuclear safety and the security of the planned facilities at Beznau, Gösgen and Mühleberg were sufficient to continue the projects.

However, the experts set a number of additional conditions to be considered ahead of the construction of the facilities which are all situated next to existing nuclear power plants.

The government is to decide on the requests by electricity companies by the middle of 2012, before parliament and, possibly, voters will have the final say. *from swissinfo*



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