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Hamilton

Past Events:

Christmas Party for Families was held on Sunday 5 December at the Newstead School. We had a great turnout with lots of families from near and wide. It was another beautiful summer's day so the children could enjoy the huge adventure playground and play games out in the field. For those wanting to do something more creative, there were activities organised inside. Again we had baked Christmas Trees and Gingerbread Men to decorate as well as cards to put together. There was also a Gingerbread House to decorate but this started to collapse before we finished decorating it. Everyone had fun and it also tasted good.



Girls admiring the decorated Gingerbread House before it collapses

Soon it was time for lunch and the guys from the committee cooked lots of sausages on the BBQ for everyone to enjoy. Kurt and Bruno provided a bit of Swiss entertainment throughout the



Santa comes to watch the pantomime before he hands out the presents.

day which was much appreciated. After lunch Santa arrived just in time to watch the children put on a small Christmas pantomime prepared by Ursula. Then Santa handed out gifts for the younger children and some not so young. Following Santa's departure, we drew the raffle prizes which had been kindly donated by everyone. Many people went away with great prizes - unfortunately not everyone can be so lucky. Finally afternoon tea and coffee was served together with a great selection of baking that had been brought along by all the families attending. This takes a bit of the burden off the committee and that way we know we always have about the right amount if everyone brings something. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this day by either helping, bringing something or providing entertainment.

Future Events:

The 2011 Newsletter and Calendar of Events will be sent out to Club Members a week or two before the picnic.

Practice Shoot - Saturday 12th February at Elmiger's place, 618/12 Maungatautari Rd, Lake Karapiro, Cambridge from 10am to 12 noon.

50 metre shooting for medals will take place on **Saturday, 19th February** from 9am at the same venue as above. Please bring your own lunch if required. For further details please phone Hans 021 658 733 or email: hans@new-tech.co.nz

Annual Family Picnic will take place on **Sunday, 20th February** at the Newstead School, Morrinsville Rd commencing at 11am. This is a day for family and friends to come along and meet other families and join in the traditional Swiss competitions of bowling and shotput. There will be grilled sausages, drink and coffee and cakes for

sale. Please remember to bring some picnic tables, chairs and sun umbrellas. The pool should be available for the children but parents take full responsibility for their children at all times in or near the pool as well as on the adventure playground. AZ

Taranaki

Past Events:

On the 28th November we held our **annual Christmas Shoot**, with competitors choosing between keglen and shooting to try and get the highest score ... although the score didn't really matter as everyone receives a prize anyway!!! The idea is that everyone brings a wrapped prize worth at least \$10.00 and then everyone receives a prize in return, with Mark purchasing some lucky draw prizes as well. Erna had, once again, organised a creative activity for the children to enjoy ... and the children certainly enjoyed being creative with glitter, stickers and glue!!! It was a beautiful, sunny day and the children also enjoyed playing outside with each other. Once all the participants had finished playing their chosen sport, it was time for a delicious pot-luck lunch ... and was there a terrific spread ... you better believe it!!! There was ample food, but it is amazing how quickly it disappears!!! The dessert tables were equally impressive, so thank you all for contributing towards such a delicious lunch. Soon the much anticipated guest arrived ... Father Christmas must have been sweltering in his suit carrying a big bag of presents. After singing a few carols, Santa distributed the presents to all the children. Then it was Mark's turn to announce the winners of the shooting and keglen, followed by all the other participants. He



then drew the lucky numbers with people receiving lovely prizes. Many thanks Mark for organising this day ... we really appreciate the effort you make. Thank you too, to all the people for coming to make the day a wonderful social occasion.

On Sunday the 12th of December we helped **Mark Kiser celebrate his 50th birthday** in style!!! The party was to be a surprise, but I think that Mark smelt a rat!!! People started to arrive from 3.00pm, and soon the centre of attention arrived!!! There was a pig on the spit (being carefully watched over by Othmar and Adrian), ham and a huge variety of salads, followed by fruit salad and ice cream. It was a beautiful afternoon, and people enjoyed chatting outside, as well as in the hall. Martin organised a game, whereby Mark raced a scooter against his two more youthful nephews, through a windy track. All three men participated in style, with Mark the eventual winner ... very gentlemanly of you Michael and Nick!!! Want to keep on the good side of Uncle Mark, eh?!!! Many thanks to all those who helped to organise this lovely party for Mark, and to everyone for coming to help him celebrate his half century!!! Mark, we wish you many more happy and healthy years. On be-

half of the Taranaki Swiss Club members, I would like to thank Mark very much for his valuable contribution to our Club ... organising the shooting events, the Anniversary Shoot and the Christmas Shoot plus much more. **THANK YOU MARK!!!**

New Year's Eve ... the 31st of December of course!!! See the old year out, and the new one in!!! Once again this function was held in conjunction with the Campervan Association and superbly organised by Ruedi and Lisette Benkert and Leo and Doreen Zehnder. Driving through the gates, our property looked like a mini village with thirty-two campervans parked on the beautifully mowed grounds ... many thanks Johnny for making the grounds look so attractive ... Many campervanners complimented us on the beautiful grounds and well-looked after hall ... it is a credit to all those who help maintain and clean our property!!! It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon-come-evening, and people were seated outside enjoying happy hour, getting tea ready or listening to the lovely music coming from the hall. Some people enjoyed their tea outside, others had a bite in their van ... everyone did what they pleased. Around 8.00pm everyone was seated in the hall having

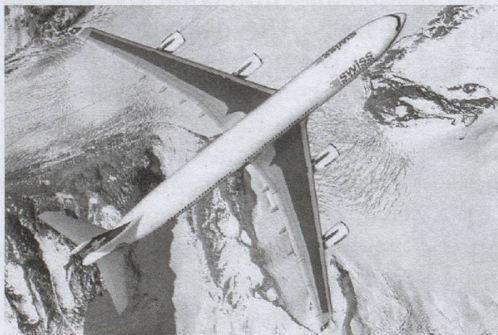
a chat, and waiting for the evening's entertainment to unfold. People told jokes, others acted out skits, several games were played and we were, once again, thrilled to have the musical talents of Trevor Sharpe and Alan and Pam Southey to entertain our crowd of approximately 80 - 90 people ... they play and sing great tunes which people love to hear ... many thanks for coming again and we hope that you, too, enjoyed your night. We managed to squeeze in supper before midnight, as well as the popular raffles ... many thanks for all generously purchasing so many tickets. All glasses were filled with wine or lemonade to toast the New Year ... and let's hope that we all have a good 2011 in good health. Music continued to play until ... well, we won't tell tales!!! A thoroughly enjoyable evening, amid good company, many laughs and much chatter ... what more could you want?!!!

Future Events:

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

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break ... come along and support Johnny our keglen master ... and have some great fun!!!

February 12: Members of the Wellington Swiss Club will be venturing north to take on the mighty Taranaki Swiss Club in the semi-final of the Cowbell competition. Now don't worry Wellington ... we're not that fierce!!! Our friends will arrive for lunch on the Saturday, with the competitions starting early afternoon. We do require people to participate in the Jassen, Keglen, Steinstossen and Shooting, so if you are keen please ring Othmar ... he looks forward to hearing from you. A dinner will be held on the Saturday evening, so please ring a committee member for further information.

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.

March 3 & 17: Keglen again ... starts at 8.00pm. This group has a lot of fun, a few drinks and supper ... and enjoy friendly rivalry in the keglen. If you are interested, please ring Johnny Bishop for further information.

March 7: The AGM of the Taranaki Swiss Club will be held at 8.00pm ... so please support your club and hear what happened in the last year, and look forward to the new one. These meetings aren't long, so it's a good time to catch up with friends too!!!

March 20: Championship/Society Shoot at 1.00pm. Mark organises these afternoons, so please give him a call if you are interested. He would love to have a few more competitors!!! Children are welcome to participate, and Mark can offer coaching. Make his day, and turn up!!!

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we advise readers of the death of Antoinette Hess (nee Hospenthal) in a vehicle accident in Stratford on 12 January. Her daughter Rebecca, and brother Zeno Hospenthal were both seriously injured in the accident, and we all wish them a speedy and full recovery. Our sincere condolences to Martin, Toni, Zeno and Rebecca Hess and the Hospenthal family on their sad loss. Our thoughts are with you all. An obituary will follow in a future issue.

MD

Auckland

Past Events:

Läbchueche Decorating, 21 November 2010

After last year's attendants had set the bar incredibly high with regards to decorating excellence, the registrations for this year's Läbchueche Decorating were trickling in rather slowly. But a last minute surge in participants meant that 21 big and



Father and son team up

small artists gathered at Waitoki hall to play with chocolate and let their creativity run wild on the pre-baked Läbchueche from the Swiss Bliss Chocolate Factory. After the expert introduction by Edith everyone got busy applying icing, marzipan, chocolate, 100's and 1000's as well as all the other colourful decorating materials and all the Läbchueche turned into real pieces of art. A big part was also wandering around and marveling at the others' artworks and maybe even nicking some ideas.

After some chatting and catching up with coffee and chocolates from Swiss Bliss the Läbchueche got packed up with Christmas ribbons and everyone left in a happy mood.

So, remember, mark your calendar now to be part of this event next year on Sunday the 20th November 2011.

Edith Müller, E. & L. Lanz

Pub Night, 3 December 2010

In spite of the busy pre-Christmas time a small group of seven people got together at 'The Post' in Mount Eden for the last Pub Night of the year. It was the first Pub Night ever for five of them, and because of the small number of people we had the chance to get to know each other quite well.

With this evening in the warm summer night, the lovely atmosphere around the Pub's garden and the great company, our second successful Swiss and Knusprig year came to an end. We would like to thank everybody for supporting us and wish you a merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

The first pub night this year will be on Friday 04 February in Howick. See below for details.

Santa, 05 December 2010

For many Swiss expats, our Santa celebration is the highlight of the Swiss year. 2010's Santa certainly lived up to all expectations. The glorious summer day helped too. Santa O.R. arrived in his true style via helicopter,



A happy child

greeted by delighted children, parents and friends. In his usual professional way he talked to over 60 children at their own level, brought them lots of joy, and a Santa bag. More than ever



Lolly scramble

we realised how essential it is that the children are registered beforehand - we only just had the right amount of bags prepared, as some children had come as a surprise. They only got their pressies because others had not made it - like our Ambassador's children; there was no plane from Wellington!

The BBQd Swiss sausages, accompanied by salads, Erdbeertörtli, Swiss pastries and more, were well received. Due to an unprecedented turn out - we estimate there were more than 150 people - we did not exactly run out of food, but some people were not able to get their first choice. It did not seem to dampen anyone's good spirits.

A 'Kasperli Theater' (puppet show) followed, complete with scary crocodile, and a lot of chatting too. Everyone went home with lovely memories.

A very special thanks to Santa. Once again you made the day. We do hope for many happy returns!



The audience

Christmas Carol singing 11 December 2010

A beautifully decorated hall greeted us - thanks to the Danish Club where we held the event. Rosemarie accompanied the old favourite Swiss Christmas songs expertly on her Yamaha. To rest our voices we had musical items in between the singing. Thank you very much Peter Vogel for playing your alphorn so beautifully, it fitted in very well. Thanks also to my recorder playing and singing friends, I really enjoy making music together. We did not exactly have a huge crowd, but everyone had a good time, and a long yarn over biscuits and cake afterwards.

Future Events:

Friday 04 February from 8pm: Pub night in Howick. Howick Club, 107 Botany Road, Howick www.howickclub.co.nz. The last pub night we had out East was the biggest we had so far with 30 people attending. Let's see if we can top that for our February 2011 pub night! This time without music - I'm sure some of you will be very pleased about that. If you have any questions, please contact Tanja by email: swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or call 021 101 4432.

Friday 11 February: Jass coaching for beginners, and Jassen without pressure. 7.30pm, Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

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once taught you, or to learn from scratch. It is a fun evening for beginners and those who would like to better their game. No ranking, there will be a spot prize or two. The 'serious' - or rather the 'official' Jassen will start again in March.

Sunday 13 February: Annual picnic at the Swiss farm.

From 10.30am. Come and enjoy a day at YOUR farm in good company. Have a go at Kegeln, Air rifle target shooting, sack gumpé and more. There will be a puppet show in Swiss German (by special demand) for the little ones, a genuine Kasperli Theater. Your children will love it.

Bratwurst, Wienerli, Cabanossi, bread, Nussgipfel, drinks will be for sale.

We will be holding the Society Medal Competition for Kegeln and Steinstossen on the day too; your chance to win a medal!

You may want to spend the Saturday night at the Farm, bring your tent, or an airbed, or use the bunks. Let Marcel know if you intend to do that; he will make sure the gate is open for you: 0274901836 Ruedi@orcon.net.nz

Saturday 26 February: Club night. At the farm, from 4pm onward.

Another chance to spend the evening/night in beautiful country. Informal get together of Swiss, friends and families, to have a good chat, play games, have dinner together, stay the night if you like. You bring your own food, drink, bedding. BBQ available. Please contact Yvonne and Markus Bühler, 8323334, or buhler@paradise.net.nz

Sunday 27 February: Beach party, Long Bay.

From 10.30am. Park at the last carpark and look out for a Swiss flag. We intend to be on the left side (facing the sea). Bring your picnic or meat to barbeque. If weather uncertain, please phone Lukas / Erika on 4796503 or Tanja on 0211014432

Looking forward to March, and more .

Did you know there is a calendar with all the events at the Swiss Club website?

www.swiss.org.nz/auckland

Mark your calendar now for the next few events, and for some extra special ones:

Friday 04 March: Pub night, place to be announced

Saturday 09 April: Jodler-Abend, Point Chevalier RSA, Pt Chevalier, Auckland. See and hear our Yodlers in action, and support them for the competition (Eidgenössisches Jodlerfest) in Interlaken, Switzerland in June. More in the next Helvetia.

Friday 11 March: Jassen at the Danish Club

Sunday 10 April: Tree adventure in Woodhill Forest

Saturday in May, date to be confirmed: Market day. After last year's success, this one promises to be even better. Stalls will be in big demand. If you are interested, contact Tanja now: swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or 0211 014432

OTHER NEWS

Zwetschgen anyone?

(Prune Plums, Damson plums): Remember the purple ones with the yellow flesh, which you can break open like apricots, the stone separates easily. Wonderful to eat, to make 'Wähe, Tünne, Flade', great to freeze, to make jam, even to dry. Peter Schuler from Whakatane has an orchard with those delicacies. He assures us the crop looks promising this year. But they will not know how good it is until picking time. Weather may still play havoc between now and then. If all goes well picking should be around the end of February. Peter would deliver a load to Auckland if we get a large enough order. You would need to pick them up from

Edith in Glenfield. They come in lots of 10kg, and cost between \$35 and \$40. Please let us know **now** if you are interested. We will confirm closer to the time. Contact Nelly at 4794038 (answerphone) or nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz . Give us your home and/or mobile phone number, and your email address.

Please pass this message onto your friends, so we can get a large enough order. Some other Europeans love them too - my Serbian friend has reserved hers already!

Swiss Women singers invite you to join - anyone from Eastern bays?

A dozen of us get together twice a month, on a Tuesday night at 7.30pm, at Edith's place in Glenfield. We sing some of the old favourites, and learn new ones, enjoy great camaraderie and have lots of fun. Barbara comes all the way from Howick, and would be very happy to give someone from that area a ride. Any others most welcome too. Please contact Edith 4446972, ehess@xtra.co.nz, or Nelly 4794038, nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz

Best wishes to all Swiss Kiwis and their families for a happy, healthy 2011.

Nelly Steinemann for the Committee of the Auckland Swiss Club.

Wellington

Past Events:

On Sunday December 5th, children were gathering in the clubhouse, chatting and drawing while waiting for **Samichlaus**. Then Samichlaus and Schmutzli arrived through the backdoor, and there was silence. Some children had brought presents for Samichlaus and even for Schmutzli, some others had pre-



Samichlaus, Schmutzli and friends

pared songs and musics. Samichlaus seemed to know a lot about every single child present. Luckily all kids had been good over the year and Schmutzli did not take anyone in his bag... although it was a close call for Maya! OS

Another scrumptious **Christmas dinner** was held at the Wellington Swiss Club on Saturday 11 December. We were entertained by Murray Simons with a lovely Christmas poem and the children playing their parts as Mary (Zita), Joseph (Daniel), angel (Ariana) and shepherd (Ashley). The three wise men were indeed very wise men: Roland, Heinz and Peter. The Swiss Club Choir performed their Christmas songs and everyone joined in singing a few German and English carols finishing with Carolyn (at the piano) being surrounded by kids singing a few children's carols. Lots of fun was had by all, and the Christmas ham was as always, DELICIOUS! *sasi*

Sunday, 12th December: **Carol Singing**. We'd also had a fine time singing old favourite carols



Warming up (with schnapps) while waiting to sing



Swiss Choir and German friends performing at the Soundshell

in the Botanical Gardens. Our Swiss Club singers were joined by a number of German friends, so we did ourselves proud. CL

Future Events:

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 rifle master John Jordan 528 7846.

Saturday/Sunday, 12th/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. For details please contact Roland on 568 6772.

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

A day not to be missed! The Family Day will take place at Heinz and Trix Jäggi's place, 23 Crest Road, Akatarawa, Upper Hutt, starting at 11.30am. Those who have been there know that this event is the perfect venue for a lovely summer gathering and a leisurely chat while enjoying a BBQ. Please bring your own picnic/BBQ food. The Jäggis have created a wonderful, ever-expanding playground.

For further information and for bookings (so the organizers know how many people to expect) and for cancellation if the weather is marginal, please contact Sandie on 528 6960 or Odile 586 3095.

Saturday, 12th 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. *tb*

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