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## Wellington

### Past Events:

#### Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> January: Medal Steinstossen and BBQ at the Clubhouse

Although a little windy, the weather was rather pleasant for our first event of 2011. Many had brought some sausages and delicious salads or desserts to share. There were over 20 participants, including two tables of very concentrated Jass players. We even had visitors from Switzerland!

OS

#### Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> February: Shooting practice

This shooting competition had the highest turnout for the last few years. The competition is open to all, and competitors included experienced shooters as well as first timers.

One of the highlights of the day was the guest appearance of Roland and his Swiss Army rifle. Some got to have a go with this rifle for the very first time.

Everybody was having such a good time that we did not even have time left for the much awaited Mad Minute.... maybe next time?

JJ

#### Saturday/Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> February: Semi-final of the Cowbell Competition/Taranaki Picnic

Saturday was a wonderful summer day, and the clubhouse grounds were as perfectly groomed as always. The Taranaki Swiss Club welcomed us with juicy BBQd Cervelats and Bratwurst and a glass of whatever we liked - and then the hard work began.



Jassers in full concentration

We had thought we might win the Steinstossen, with our superb strong young men, but Taranaki managed to muster young strong men, too, and we lost the Steinstossen by 1m. Our shooters won the shooting, thanks to excellent coaching and diligent, conscientious practice. Jassen was a drawn-out affair. It looked promising in the beginning, but then we must have had a long run of



Shooting in Kaponga

bad luck, and no matter how hard we tried, Taranaki won. And Kegeln went against us, too - so we'll have the coveted cowbell in our clubhouse only until June.

The Taranaki club did their best to cheer us up with a rich afternoon tea and a grand selec-



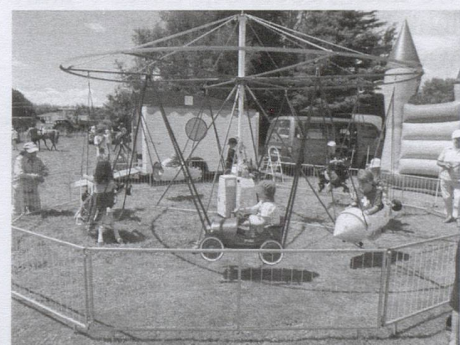
A well deserved break

tion of baking, followed by a superb dinner; what a variety of salads and cold meat and cheese and potatoes! And more baking, and more coffee - they really spoilt us.

The accommodation was great, too, be it with Taranaki friends, be it in the Swiss Club Camping ground. Even a camper van was provided, so that our president could sleep in style!

On Sunday morning the Taranaki club offered us the opportunity to do the Karabinerschossen; thank you! We do appreciate that we can shoot over 300m in Taranaki.

Sunday was the Taranaki Picnic with Chilbi and Schwingfest. By the time I got there the flags were up, the music installed; the marquees provided shade, the



Swiss-style Rösslispiel

ponies were ready, the castle was blown up, the sawdust was hosed and two rows of seats arrived. It is the event of the year, and everybody had a great time meeting old friends, making new friends. Sausages disappeared by the dozens, and ice creams were in great demand. Lössli were sold, and there were so many prizes that even I won one.

## NEW SWISS-KIWI

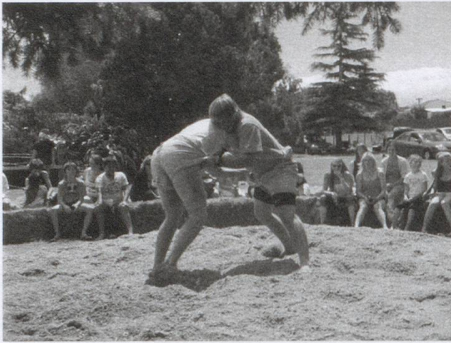


### Max Williams

Mark and Rahel Williams

with Jake and Zoe are excited to welcome Max into their family.

He was born on the 7 February, 2011 weighing 3260g



Schwingers in action

The big attraction was the Schwingfest, and most people congregated around the sawdust, encouraging their favourite



Schwingers - spectators

Schwingers. Our young and strong men were quite a force to be reckoned with, and they deserved their prizes.

Only too soon we had to leave. We had a good trip home - and look forward to next year! Thank you to all the Wellington Swiss who made the trip - and a huge

thank you to the Taranaki Swiss for their overwhelming hospitality!  
*tb*

**Future Events:**

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm: Medal Jassen at the Clubhouse**

This is your chance to win a precious medal and have a great evening with friends for only \$5, supper included. Please register your interest with Trudi (562 80 19). We'll try to have tables of four players each. The more tables we have, the greater the fun - and the more medals we get, too!  
*tb*

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm: Gesprächsrunde zum Thema Altersschwerhörigkeit at the Clubhouse**

Trudi will give a short introduction into hearing and the problems of hearing loss - and might have some suggestions on how to make life easier for the person with the hearing loss and everybody around him or her.  
*tb*

**Saturday, 16 April, 7pm: AGM at the Clubhouse**

Every year the club members are getting together for some nibbles, to discuss the club's past year and what improvements could be made. Important deci-

sions are also made in this meeting. This is your chance to get involved in the club's activities. So please earmark this date in your calendar and come along! For more information give Roland 568 6772 or Vreni 526 9841 a yell. Invitations will follow. OS

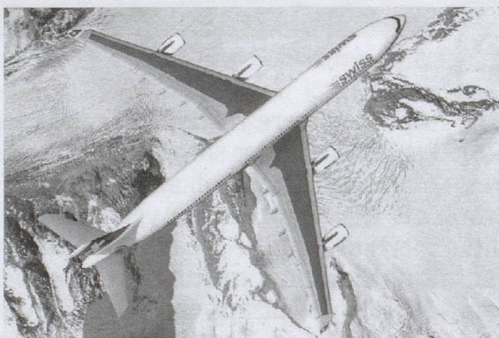


**Past Events:**

**New Members Day - Sunday 23 January**

We were impressed how many new members had braved the rain and wind, and joined the committee including the farm committee for a delicious Bolognese lunch, courtesy of - who else could it be - our chef Edith. It was great to see you all, thanks for coming. It would have been nice to go for a walk on the farm - but this was not meant to be! Did you know your farm measures about 80 hectares? A large part of it is regenerating bush. Some 4½ hectares are planted pine trees - half a hectare is old and ready to harvest, but we will wait for an opportunity to share equipment with

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neighbours as it is a small lot. Two hectares were harvested some 12 years ago, and replanted at that stage. Two hectares are five year old trees. A small part of the farm is paddocks, and of course the buildings which you will be familiar with by now.

## Working bee, Saturday 29 January

Once again an event was held in the aftermath of a cyclone. The drive took us past flooded paddocks. Some of us had wanted to



Friendly committee members at the end of the working bee

cancel the event altogether - but of course our Presi had been right, the weather did clear by the time Saturday morning came, and over two dozen keen workers made the farm presentable for the Picnic, with a lot of outside work, and cleaning inside. Again this was followed by a nice lunch. I must try and make Edith's Risotto, it looked so easy, and tasted yummy, along with the meat patties, salads and cakes. The medal shooting followed.

## Pub night Friday 04 February

The pub night at the Howick Club attracted a different crowd from the usual, 17 people came and enjoyed meeting other Swiss Club members. Keep an eye out for the next pub night on 04 March.

## Jass coaching Friday 11 February

More teachers than students attended the coaching, so there were a few competitive games as well as teaching of the basics. It

made me realise how much there is to this game, a bit like driving a car, you have to pay attention to so much all at once. We have decided to run another coaching session at the next Jass evening - see below.

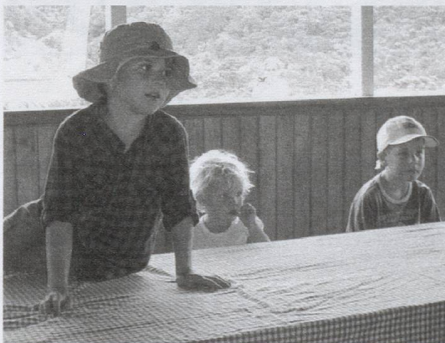
## Picnic Sunday 13 Feb

This time it was the quality rather than the quantity that counted: Despite the wonderful



Albert and Edith at the picnic

summer day, the picnic was not as well attended as we had expected. About 40 people made it. But a good time it was, the Swiss sausages, salads and baked good-



Children wait for Kasper

ies were delicious, and the entertainment enjoyed by children and some of the adults alike. Despite all our good intention, our Kasperli Theatre ended up being in English rather than Schwitzer-tütsch - out of the eight children only three spoke Swiss German, it did not seem fair. Sackgumpe, Tug of war and other games kept the children entertained later, whilst the adults had a good Swiss chat.

## Sports Results from the Picnic:

EZIO CUP (Kegeln)

1<sup>st</sup>. Peter Arnold

2<sup>nd</sup>. Marcel Ruedi

3<sup>rd</sup>. Dominic Hess

LANDJÄGER KEGELN:

Group 1: Othmar Storchenegger

Group 2: Peter Arnold

Group 3: Lukas Ziegler

Group 4: Lukas Lanz

On a personal note, I consider myself very lucky to be able to write this report, when I think of our journey back home: We were driving behind a very slow agricultural monster, waiting for the road to be straight to overtake, and did just that, when he blinked to the right (a very dim blinker, the sun shining into it did not help) and made a right hand turn right in front of us. Fortunately our brakes did work. Just a warning for us city drivers, watch out for those farming vehicles, they behave in an unpredictable way!

## Future Events:

**Pub night Friday 04 March 8pm: Bricklane Bar & Restaurant, 5 Clark St, New Lynn**

First pub night in the West of Auckland. As usual, tried out and approved by our Swiss and Knusprig Team. See: [www.bricklane.co.nz](http://www.bricklane.co.nz). Start the weekend with a happy night in great company!

**Jassen Friday 11 March, 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.** Finally we are starting our official Jassen.

But there is more to it: You can also come and receive expert tuition, without joining into the 'serious' competition. There will be a separate coaching table, with one or two of the experienced Jassers to teach. No pressure there at all, you don't have to play the 48 games the others do, you are encouraged to discuss your decisions, show your cards. Do give it a go!



**Feldschiessen Sat / Sun 19-20 March.** Start time 10:00am. If you intend to come, please let our Rifle Master Henry Werffeli werffeli@orcon.net.nz know so he can plan for the amount of Ammo and Rifles he has to take up to the shooting range. Anyone is welcome to participate.

**Stammtisch Friday 26 March from 4pm.**

Your opportunity to spend an evening, and if you like a night, at the farm. Chat, play games, enjoy the scenery, let the kids play. This is a low key affair, BYO food (BBQ there), drinks, bedding if you like. Please contact Yvonne and Markus Bühler, 8323334, or buhler@paradise.net.nz

**April and beyond:**

**Pub night Friday 01 April**, it will be at the Shore, Albany or Browns Bay area.

**Jassen Friday 08 April**

**Tree Adventure Sunday 10 April**, Woodhill Forest.

**Swiss Market Day, Saturday 07 May, 8am to 3pm, at the Danish Club in Penrose**

This year's market will be even bigger and better! We are looking forward to wonderful Swiss and European products, food and entertainment. After last year's success we are now going to have a "Festhütte" - a party tent for your lunch and entertainment to give it even more of a Swiss atmosphere!

Every Market is only as good as the products offered! We are looking for any kind of interesting, traditional or not, Swiss or European style products to offer at the market. It doesn't have to be Swiss nor does the exhibitor have to be Swiss - if you have anything in mind, even if it's your friend or relative, please get in touch with us, we would love to hear from you. We are trying to make it a really special market day but need your help to succeed. Please contact Tanja

on: swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz or 09 627 8777 or 0211 014432.

**Swiss Kiwi Yodel Ball** (and you don't need to hire a ball costume, dress code is informal!),

**Saturday 09 April, 6.30pm (dinner at 7.30)**

**Pt. Chevalier RSA, 1136 Gt. North Rd, Pt. Chevalier**

Price: \$ 45.00 p.p. incl. Dinner & entertainment,

Dancing to the 60`s/70`s music with DJ Martin Van Doorn

Tickets have been selling fast; but you may be lucky to still get one:

Contact the Swiss Bakery at 489 9737, or Ursula and Peter Arnold 4794487, petula2005@gmail.com

This is a fundraiser for our Yodlers, who again will compete in the Swiss Yodelfest this year, held in Interlaken in June. NS



**Past Events:**

On February the 12<sup>th</sup> we held the semi-final of the Cowbell competition at our Club house in Kaponga. We eagerly awaited the arrival of the Wellingtonians for a lunch of barbequed cervelats and bratwurst ... actually we waited quite a while for Roland ... but we're used to that!!! He was ever so lucky not to get a burnt barbequed sausage!!! Hey, but the wait is worth it!!! After lunch, we started with the steinstossen (Markus was in a bit of a fluster because he couldn't find the tape-measure ... only to find out that he had had a man's look!!!) ... and we were certainly lucky that Antoni Sherman and Thomas Werder (who travelled especially for this event from Patea) participated, as we only won this event by the smallest of

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margins ... 1.06m!!! Thank you so much guys for making the effort ... you were certainly needed!!! Next the shooting and keglen got underway. Wellington won the shooting by a small margin too ... 4 points!!! How much closer could it get? In the Keglen Taranaki won by 10 points with Tim Bishop and Paul Amstalden being the top scorers (well done, guys!!!) ... and then we had to await the outcome of the Jassen



The delicious spread for the Saturday evening meal

games to see if we would win the semi-final or if a rematch in cards would be required in the event of a draw. At the end of the card games the Taranaki contingent won this event thus resulting in us winning the semi-final of the Cowbell competition. Sadly one of our Wellington friends who travelled up was unwell and couldn't make it to the competitions ... we hope that you are much better now Vreni, and look forward to catching up with you in Wellington at the AGM of the Swiss Society. Thank you to all the participants from both clubs for ensuring that a competition was held, and it was great to see that friendly sportsmanship prevailed. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves, and those not participating in the competition appreciated a chat with friends or making new acquaintances. And that's certainly what the competition is about!!! In the evening a dinner was held of cold cuts, salads, cheese and potatoes in their jackets, followed by icecream and fruit salad. We certainly hope that you all enjoyed the dinner, and that you replenished all the

calories you lost during the hard-fought competitions!!! Many thanks to the members of the Wellington Swiss Club for travelling north ... we always enjoy your company ... and we look forward to seeing you in June.

On the following day, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February, our annual picnic was held at the clubhouse. We were all a little apprehensive of the weather, as the forecast had



Beat and Franz do battle



Richard bites the dust ... but comes up smiling!!!



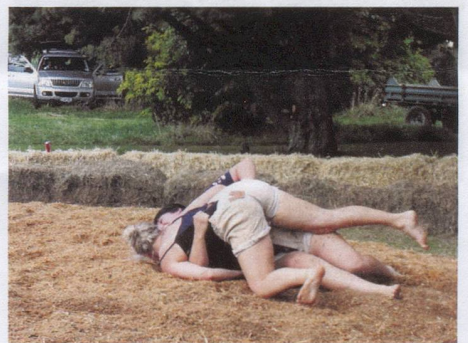
Our Schwingenkönig Sami Werder being hoisted up by Daniel Gut and Kim Danz

not been terribly good ... but we needn't have worried!!! The day dawned beautiful and sunny, and it looked like it would be a hot one too!!! Many committee members arrived bright and early to set up ... and soon cars started

rolling in. We had visitors from Switzerland; people from the Waikato, Auckland and Marton, as well as our friends from Wellington ... it was really great to have so many visitors to our club, with many people making new friends. Remigi had a few keen shooters who shot some of the karabiner programmes and appreciated him giving up his time. The barbecues were fired up, and Leo, Walter, Doreen,



The team at the BBQs



Sonja Werder and Andrea Hebler give the Schwingen a go ... they feel that women's wrestling should be part of next year's competition!!! Go girls!!!

Heidi, Lisette and Marianne did a wonderful job in the terrific heat!!! Many a kilo of bratwurst and cervelats were sold ... sometimes the queue seemed endless!!! Thanks to the Swiss Deli for always providing top quality sausages and fine meats to our club ... we all love your products, and long may you continue to provide us this service. Our grateful thanks to Stratford New World for donating all the bread ... we really appreciate your generosity, and hope that many Swiss reciprocate some business to you!!! We completely sold out of ice creams before 2.00pm ... and we had 180 ... so, sorry if



you missed out, but it's not easy to judge how many people will come to the picnic!!! The beverages were also well-patronised, with the products being kept nice and cool in a drink chiller which Othmar organised ... thanks Othmar, and it was a great idea!!! Markus had the shotput under control, with Thomas Werder taking out the men's title, and Karen Angell winning the women's trophy (yet, again ... we really need to find some stronger competition for you, Karen!!!). Soon after 12.00pm the Schwingen started, with many more participants than in the last few years ... 18 seniors and 14 juniors!!! This created a bit of a headache time-wise ... but all ended well!!! The



Othmar and Toni playing an alphorn duet.

competition in the seniors was fierce, with four participants having equal points at the end of the preliminary rounds ... so Kim Danz, Daniel Gut, Franz Schuler (not the referee!!!) and Sami Werder battled it out in the semi-finals, with the final bout being between Kim Danz and Sami Werder. Kim didn't have much of a break between his last two bouts, but upon losing the final said that if he had had a bigger break it would only have prolonged the agony!!! Congratulations to all the participants, especially the semi-finalists, for providing wonderful entertainment and showing great sportsmanship ... we all appreciated your dedication and effort. Well done, Sami, on your great win, and we hope to catch you all again next year. The junior's winner's trophy was awarded to Kieran Sio-

netama, but it was later realised that an error had been made in the recording, so the coveted cowbell goes to Paul Whakatutu with Michael Appert the runner-up. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club we offer our most sincere apologies, Kieran, for the error. It was neat to see so many youngsters competing, and we hope to see you again next year. The only little blemish was an injury to Peter Arnold, but an x-ray revealed no broken bones, so we hope your neck ache leaves you soon. Many thanks to Franz Schuler for being our referee, and to his wonderful team of helpers for taking the scores ... we really appreciate your help. A big thank you to Yvonne Arnold for bringing along two ponies for children to have rides on, and HUGE thanks, once again, to Reg and Rose Tecofsky for bringing kiddies amusements for the many children to enjoy ... we are so very grateful for your continued support of our picnic. During the Schwingen, the tombola tickets were sold ... all 950 of them ... and we wish to thank all those who so generously purchased tickets ... as the saying goes, you've got to be in to win!!! We wish to say a BIG HUGE thank you to Richard and Yolanda Foale of Heliview for donating a "port to peak" helicopter ride as a tombola prize, and which was, once again, won by a tourist!!! We are appreciative of your support Richard and Jolanda, and hope that many Swissies take to the air with you!!! Mark is our expert with the children's fishing game, and he was kept busy all day ... well done, Mark, and thank you very much. At the end of the Schwingen, the barbeques were lit again, and the remaining sausages were grilled and sold ... and we sold out of them too!!! Peter Canziani played music all day ... and night ... and we thank you very much for your big effort ... your talents are truly appreciated. Many of us thought about Zeno still in hospital, and we all hope that you will be able to attend our next function ...we

missed you!!! Many people left soon after, and about sixty to seventy lingered on and chatted and drank a glass or two or more ... many committee members felt it was the right time to put their feet up and relax ... and rightly so ... it had been a hectic day!!! Just to make sure we didn't go home hungry, a delicious tea of 'spaghetti bolognese' and salad was had ... it went down a treat after so much barbequed meat and assorted cold cuts over the weekend!!! It was a great way to end a wonderful and social weekend ... well it didn't really end then ... by the sounds, the last ones went to bed at 1.00am!!! We're a hardy bunch in Taranaki!!! Huge thanks to all the committee members and helpers for assisting over the weekend, and a special thank you to the Zehnders and Benkerts for cleaning the hall a few hours after they had gone to bed!!! Everyone's help was most gratefully appreciated, and the biggest thanks must go to all those who attended the picnic. We hope to see many of you at future functions.

### *Future Events:*

**March 3 & 17: Keglen** again ... starts at 8.00pm. This group has a lot of fun, a few drinks and supper ... and enjoys 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!!!

**March 26:** The Taranaki Swiss Club is participating in this year's **Taranaki Multi Ethnic Parade** starting at 10.30am at the corner of Gover and Gill Streets, and we would love to have a big contingent ... so please come along!!! The parade proceeds along Devon Street and finishes at the Clock Tower, with entertainment to follow at the Yarrow Stadium from 11.30am to 3.30pm ... so come along and enjoy other cultures too!!!

**April**

By the beginning of the month you should have received the new calendar of events and newsletter for the coming year. If for some reason you don't receive one, please call Marianne.

**April 9: Our Fondue Evening** will be held to coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of our Clubhouse. Preiskegeln will be held from 2.00pm with dinner of fondue/sausages served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. We look forward to seeing you!!!

MD

# Hamilton

*Past Events:*

**Swiss Farmers touring groups were hosted by the Hamilton Swiss Club** at the end of January and the first weekend in February. The first group consisted of 37 people, mostly farmers and were hosted by 15 different families, some on farms, some on lifestyle blocks and some in Hamilton because we couldn't find enough farmers. The second group consisted of 36 people and were again hosted by 15 families, some the same as the previous week and few new ones. Both groups had arrived in Christchurch and travelled to Dunedin, Invercargill, Queens-



Second group of Swiss Farmers departing from the Matangi Hall

town and back to Christchurch. They visited many farms and agricultural or commercial establishments along the way including some Swiss Farmers. They then flew from Christchurch to Rotorua and visited Hamilton on their way up to the Bay of Islands. Both groups had the chance to visit Fonterra in Te Rapa and the first group visited Waikato Stud in Matamata. The second group spent a whole day with their host families and many did bush walks, visited beaches, went to the Horse Races or had a quiet day on the farm. The visitors were all very enthusiastic about their host families and were very grateful to get an insight in to the everyday life in

New Zealand, whether on a farm or in a Swiss Family home. Both groups were welcomed to a Pot Luck dinner at the Matangi Hall where all the hosts provided salads and baking and the club provided sausages from the BBQ. Terra Travel paid for the drinks. Many thanks to all the host families for welcoming these guests in to your homes. Families were all paid an allowance towards their efforts but I'm sure most people did not do it for this reason. I'm not sure if we will get another opportunity like this and I'm not sure if families will be prepared to host a group like this again, but I'm quite happy to receive your feedback and comments so that if and when this opportunity arises, I will know what answer to give the tour organisers. (Anita Zuber - group co-ordinator)

*Future Events:*

**Friday to Sunday 25th - 27th March - Ruapehu Weekend Hikes** staying in bunk-style accommodation at Tokoroa Hut. For further details please ring Vitus (07) 855-2841. There will be various walks organised to accommodate all levels of fitness.

**Friday, 29th April - Annual General Meeting/new Ambassador's visit** (to be confirmed) - 8.00pm, venue to be confirmed. The committee would really appreciate your feedback 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, 1st May - Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Hamilton vs Auckland.**

The Hamilton Club will this year be hosting this event. If you would like 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.

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