

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 77 (2011)
Heft: [5]

Rubrik: Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 09.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



Taranaki

Past Events:

We have already had two card afternoons, with the first one being well-patronised, but unfortunately the second one didn't have as many participants. Please do support Walter and join in the card afternoons. Results are as follows:

17 April:

Jassen

1st Ruedi Benkert

2nd Frieda Meier

3rd Walter Seifert, Berta Hughes and Jean Fuglistaller, with Walter winning the cut.

Booby prize went to Josie Gillbanks.

Euchre

1st Bertha Kuriger

Booby prize went to her husband John. Bertha you must have got all the good cards!!! Next time share them with John!!!

Raffle winners were Heidi Werder, Berta Sidler and Josie Gillbanks.

1 May:

Jassen

1st Maya Stutz

2nd Heidi Seifert

3rd Josie Gillbanks (must have had a better day, Josie!!!) and Othmar Hebler, with Josie winning the cut.

Booby prize went to Berta Sidler.

Sadly there were insufficient Euchre players. Sorry Kathleen ... better luck next time!!!

Raffle winners were Othmar Hebler, Josie Gillbanks and Maya Stutz.

On Sunday 15th May we held the annual Swiss Society competitions ... well, the weather was about as good as at the Swiss Society AGM last June!!! It wasn't

all that cold, but was it wet?!!! You better believe it!!! We decided to cancel the shot put due to the wet, and also to avoid injury by people slipping over. Fortunately some people had chosen to shoot on a previous Sunday, so there weren't too many people who had to duck across to the shooting shed!!! Everyone else stayed huddled up inside enjoying a catch-up!!! In the shooting our top-scorer was Remigi Zimmermann with 78 points, followed by Mark Kiser (76), Joe Kiser (73) and Peter Kaiser (72).

In the Keglen Adrian Drummond top-scored with 53 points, followed by Mark Kiser (51), our rifle master Johnny Bishop (50) and Remigi Zimmermann (46). Sadly we only had a few tables of card players but the lucky and/or skilled were: 1st Heidi Seifert, 2nd Berta Sidler, 3rd Mathias Seifert and 4th Marlies Hebler. Our grateful thanks to Zeno von Hospenthal for making the numbers even, and showing how playing cards with one hand is quite achievable ... great commitment to your club, Zeno. Our luckiest punter was Walter Seifert who won the voucher for two complimentary dinners at the Sauerkraut evening ... well done ... if you didn't win a medal, at least you didn't go home empty-handed like some of us!!! Thank you to all the people who ventured out on such a terribly wet and windy day; special thanks to the four juniors who participated ... the Hess and Drummond boys ... let's see if we can pick a better day next year and increase participation!!! If anyone has any ideas on a better time to hold these events, please do not hesitate to contact Othmar, Zeno or Marianne. We appreciate any feedback. Several people stayed on for further games of cards, and then a potluck tea was held with a few more people venturing out. Thank you all for making the effort, and we hope that you all enjoyed yourselves and had a few laughs.

Future Events:

June – Some of our members will go to Wellington, and we're hoping that they return with the coveted cowbell ... we will see!!! Good luck anyway, and I'm sure that you will have a great weekend!!! Look out Wellington, the country bumpkins are on the loose!!!

June 12 & 19: Jassen/Euchre at 1.15pm. Come and enjoy a game of cards on a winter afternoon. It's a good time to catch up with friends.

June 19: Final Championship Shoot at 1.00pm, so come along and support Mark.

Juniors are most welcome, with Mark willing to give some coaching tips.

The club is holding its second potluck tea of the year, so come and make a day of it. Preceding dinner, we will have a Happy Hour for people to mix and mingle over the odd drink. Should be a great day and we look forward to seeing you there.

June 20: Walter is organising this sausage order, so please ring him by 20th June with your order. Walter's phone number is 06 7628559. Please note that should you miss this order there will be another sausage order done to coincide with the 1st August. For this order please ring Lisette on 06 7628718 or Marianne on 06 7628757. We thank you for your timely orders.

July 2: The very popular Anniversary Shoot will be held on the 2nd July, with people able to shoot or skittle from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

Please note that due to school holidays changing this year, the Anniversary Shoot is on a Saturday.

The delicious Sauerkraut and Pork meal will be served at 5.30pm. Mark puts a great deal of effort into this day, so please come along and support him!!!



July 10 & 17: Cards for the last time this winter. So please go along and support Walter. Games start at 1.15pm.

July 30: We will be celebrating our Swiss National Day on the 30th July this year.

Some of our dedicated committee will be contacting all members (if you're not rung, please contact Marianne) during July. Please make their job easier by making a decision ... it's certainly not an easy job to ring everyone, but it's worse when people are indecisive or don't ring back!!!

We appreciate your help with this, and look forward to another big crowd!!! MD

Hamilton

Past Events:

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 29th May at Swisscraft premises in Frankton. A few people arrived early for some bowling practice but most arrived in time for a drink and

the meeting. We had 25 people attending, a few more than last year. Following the usual formalities we had election of officers. This year we have no changes to our committee - no resignations and no new people. There were no objections to the \$3000 the committee had donated to the Earthquake appeal on behalf of the members. Our current committee consists of: Herbert Staheli, Vitus Achermann, Beatrice Leuenberger, Anita Zuber, Vreni Vetsch, Hanni Frischknecht, Ursula Haeffliger, Max Schwitzer, Richard Wehrle and Hanspeter Burch. Herbert thanked the committee and spouses for all their hard work in the last year as well as all the other willing helpers at our many functions.

Cowbell Competition - Auckland vs Hamilton was held on Sunday 1st May at Swisscraft premises in Frankton. The Auckland contingent of about 12 arrived promptly and were served coffee and cookies. The bowling got underway fairly smartly and with Auckland already having won the shooting it was soon one all with Hamilton winning the bowling. The Hamilton team won the shotput quite convincingly and the Aucklanders won the cards, so again it was a draw.

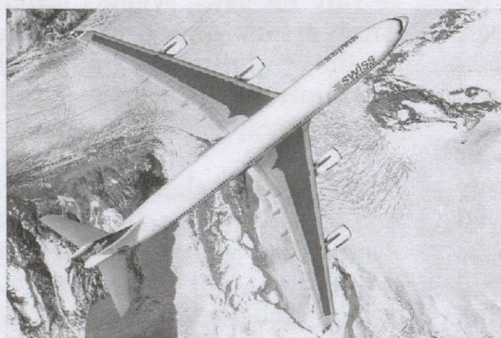
SWISSCRAFT LTD

Incorporating Domestic & Commercial Work
Specialists in Fabric & Leather Upholstery
Also Deep Diamond Buttoning
All Furniture Re-Upholstery

Swisscraft Ltd
Manager: **Herbert Staheli**
Showroom: 33-39 Colombo St
Frankton-Hamilton
Call us
Phone 07 8477 220
Fax 07 8473 039

Another round of cards found our semi-final winner and now Herbert and his team need to head off to Wellington to face the Taranaki Club. Everyone was served a delicious lunch as well as lots of coffee with or without schnapps and plenty of baking. Good luck to the team for the final round in Wellington. If anyone is still planning on travelling to Wellington on behalf of the Hamilton Club, please contact Herbert (07) 8477220 or 021962708.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



The quality of a Swiss watch, neatly packaged in an airline.

It's the small things that make an airline great. At SWISS, we pay attention to every detail of our service. From personal assistance, to inflight cuisine and entertainment programmes: it all makes a difference. And with every flight we get just a little bit better. So you can count on enjoying your time on board. Enjoy competitive and flexible airfares to Switzerland and onto Europe with connections via Hong Kong, Shanghai, San Francisco and Los Angeles. For further information on Swiss airfares from New Zealand contact your local bonded Travel Agent or visit SWISS.COM.

QUALITY, **SWISS** MADE.

SWISS.COM



Future Events:

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.

Friday, 3rd June - Third Card Evening

Friday, 17th June - Fourth Card Evening

Friday, 1st 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

Sunday, 31st July - Swiss National Day Celebration. After our very successful function last year, we are again planning a lunch time family meal rather than a dinner, at the Matangi Hall. We will again serve delicious Sauerkraut, Speck, Ham, Sausages and Potatoes as well as the usual selection of home-made baking. Bookings will be required and invitations will be sent to all club members a few weeks beforehand. AZ

Auckland

As Nelly Steinemann is holidaying in Switzerland I took on the job to write about the Auckland Swiss Club activities. I hope you enjoy reading about the past events and also hope you put all the dates of the future events in your diaries. Thanks and see you soon at a function near you.

Adrian Blaser

Past events:

Society Semi-Finals Sunday 01 May, Hamilton

4 carloads of people made their way to Swisscraft in Hamilton for the Cowbell Semifinal against the Hamilton Club. After a nice coffee and cake, the competition started with Kegeln. Both teams had 9 players before lunch and it was equal points until the very end. When the Hamilton top shooters came on, we unfortunately lost this part. We had already won the shooting. Steinstossen was a bit sad, we only managed to have 3 putters and all 3 threw less than any of the Hamiltonians. Ah well, we had to be good at Jass. After a delicious lunch we played 3 rounds at 3 tables and the clear result was 7-2 wins for Auckland. Which then meant it was 2-2 overall. Which team wants to go to Wellington to try to win the Cowbell at the AGM? Well, we needed to Ausjassen, and the end result was that Auckland lost 2-1. We congratulate Hamilton to the Semifinal win and wish them all the best against Taranaki in Wellington. Some of us will be there and support them. Thanks for all the hospitality and a great day.

AGM Auckland Swiss Club, Monday 02 May

The AGM of the Auckland Swiss Club was well attended and 35 members were voting on the future direction of the club. The

club had another financially good year with a surplus. One of the points discussed and agreed on was to make a donation of \$5000 to the Christchurch Red Cross Appeal. This is independent of the appeal to the Swiss Society AGM raised by a member of the Hamilton Swiss Club. Marcel Ruedi, our president, guided the AGM very efficiently and all members of the Committee got re-elected, aren't we lucky? In the farm committee we will lose Markus Bühler, who wanted to leave the Farm committee last year but stayed on then. We will have to vote for the Farm committee at next year's AGM. We all thank Markus for all his hard work on the farm over many years. We heard from Hans Iten that our Jass evenings are very well attended and Nellys Jass Clinic proves very popular too. We certainly seem to be able to fill the little Jass room at the Danish House and if it continues to grow we have to move into the big hall. Work at the farm will continue this year and we plan to finish the already started kitchen extension and will look into the feasibility of creating the huge deck/terraced area overlooking the playground. The shooting section is growing as well and is looking healthy. Through the hard work of our "Swiss&Knusprig" team we seem to attract young families and the various events they put on are well attended. You can read about the events in all the Helvetia articles over the months. Our club is gradually growing. At the end of the meeting, all attendees were treated with bread and cold cuts as well as baked goodies from many committee members. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Film and Wähe - Evening Friday 06 May

On the night before our Market Day we had our first scheduled Film Evening. Knowing it was a busy week with the AGM and the Market Day afterwards, we weren't surprised about the slightly lower turnout for the

For all your real estate needs in South Auckland call

Martin Brugger

021 428805 or

09 277 9780,

your Licensed Sales & Marketing Consultant, REAA 2008



Take advantage of our
**FREE no Obligation
Property Appraisal...**



Film. The ones who came for dinner were treated with lovely savoury Wähe (Chueche): Cheese, Onion, Spinach and pumpkin with blue cheese. Then we watched two comedians: Cabaret-duo DivertiMento. Manuel Burkhard and Jonny Fischer made us laugh for 2 hours. Some people in the audience told me, they hadn't laughed so much in a long time. We are considering showing the 2nd show of DivertiMento at some point next year. After the movie, we had another selection of yummi Wähe, this time the sweet ones: Pears, Apple, Zwetschggen. The pieces we couldn't eat anymore on Friday night were then very popular on the Market Day as lunch or dessert.

Market Day - Saturday 07 May

In early May the second annual Swiss Market Day was held. As the weather forecast was for thunderstorms and again possible tornados and the previous night brought heavy rainfalls to the region we were preparing for the worst. But once again apart from half an hour of light rain before noon we were treated to a wonderful day with lots of sun. As usual the interest among stallholders was huge so that we had a record number of over 40 stalls with vendors coming from Auckland, Hamilton, the Bay of Plenty and even from as far as Nelson. As the hall was bursting at its seams already last year we had to extend the stall area to the parking lot in front of the building this year. Additionally this gave us the opportunity to accommodate sellers who brought their own gazebos. For the first time we were able to provide a proper Festhütte and the mandatory Bratwurst and Cervelat barbecue to go with it.

The range of products on offer left nothing to be desired. There was everything from wood carvings, wooden toys, paintings, photographs, posters, handicraft, pottery, carnival masks, t-shirts and bike clothing to secondhand



Yummy breads from the Swiss Konditorei Bern



Sauerkraut, Apple Cider and doorstops from the Itens, next to homemade jams



Wooden toys



Happy faces all around in the sun filled hall



The Festhütte where you find some time to talk to old friends

«Taste the Difference»

SWISS KONDITOREI BERN

Bakery & Pastry

Do you feel like eating real Swiss/German breads, tasty and healthy?

German Sourdough, Butterzopf, Walliser Bread, Kibbled Rye, Walnut Bread, Tasty White Bread, Basler Bread, or chose from a wide range of rolls, inclusive Laugenrolls.

In the sweet range we offer Blackforest Cake, Bienenstich, Chocolate Truffle Cake, Quark Cheesecake, Fruit Flans, Patisserie, seasonal specialities and much more.

We are using local and often organic ingredients.

Retail sale at our bakery

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7am-2pm
5/448 Rosebank Rd, Avondale, Auckland
Tel: (09) 828-5860 Fax: (09) 828-5861
www.swisskonditoreibern.co.nz



AVAILABLE NOW!

**New Zealand's finest
Delicatessen Meats**

Continental Frying/Boiling Sausages
• Specialty Meats • Meat Loaves
• Smoked Meats • Cold Cuts
• Salamis • Dried Meats



Visit our factory shop:
68-70 Greenmount Drive
East Tamaki, Auckland

Hours: Monday to Thursday 8am-4pm
Friday 8am-5pm • Saturday 8am-1pm

P 09 274 4455 F 09 274 1203 W www.swissdeli.co.nz
PO Box 51-520 Pakuranga Auckland 2140



Swiss things like yodel CDs, jass cards and books. Even the big names Victorinox and Zyliss were here to offer their goods.

The hunger could be satisfied at one of the popular food stalls selling the already mentioned sausages, raclette, waffles and crepes or with breads or sweets from the two Swiss bakeries. The Coffee Guys again provided excellent coffee to wash it all down.

For the longer lasting culinary experience one could purchase loads of foods to take home such as cheese (speaking of stereotypes), jams and preserves, organic produce, gingerbread, chocolate and other sweets, chestnuts, olive oils, sauerkraut, honey, smoked salmon, bretzelis, spices and pâtés and dried meats.

The stand of the Swiss club and the one from the Swiss consulate were there to answer any questions one might have had about Switzerland or the Swiss in Auckland and if somebody was not feeling too well after all the walking around he or she could go for a massage, get some information about aromatherapy or get a heat treatment. The visitors came from all over the place to check out the market: the Bay of Islands, Hamilton, Tauranga and even as far as Taranaki!

The whole event was beautifully accompanied by musical performances by the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group, Peter and Albert on the alphorns & Menk, Ursula and Erich on the bass, handorgel and guitar.

All the happy faces, the animated discussions and the laughter all around were confirmation that the Swiss Market Day is at least as much a social as a commercial event which helps to make this event such a huge success. A big thank you goes out to Tanja who again organized the whole thing in such a brilliant way despite aggravating circumstances. Get well soon! A big thank you also to all the vendors and the helpers whose tireless efforts made this enjoyable day possible.

by Lukas Lanz

And an enthusiastic visitor wrote:

Gestern war ich beim Swiss Market und das war so toll!!! Ich ging mit der Absicht, nur einen Kaffee und vielleicht einen kleinen Imbiss zu nehmen und mich dann gleich wieder nach Orewa zu verziehen. Aber oho, das kann man nicht beim Swiss Market Day! Da ich erst etwa um ein Uhr kam, waren die Bratwürste und Cervelat mit Brot alle ausverkauft, so blieb mir "nur noch" das Raclette oder die feinen Süßigkeiten zur Auswahl. Also gesellte ich mich zur Schlange vor dem Raclettestand, kaufte mir und Oskar, der schon halben Wegs vorgerückt war, einen Kaffee und schwatzte eine Weile, bis mir klar wurde, dass, würde ich nicht gleich jetzt noch die Stände durchstöbern, mir die besten Angebote entgingen. So liess ich Oskar in der Schlange zurück und tummelte mich darein. Und da trifft man halt all die Leute - Hans Iten mit Lynn, bietet Sauerkraut und Essig mit Äpfeln an, Pia gibt feine Bretzeli zum Probieren, Franz hat bald seine feinen Konditoreien ausverkauft, Edith und Pascals Schokolade darf man schon gar nicht anschauen, sonst kommt man nicht mehr weg - Carmens feine Venisonsalamis, das Kastanienmehl und Olivenöl, dem Jimmy Speck seine Vogel-Kräuteressenzen - da kommt schon Oskar und lockt mich zum Sitzplatz mit einem feinen Raclette, das mit Silberzwiebel, Cornichon, eingemachter Birne und Händöpfel feinstens begleitet ist. So setzt man sich hin. Es geht natürlich nicht lange, da sitzt man in einer fröhlich plaudernden Runde, und es tummeln sich Leute zur Runde, die man schon so lange nicht mehr gesehen hat, sieht Kinder, die ausgewachsen sind, so dass man sie kaum wiedererkennt, und hört Neuigkeiten aus aller Welt, vor allem der Schweiz. Grad bevor die Standhalter ihre Ware zusammenpacken und die Urchigschweizer den Wein hervorbringen, schaue ich mir noch

den Rest des Angebots an - die schönen Schmuckstücke von Leuten, die ich nur halb kenne, Yvonne macht mir einen Spezialpreis für eine tolle feinste Schärpe, die ich meiner Mutter schicken möchte, und ich schweife noch einen kurzen Blick über den Informationstisch unseres Konsuls Peter Deutschle, bevor ich mit der Zeppter Vertreterin noch ein Treffen abmache, damit sie mir die Farbtherapie vorzeigen kann. Noch in weiter Entfernung vom Dänischen Haus habe ich Familien bummeln sehen mit Säcken, die mit Schweizer Marktware vollgepackt waren. Bei meiner Freundin zum Tee, was tischt sie mir auf? Engadiner Nusstorte vom Markt. Wer weiss, wie sich dieser Markt noch entwickelt... Die Hauptorganisatorin Tania, so habe ich mir erzählen lassen, sei in langsamer Genesung von einer Operation. Ich wünsche ihr ganz herzlich Gute Besserung und bedanke mich für ihre Bemühungen für einen so schönen Nachmittag!!!

Dieser Markttag war ein Volltreffer!!

Trudi Fill-Weidmann
Herbaceous Living

Jassen results:

Friday 13 May

1st	Andrew Iten	4299
2nd	Louis Wallimann	4229
3rd	Annagret Wolf	4122
4th	Marie Theres Melville	4069
5th	Hans Iten	3991
6th	Marcel Ruedi	3956
7th	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon	3821
8th	Hansruedi Wolf	3784
9th	Hilda Iten	3759
10th	Erwin Steiner	3757
11th	Edith Hess	3733
12th	Ernst Lanz	3699
13th	Franz Krieger	3651
14th	Amelia Fitzi	3650
15th	Neil Kaiser	3637
16th	Walter Haller	3621
17th	Andrew Buenter	3571
18th	Adrian Blaser	3560
19th	Emil Tellenbach	3487
20th	Lynne Dunphy	3462
21st	Matthew Kaiser	3301



Future Events:

Pub Night - Friday 03 June - Iguacu Bar & Restaurant, 269 Parnell Road, Parnell, Tel. 09 358 4804, www.iguacu.co.nz

Once again our wonderful Swiss and Knusprig Team has managed to find a new venue for the pub night. Do try it out, it's very central this time, the right setting for a sociable evening. Thank you Tanja and Erika, good to know you are having fun sussing out the pub scene.

AGM Swiss Society of NZ: 04 to 06 June, Wellington.

You will have received an email invitation already. If you missed it and would like to know more, please contact Marcel: ruedi@orcon.net.nz or 5515830, 0274901836.

Jassen: Friday 10 June, 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Our Jass has been very popular this year. Be brave and come along, whether you are new to it, or a seasoned player. Coaching available.

Shooting: Einzelwettschies-sen, Auslandschweizer Saturday/Sunday 11/12 June, and reserve 25/26 June

For information please contact Henry Werffeli 094103476, werffeli@orcon.net.nz

Looking forward to JULY and beyond

Fondue and Swiss Kiwi Quiz, Friday 01 July, at the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Don't miss this fun evening with a sumptuous dinner and a bit of lighthearted competition for all ages, all colours and sizes. It will brighten up your winter's night. Costs will be \$25 for members, \$35 for non members, children up to 18 \$1 per year of age! Register with Marcel Ruedi: ruedi@orcon.net.nz or 5515830, 0274901836.

Swiss National Day Celebration, Saturday 30 July, at the Danish Club. Looking forward to a truly Swiss evening, with a delicious meal, Patriotic feelings listening to the President's speech, singing our National Anthem, Children's Lampion parade, Swiss culture. We are still looking for a few items of entertainment. If you like to share your talent contact Nelly Steinemann nsteine-mann@xtra.co.nz.

Remember to check out our website for all events, and for the Auckland Swiss Club Calendar: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland



Past Events:

On Saturday the 16 April 2011, 20 members of the **Wellington Swiss Club met for their AGM**. The numerous events of the past year were recapitulated and Roland thanked everyone who participated in making the year another success. The treasurer's report showed that although there are on-going legal fees for the roof, there should be sufficient funds to proceed with the bathroom renovations. John Jordan, our Riflemaster explained that overall scores have improved and Wellington has won the Cowbell Shooting for the second year in a row.

Unfortunately Roland expressed his wish to step down from his role as president and he would like to encourage others to take up the opportunity to lead our club. Roland has been a strong force and the safe hands behind our club and we are going to thoroughly miss his wisdom and guidance. Vreni, the vice president has also resigned due to health reasons. The club wishes to thank her for all the time and effort she has put into our club. Unfortunately there were no volunteers to take over

these two roles. It was therefore agreed to organize an 'Extraordinary General Meeting' where it is hoped that we will find a new vice- and president and a way to share the work more amongst the committee and club members.

Elected and accepted were the following:

Treasurer: Sibylle Sharma
Secretary: Odile Stotzer
Members: Sandie Simons

Peter Hynes
Auditor: John Alderdice
Riflemaster: John Jordan
Vice - Riflemaster:

Paul Scherrer
Sandie

14th May: Fondue

The first fondue of the year was a success, as usual. There were over a hundred members, guests and friends from Switzerland.

Roland first thanked Heinz Jäggi for organising a very successful garage sale, the most successful garage sale ever, last year. Pitsch thanked Roland and Vreni for having led the Swiss Club for so many years and he encouraged all members to come to the **3rd July extraordinary AGM**. He also told us the sad news that he will be leaving for Australia very soon.

Robert Macdonald explained some legal aspects of the Swiss Club. There was a raffle, with the first prize being a nice quilt; 250 tickets were sold, and Robert and Jeanine won.

Future Events:

Invitation to the AGM of the Swiss Society - The Wellington Swiss Club invites all members of affiliated Swiss Clubs and members of the Swiss Society to the Annual General Meeting to be held in Wellington on 4th and 5th June (Queen's Birthday weekend).

Program

Saturday 4th June

The Clubhouse will be open from 3pm onwards. A special dinner will be served from 7pm

onwards, followed by "Gemütlichem Beisammensein"

Cost: \$12.00

Sunday 5th June

9:30am - Final of the Cowbell Competition, Bowling, Steinstossen and cards

12:30pm - Lunch

2pm - Annual General Meeting followed by afternoon tea

6:30pm Happy Hour

7:30pm dinner will be served

Cost: \$30.00

We would like to encourage as many members, friends and families to attend the event. It will also be an opportunity to interact with our ambassador who would like to actively participate in discussions and issues of interest to members.

For catering purposes please register and make payment to your local club secretary. Members of the Swiss Society without club affiliations, please register your name with the secretary.

Wellington Swiss Club,

24 Fitzherbert Street,

Alicetown

Lower Hutt 5010.

We look forward to your support

3rd July: Extraordinary AGM

The committee of the Wellington Swiss Club invites you to an Extraordinary AGM on Sunday 3rd July 2011 at 2pm at the Club house (21 Moores Valley Road). Refreshments will be provided.

After more than 10 years of strong governance, the president and vice president of the Wellington Swiss Club have decided to step aside. The proposed positions are required to be filled at the AGM and therefore we encourage everybody to come along to show their support.

This is also a unique opportunity for members to participate more actively in the future of our Club and continue to contribute to the history of our over 50 year old Swiss Club.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 3rd July.

Odile Stotzer

Thanks everyone who filled this in to assist your Swiss Abroad representatives to speak more knowledgeably for you.

We got 49 responses - 31 written, and 18 from the on-line version of the survey. (Thanks Ignaz for your help in making the on-line version.) As well as publishing it through Helvetia, we used the "Events" part of the SwissCommunity.org website to invite people to go to the on-line survey. If you've not explored that website yet, it's really worth a visit.

So what have you told us? Of the people who replied, 37 were registered to vote, and 12 not. Of those who are *not* registered, it's largely because they feel it's not relevant to them now, and they're too distant to be able, or entitled, to vote. Of those who *are* registered, 86% always (32%) or often (54%) vote. Their decision whether to vote or not is based largely on whether they have enough information, followed by how strongly they feel about an issue. Several people commented that they don't vote on financial matters because they don't pay taxes, so should not dictate how they're spent.

Voters get information mostly from the voting papers (95%) followed evenly by reading/watching Swiss media over the internet (newspapers, TV programmes etc), reading Swiss Review, and conversations with friends and family. Not surprisingly, more people who answered the survey on line also get their information that way.

We also asked how you felt about the things Swiss Abroad are lobbying on.

1. Creation of a law for the Swiss Abroad. Swiss people abroad need a reliable legislative foundation that puts into practice the mandate of the constitution.

This had least support (57%), and with more people unsure or indifferent (38%)

2. It should be made easier to use the political rights from abroad (e-voting, participation in the election of the Ständerat).

64% support; 32% unsure or indifferent.

3. Promotion of international mobility of the Swiss (agreements to free movement, reduction of obstacles).

74% support, 23% unsure or indifferent

4. Adequate consular services (sufficient numbers of consulates, increase in e-government).

66% support. 6% opposed this - from comments it appears because people consider we're already well-enough served.

5. Extension of communication with the Fifth Switzerland (Swiss Review, swissinfo, Swiss Community).

The most supported item: 87% support.

6. Giving increased status and importance to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizerrat) as the representative of the Fifth Switzerland.

72% support, 26% unsure or indifferent.

7. Strengthening/Extension of the international presence of Switzerland.

72% support, 26% unsure or indifferent.

Mani Züst will be taking this information to the Swiss Abroad Conference in Lugano in August. He thanks you for your input. Democracy relies on it!

Carolyn Lane