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## Taranaki

### Past Events

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October the Singing Group entertained for the Stratford Club. We enjoyed a lovely dinner and then proceedings began ... sadly there was not a huge crowd ... but we were delighted to see Joe Fohn and Bernard Schmid who came all the way from New Plymouth to listen to us. Thank you gentlemen for coming, and bringing along your cousin Anne ... we hope that you enjoyed your meal and the entertainment. We have discovered a very talented lady ... Heidi Werder ... talerschwingen isn't a problem, singing is great, and she can even make excellent music with a broom!!! Thanks for finally showing us your hidden talents, Heidi!!! Maybe there's more to come????!! We provided a varied performance, and those listening appreciated our efforts. Our contingent was quite lucky with the raffles too!!! Many thanks for all coming along, and let's hope we have a bigger attendance next time we perform!!!

Keglen has been going well, with good attendances. Everyone attending enjoys the friendly atmosphere, the odd drink and a nice supper. Thanks Johnny for your dedication, and anyone else who would like to know a little more about these evenings, please give Johnny a call.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, the ladies undertook some cleaning duties in our annual spring clean of the interior of the hall ... nothing was left unturned!!! Our sincere apologies to Tracey for not conveying the change in time and who arrived when we were ready to leave!!! Tracey being Tracey has already found some jobs she can do ... cleaning the lampshades which were too high for us to attempt ... please don't fall

off the ladder, Tracey!!! The men are doing their bit shortly ... so the place will be all spick and span again.

### Forthcoming Events

**December 31: New Year's Eve** ... once again the time is upon us to farewell the Old year and welcome the New one!!! The club house gates will be open by 4.00pm, with a BYO BBQ at 6.00pm. The evening is always full of fun and laughter ... so if you are able to provide any skits, music or other entertainment, please let Ruedi and Lisette Benkert or Leo and Doreen Zehnder know ... they would love to hear from you!!!

**February 2 & 16:** Johnny is awaiting you at the Swiss Club for **Keglen** ... please make his night and turn up!!! This group of people have much fun and laughter, and enjoy a delicious supper too. I think that they might play skittles, in between chats!!!

### February 12:

**Please note the correct date (a printing error in last issue of the Helvetia ... so please come on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February).**

Our very popular and social **annual picnic** will be held on this day. There is plenty of entertainment at your disposal ... of course the highlight is the Schwingen (for juniors and adults), children's activities, shot put, live accordion music, a great tombola (raffle) ... there will be barbequed Swiss sausages, beverages, and ice creams for your taste buds ... so come along and enjoy a great day. All we need is fine weather!!! MD

*The best way to win an argument is by being in the right.*

*Lord Hailsham*

## Hamilton

### Past Events:

The Family Walk was held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October starting at the Te Aroha Domain. There were about 18 people in total, including two mountain-bikers



Te Aroha walk

from Rotorua. Most of the walk was easy and pleasant apart from a few steep parts coming down. The group found a lovely spot for lunch near a stream. Everyone was invited to Hanni's for coffee and was treated to some lovely custard squares.

### Forthcoming Events:

**Family Christmas Party** will be held on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at the Newstead School, Morrinsville Road, Hamilton with an 11am start. Please bring along some outdoor games/balls to share with others and we will try and arrange some other activities similar to the last few years. We will also have some indoor crafts to do and biscuits to decorate so if you have anything you wish to share, please feel free to come along. The club will provide sausages and drink for lunch. Please bring a plate of baking to share for afternoon tea. We will again be having a raffle table so don't forget to bring some cash and/or some donated items for the table. Santa might even have a chance





to visit so it would be great if some of the children had a poem or a song for Santa.

## Practice 50 metre shooting - 11th February

**Shooting** date has been set for 18<sup>th</sup> February - further details in next February's Helvetia and newsletter.

**Annual Picnic** will be held the following day - **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February** at the Newstead School.

AZ

## Wellington

### Past events:

### Sunday 23 October: Walk in the Botanical Garden

The weather was not very promising; that is probably why few families showed up. Well, the weather turned out to be better than expected, and the rain gear you see on the picture was actually not necessary!



Prepared for weather for ducks...

We walked around the garden, saw the ducks, and of course the big playground. We looked for the seven trees planted to celebrate the 700 years of the Swiss Confederation 20 years ago, but could not quite remember where they are...

We did find the local Devil's Tongue, nicknamed Mr. Stinky. It was not as big as its Basler equivalent, and it did not do the honour to stink for us. According to its label, this plant can smell



Mr Not-so-stinky,....



... to Zoë's and Olivia's disappointment

so bad that few can stand to stay around, but it is only intermittent... We must have visited it during its rest time. The kids (and adults!) were slightly disappointed.

Verdict: to do again, when the weather forecast is more optimistic! I know, I know, it is hard to have a good weather forecast in Windy Wellington! OS

### Sunday 30 October: Soup Lunch and Jass Afternoon

Some of our keen Jassers were still overseas, or jetlagged, or otherwise occupied, but the ones who came enjoyed a pleasant afternoon in friendly competition. Liliane improved her Rummikub skills and has become a talent to be reckoned with!

### Saturday 5 November: Garage Sale

Heinz Jaeggi and Peter Hynes always put a lot of effort into their traditional Garage Sale, and this year was no different. They even camped over there - to be ready for the dealers, who showed up at 6.15am! We had a steady stream of customers and sold many treasures. Some items were a bit enigmatic, but Heinz and Peter are experts in putting them together the right way round and in making them work. A huge thank you to Heinz and Peter and to their helpers! The Garage Sale is the most lucrative event in our club year.

### Future events:

### Sunday 4 December: Samichlaus

- From 2pm on, the children will prepare something for Samichlaus. Samichlaus will come to the clubhouse before 3pm and would like to hear a song or a poem from the children. Please ring Samichlaus's secretaries Odile on 586 3095 or Trudi on 562 8019, and tell them what the Samichlaus needs to know. We would appreciate bookings as soon as possible, to ensure we have enough Säckli ready for the Samichlaus to hand out! Parents, please bring a plate for Afternoon Tea!

### Saturday 10 December: Christmas Dinner

Come and join us for our Christmas Dinner at the Clubhouse! We'll have our traditional ham, cheese platter, salads and dessert - and more. Be prepared for a great Christmas evening to get you into the Christmas mood! Members \$23, non-members \$28; BYO. Book with Odile 586 3095 or Trudi 562 8019.

### Sunday 11th December 7pm:

**Carol Singing** in the Soundshell of the Botanical Garden. What would Christmas be without Christmas Carols? Come and enjoy this traditional event. If you don't trust the weather, listen to





2ZB - and bring a warm jacket anyway!

## 21/22 January: Camping/picnic in Kaitoke

On the weekend of the 21/22 January we are planning an over-night camping in the Kaitoke Camping grounds in Upper Hutt.

Enjoy camping on the flat grassy river terraces, take a dip in the river nearby. For those not keen on camping, join us for a picnic lunch or dinner on the 21st (bring your own food). There are lots of walking tracks around the area, or just relax and enjoy your kids' company! Camping fees: \$5 per adult or \$2 per child (aged 16 and under) per night. For more information go to: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/Camping-at-Kaitoke/>

Please let me know if you are planning to come, or if you have any questions feel free to call: Mark Williams on 461 7118 or 021 424 635

## 29 January: BBQ at the Clubhouse

Bring your own lunch; we provide the barbeque. Medal competition in shotput afterwards- and a jass afternoon from 1pm onwards; if you don't throw heavy stones and don't play cards, bring along your Rummikub or anything else you'd like to play - or your knitting/embroidery/crochet - or anything else you'd like to share.

## 12 February: Shooting practice and Medal Shooting

The Medal Shooting Competition is taking place on Paul Scherrer's farm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Rd, RD1, Mangaroa Valley. For more information contact our Riflemaster John Jordan 528 7846. OS

*Wenn fünfzig Millionen Menschen etwas Dummes sagen, bleibt es trotzdem eine Dummheit.*

# Auckland

## Past Events:

### Pub night: Friday 04 November, Bar Africa, in Albany

I really liked this venue, very close to home, not too noisy - and most importantly, good company. A dozen of us were there and enjoyed our end of the week yarn. Really good to meet some new Swiss too.

We will continue the (mostly) monthly pub night in March next year, mark the first Friday of the month on your calendar!

### Waitakere Rain Forest Express: Sunday 06 November

Over 40 of us were fortunate enough to discover one of the hidden treasures of Auckland on this Sunday evening. The weather forecast had turned against us, and right they were - but nothing could dampen our thorough enjoyment of this journey. After all: What do you expect; it is supposed to be wet in a rain forest!



Luca the conductor

The bush, the viaducts and the tunnels were very amazing. What made it even more special was the informative and witty com-



Cedric and Fiona

mentary from our guides John and Nathan, who work on this railway, and maintain our water supply from this dam. You could see and hear their pride, and feel part of it. The more adventurous of us even managed a walk to the top of the dam, or a climb on what must be the steepest stairs in Auckland; the lazy ones stayed in the train. But we did get a special treat: a view of the dam from the very inside, how amazing is that! We all enjoyed a bit of warm food from the barbie afterwards, especially since our kind guides had put on a wind shelter onto the BBQ area. The way back on the train was even more amazing, the glowworms were out in the millions, we even got to walk into one of the tunnels to see them up close.

Thank you Tanja for organising, to our guides, and to all the participants who shared their joy.

### Jassen including Society Games: Friday 11 November:

Results:		
1st	Hans Iten	3977
2nd	Franz Krieger	3971
3rd	Lynne Dunphy	3953
4th	Berta Good	3934
5th	Erwin Steiner	3933
6th	Emil Tellenbach	3931
7th	Louis Wallimann	3904
8th	Ernst Lanz	3891
9th	Hilda Iten	3836





10th	Carmen Gordon	3835
11th	Andrew Iten	3830
12th	Ian Gordon	3826
13th	Marcel Ruedi	3782
14th	Neil Kaiser	3755
15th	Heidi Wilson	3732
16th	Annagret Wolf	3680
17th	Walter Haller	3587
18th	Edith Hess	3546
19th	Matthew Kaiser	3466
20th	Fidel Good	3386
21st	Hansruedi Wolf	3373

FINAL Jass Results 2011 Total		
1st	Fidel Good	24,181
2nd	Andrew Iten	24,075
3rd	Nelly Steinemann	23,694
4th	Louis Wallimann	23,203
5th	Franz Krieger	23,004
6th	Hans Iten	22,687
7th	Marcel Ruedi	22,651
8th	Walter Haller	22,412
9th	Heidi Wilson	22,341
10th	Hilda Iten	22,093
11th	Edith Hess	22,022
12th	Lynne Dunphy	21,806

For more detailed results please see the website: <http://www.swiss.org.nz/event.php?ID=70>

## Future Events:

**Santa: Sunday 04 December 11am at the Swiss farm.**

The highlight of the year for many NZ Swiss.

We have it from a reliable source that this is THE real Santa who will arrive from the sky (weather permitting) at 11am to delight the children and us oldies, as he has done for well over 30 years.

Enjoy a barbeque afterwards, Swiss sausages, potato salad, Erdbeertörtli, Cremeschnitten, Nussgipfel and more for sale. You can also buy a bag of lovingly home made Swiss Christmas cookies for only \$10. Then see what adventures Kasper (the hero of the puppet show) is up to this year. There will be biscuit painting for the budding artists, and time to catch up with your friends.

**Santa's visit and goodie bags are free for children of Swiss**

**Club members, but we need to know how many are coming. Also Santa's memory is not as good as it used to be, he needs some help with his comments for the children. Please complete the details about your darling(s) NOW if you have not done so yet - form on our website: <http://www.swiss.org.nz/event.php?ID=177>**

**Christmas Carol Singing Saturday afternoon 10 December 2.30pm to about 4.30pm** at the Danish Club Hall, 6 Rockridge Ave Penrose.

'Silent night is just not the same as 'Stille Nacht'! Join us to sing your favourite Swiss Christmas carols, listen to some musical items, and share a cuppa and some delicious baking. We can organise a ride for you if you like; please phone me (Nelly) at 4794038. If you have a special Christmas song you would like to sing, let me know too.

## 2012

We are busy planning an exciting new year for you! If you have any suggestions, comments, ideas, don't be shy and contact one of the Swiss Club Committee members now.

**Picnic at the farm, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February** There will be some shooting, Kegeln, games and competitions for the children, and the traditional Swiss picnic.

## Other News:

**The Swiss Farm** can be used by Club Members and their immediate families for weekends for free. There is a small charge for larger parties. You must book in either case, best with Marcel Ruedi, phone 5515830 or 027 4901836, or [Ruedi@orcon.co.nz](mailto:Ruedi@orcon.co.nz)

**Congratulations to Pia Wittwer Blaser** who completed the New York Marathon successfully in 4 hours 30 minutes, and raised a substantial amount for the Cat-



A very proud (and very tired) Pia

walk Foundation. Some of you will have seen and heard Pia in her fundraising concert on 20 November - this lady has so many talents!

*Nelly Steinemann 4794038*

## *An abridged passage from Pia's Marathon*

...and then the big ONE: I was very nervous and did not get much sleep last night. We had to get up at 5am, get our gear together and catch a bus at 6am to Staten Island, where the start is. Then the long waiting began. I was amazed at the logistics with the masses of people (around 47,000). There were three starting villages where we had to wait for 4 hours for our start. For the start we were put in corrals and then the whole thing began... The first part over the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge was a teaming mass of people. The sight was quite unbelievable. I thought that along the way the crowd would thin but it never happened so running was actually quite hard as you had to weave around people all the time. As soon as we got off the bridge the noise of spectators and music started and it too never finished until the end. Bands were playing along the side of the roads, people were screaming random names of runners, it was mayhem. I felt really good for the first 16 miles, then started to feel a bit sore in my legs and knees. Brooklyn was never ending and so was Queens. I felt as if I was freeze-frozen in a mass of running people but not really getting anywhere. Back on Manhattan Island and then on to Harlem and the Bronx, where I thought the music was the best! The final 6 miles were hard as Central Park just wouldn't come





near. But I managed to run it all with gritted teeth (although just tired, not injured as such) and just walked at the drink stations so I wouldn't get the water down the wrong pipe. The worst was after the finish. I was so happy I cried and almost choked up with it. We had to walk about another 2 kilometres in a shuffling caterpillar of people to get to our bags before they let us out on the streets. It had gotten cold again and it took me forever to make my way back to the hotel. And that's it really! A huge journey has come to an end and I have proven that even a "fat" chick can run a Marathon!!! (in 4h.30.27)



After the marathon - Adrian and Pia

P.S. Donations for CatWalk, the Spinal Cord Injury Trust ([www.catwalk.org.nz](http://www.catwalk.org.nz)) are still very much welcome: [www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/](http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/) PiaWittwer

## Politicians accused of doublespeak on languages

Swiss politicians fail to recognize the value of multilingualism when the languages spoken are not the national tongues or English, a study found.

From the 1960s until the 1990s, discussions in parliament focused on ensuring equality among the official languages, German, French, Italian and Romansh, as well as dialogue between the language groups. A turning point came in the second half of the 1990s, when English became part of the debate on languages. One question was whether it should be taught in schools as the first foreign language ahead of German, French or Italian.

At the same time, political parties realized that immigrants were staying. So they emphasized the importance of learning an official language as part of the integration process. This came at the expense of immigrants' mother tongues. Politicians ignored the fact that Switzerland had become a land of immigration with ten per cent of the population claiming a language other than German, French or Italian as their mother tongue. Schoolchildren should be encouraged to retain their mother tongues. Pilot projects have been initiated across the country to encourage children to learn the local language as well as the one spoken by their parents. The command of that language is a precondition for learning other languages well. In Switzerland a lot more people speak Croatian or Serbian than Romansh. Would it be a threat to Romansh if we gave more rights to migration languages, or would it perhaps have a positive effect if we generally agreed that Switzerland is a multilingual country and gave rights to minority languages?

*swissinfo*

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