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Taranaki

Past Events:

On Saturday 4th February the Taranaki Swiss Club were honoured to participate in a parade celebrating the **Kaponga Volunteer Fire Brigade's centennial**. Zeno had organised a great bunch of guys to create a lovely float. Some of our elderly members were seated around a picnic table on the trailer, Leo and Marianne played the accordions on the back of the ute and all our



The Swiss Club float and participants in the Kaponga Volunteer Brigade's centennial celebrations

other members walked behind the float. It was especially wonderful to see so many of our younger members in colourful costumes participating ... handing out lollies and waving to the crowd. The entire parade went around the block twice as the big crowd appreciated the effort that people had gone to creating their floats. We were all amazed at the big number of fire engines taking part ... old and new ... big and little ... all shiny and in mint condition. Once back on the sports ground, we were all very surprised to find out that we had won first prize!!! Thank you to Zeno and his band of merry workers for organising the float, and a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone for turning up and participating in the parade.

We haven't had a great summer weather-wise ... so we were

all keeping our fingers crossed that Sunday 12th of February would be fine and sunny!!! This date being the second Sunday in February ... **the day of our annual picnic!!!** Well... the weather-gods were on our side!!! The early birds arrived around 10.00am to set up ... there were gazebos to erect, the fishing to be organised, the barbeques and bar to set up, the music area and the shot put to get ready, and the participants of the popular "Schwingen" to be sorted out into divisions. Everyone had their job, and things were soon ready. Reg and Rose from Kiddies Amusement arrived with the everpopular merry-go-round and bouncy castle ... thank you so much for always coming, Reg and Rose ... the children just love the rides and the castle. We really appreciate the effort you make in coming, and we hope that Reg's health continues to improve. Unfortunately Heliview were unable to attend the picnic as they awaited blades for their helicopter ... hey, let's hope next year works out better for you Richard and Jolanda!!! A big thanks to Johnny who, as always, had the grounds looking superb ... you are wonderful Johnny ... and we all appreciate the great work you do for our club.

The crowd soon started arriving, and many people estimated that in excess of three hundred people attended our fabulous picnic!!! What an outstanding effort!!! It was wonderful to see people from outside of Taranaki ... the Simons from Wellington, the Epps from Tirau and many guests from Switzerland attend our picnic ... I hope you enjoyed your day!!! We all appreciated seeing some of our elderly members at the picnic catching up with each other ... nice to see you back, Laura, and we hope you had a great day!!! Some families were there in two, three and even four generations ... wow, how remarkable and what an achievement!!! Thank you all so much for coming and enjoying the vari-

ous forms of entertainment available!!! The barbeques were fired up, and in all about 65kg of cervelats and bratwurst were grilled ... thank you to the team that prepared, grilled and sold the sausages ... you were great!!! A big thank you to New World Stratford for donating the bread for the barbeque ... we really appreciate your valuable support ... so if you're in Stratford, go and buy your groceries at New World!!! The liquid refreshments and ice creams also proved popular and many thanks to all those who helped sell these. Markus had the shot put under control ... and it was great to see many people participate in the Swiss Society shot put as well. Thomas Werder won the cup for the best throw (now, could he do the double and utilise this strength to win the Schwingen??) with Marlies Hebler taking out the ladies cup ... congratulations to both of you. Mark continued his tradition of looking after the fishing, where many children (oops ... and adults) tried their hardest to "hook" a bottle!!! It seems that the fishing is always popular, so thanks Mark for your dedication.



Our very talented musicians ... Peter, Roman and Zeno. Thanks for your wonderful entertainment!!!

Our grateful thanks to Peter Canziani and Zeno for providing terrific music ... and also to Roman for helping them out on the Saxophone ... everyone enjoyed your music immensely!!!

The Schwingen was ready to start, with juniors and seniors participating ... the youngest six ... the oldest ?????? ... in all 29 took part. What a wonderful



achievement!!! It was great to see so many people sitting on the bales of hay (thank you to Antoni for providing these) watching the talent and strength of these guys. Thank you to Othmar for organising the wrestling and prizes, to Franz for organising and donating the sawdust, to Kari from Switzerland for refereeing the



The winners of the wrestling with our President Othmar Hebler ... Paul Whakatutu was the winner of the juniors winning a lamb, and Sami Werder, winner of the senior division, with a calf for being the senior champion. Well done to you both.



The junior final between Paul Whakatutu and Zeno Hess ... an excellent bout with Paul taking out the title.

matches, and to Martin, Silvia and Marianne Dudli for ensuring the administration work was done. You all did a terrific job to ensure that all ran smoothly. After three rounds the finals were due. In the juniors Zeno Hess came up against Paul Whakatutu, and after a good bout Paul took the honours. Well done, Paul, and congratulations to all the junior participants ... for there would be no competition if you didn't all take part!!! Everyone loved watching you!!! In the senior final there was an epic battle between Sami Werder



Thomas Werder and Niklaus Preisig having a tough battle in the Schwingen

and Niklaus Preisig ... with our local and talented Sami taking out the title!!! Congratulations to all the seniors for participating

and well done Sami for taking out another title!!! Thomas' strength couldn't outdo your skill, eh?!! Many thanks to Marlies and Othmar Hebler for donating a calf for the senior champion and to Heidi Werder for donating a lamb for the junior champion ... we really appreciate your support. At the conclusion of the Schwingen, the barbeques were, once again, fired up, for those hungry enough for another sausage. Thereafter many people sat around and enjoyed a drink or two and a chat ... until everything was tidied up before tea. Dinner was a delicious affair of spaghetti bolognese and salad. It was just delicious; thanks to Erna and Heidi for making the

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“bolognaise” and to all those who contributed in any way. The music, dancing and enjoyment continued until after midnight ... and thus ended another successful picnic!!! Othmar would like to thank the entire committee and other helpers for their wonderful work, and also a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for coming along and ensuring the continued success of this day.

Future Events:

March 1 & 15: Keglen at 8.00pm. Come along and enjoy the company, a drink or two, and a delicious supper (bring a plate). Johnny and his team ensure that you have fun ... skittle for the trophies and then a fun game or two.

March 5: The AGM of the Taranaki Swiss Club will be held at the Club house, Grace Avenue, Kaponga at 8.00pm. Please come along and hear what has happened in the past year, and how the new year is shaping up. If you have any ideas for activities in our new calendar year, please talk to Othmar, Zeno or Marianne. **Remigi has received the “Karabiner Shooting” medals and these will be presented at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.**

March 17 & 18: We will be hosted by the Wellington Swiss Club for the semi-final of the Cowbell competitions. The approximate cost for travel and accommodation, based on 25 people on the bus, is \$100.00 per person. This is an excellent price for a weekend of fun and laughter (low cost due to Othmar driving the bus ... thanks, Othmar!). Would anyone interested in taking part in this weekend please contact Othmar on 06 278 6878 or Marianne on 06 762 8757? Your support of this trip would be appreciated.

March 25: SHOOTING - Please note change of date due to Wel-

lington bus trip. The small bore rifle club will be holding their Championship / Society Shoots from 1.00pm, so come along and support Mark. He willingly gives coaching tips, so come and improve your shooting prowess!!! A Society Medal could be yours!!!

April 14: Pencil in this date ... as the **Fondue Evening** will most probably be held on this evening ... will be confirmed in the calendar of events that you will receive mid to end March. The menu is cheese fondue and/or cervelat (Swiss sausage) and salads ... a delicious dinner and social evening. We look forward to seeing you there ... please remember to book in for catering purposes. Please phone Marianne on 06 7628757, Heidi on 06 2734286 or Erna on 06 2726 438 with your bookings. Many thanks. Last year we had a full house, so be in early to avoid disappointment!!!

Your committee will organise a new Calendar of Events and Newsletter after the AGM to let you know when our future events are. If you have any new ideas or suggestions of improvements we could make, please tell a committee member and we'll see what we can do. Your support of as many functions as possible is always appreciated. *MD*

Auckland

Past Events:

Working Bee Saturday 28 January at the farm.

Even though there were not too many participants, this enthusiastic bunch of people got a lot done. The meal of pork chops and risotto was brilliant.

Pub night Friday 03 Feb, Howick

For the first Pub Night this year we were once more guests at the beautiful Howick Club. Although the place is being refurbished we had enough space to build our respectably sized circle and chat while having a good glass of wine or beer. As a tip of one of the 18 pub goers: If you leave your wallet at home you get the drinks sponsored. Just keep in mind: It does not work if everybody does it. See you all next time!

Jass Friday 10 February

1st	Hilda Iten	4077
2nd	Matthew Kaiser	4025
3rd	Adrian Blaser	3950
4th	Hansruedi Wolf	3925
5th	Heidi Wilson	3921
6th	Emil Tellenbach	3870
7th	Louis Wallimann	3865
8th	Lynne Dunphy	3850
9th	Edith Hess	3842
10th	Carmen Fitzi Gordon	3799
11th	Andrew Iten	3757
12th	Annegret Wolf	3733
13th	Othmar Wyss	3705
14th	Hans Iten	3649
15th	Neil Kaiser	3559
16th	Franz Krieger	3502
17th	Marie Therese Melville	3409
18th	Milan Fitzi	3386

As you can see from the list above, starting Jassen one month earlier in the year attracted lots of people!

Swiss Day Out Sunday 12 Feb at the Swiss farm.

Well, the weather did not look too promising in the morning for the event that used to be called the Annual Picnic. Nevertheless more and more keen club members and visitors decided to make their way to our Farm at Waitoki. They were not disappointed. The sun came out around lunch time. The Society Shooting started and around the corner of the big building the Kegeln was in full swing. In the meantime Edith Hess prepared lunch, which was a delicious salad plate with potato and green salad, then there was a choice of Bratwurst, Cervelats, Cabanos or



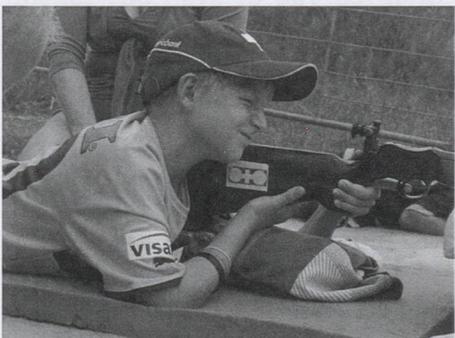
One satisfied customer!

Wienerli on Swiss bread. For dessert there was coffee (with or without Schnaps) and tea with a choice of bakery items: Schnägge, Cremeschnitte or Mandelgipfel. Pia and Toby Blaser sold drinks at the bar.

After lunch a trailer pulled up with two horses, a rideable piebald coloured one and a miniature one to look at, who, by grazing, cut the grass a bit more. Children assembled on the playing field with their parents and many of them had a guided ride for \$2. Even very little ones enjoyed themselves. This horse riding interlude was initiated by Melissa Lanz. She knows the owner of the Waitoki Equestrian Centre. When the horse trailer left again, there were other children's games on the lower field: Sackgumpe, races, Seilziehe was planned but did it eventuate? Then some brave people tried Stelzelaufe, which is very hard in a paddock. The overall winner of the games was Fiona Blaser.

Prizes were there for all participants.

Some people still stayed for yet another cup of coffee when I left. A very good time was had by all.
Heidi Wilson



Full concentration brings results!

Air Rifle Competition

	Total
Lukas Lanz 10 10 10 10 10	50
Dominic Hess 10 10 10 9 9	48
Neil Kaiser 10 10 10 9 9	48
Ernst Lanz 10 10 10 10 8	48
Marcel Ruedi 10 10 10 9 8	47
Natalie Hess 10 10 10 9 8	47
Melissa Lanz 9 9 9 9 7	43
Alois Wildhaber 10 9 9 8 7	43
Matthew Kaiser 10 9 9 7 7	42
Daniel Wiederkehr 9 9 9 7 7	41
Yani Wildhaber 9 9 8 6 5	37

Juniors

Petrina Hess 10 10 9 9 7	45
Joshua Kaiser 9 8 8 5 4	34
Misha Wildhaber 9 5 4 0 0	18

Congratulations Lukas!

Future events:

**Pub night Friday 02 March
Bricklane Bar & Restaurant, 5
Clark St, New Lynn.** Be there from 8 pm onwards, you will find likeminded people!
www.bricklane.co.nz

**Jass Friday 9 March 7.30pm
sharp, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge
Avenue, Penrose.**

Please come along. You will like the friendly company with a bit of challenge.

**Jass Friday 13 April 7.30 p.m.
sharp at Danish House, 6 Rock-
ridge Avenue, Penrose.**

**Tramp in the Hunuas Sunday
25 March**

Your opportunity to have a look at a relatively unknown part of Auckland. The falls are certainly worth seeing, and the tramping is great.

PLAN: Meet at 09.50 at the Waterfall Carpark to start the walk at 10.

Walk up Massey Track to Cossey Dam (about 2 hours, 300m up overall), have lunch there and walk down Cossey Gorge Track to the falls (about 1 hour).

Coffee and cake courtesy of Swiss club at the falls and opportunity to take a dip in the pool at

the bottom of the falls. When we were there in January you could not do the short walk to the top of the falls, maybe it is open again in March.

TAKE WITH YOU: Your picnic, clothing, swimwear if you like, insect repellent, sunscreen. Walking poles are very useful. Wear your tramping boots if you have any. The tracks are well maintained, but not exactly suitable for jandals.

REGISTER: Please register with Nelly Steinemann 09 4794038, nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz

Give me your home and mobile phone numbers and email address as well. If you like directions on how to get there, I can help out too.

RAIN CHECK: In case of doubtful weather you will be sent an email by 7am on Sunday. You can also find the latest on our website: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland

Auckland AGM: Monday evening 30 April 7.30pm the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Marcel will run the AGM in his usual efficient way, so you are not in for a dragged out night. We promise you will not be elected into any committees against your will! But we'd love to see you there, and hear what you have to say to the running of your club.

The AGM is followed by a delicious supper, an extra treat!

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MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Market Day Saturday 05 May

Get ready for the big day. Tanja has several stands booked already. You will receive an invitation via email soon, but to be double sure you may want to contact her now:
latham@zurbruegg.co.nz
or 021 101 4432

NZ Swiss Society AGM in Auckland: Queens Birthday weekend 2-4 June

Not only is it our turn to host the event where the Swiss Club members from the whole country join, we will also take over the running of the NZ Swiss Society. Meet new like-minded people, or renew old friendships, it will be fun.

OTHER NEWS AND BITS

HELVETIA: The Auckland Swiss Club will publish the Helvetia from August onward. We have been contacting people who might be able to help with any aspect. If we have forgotten YOU, please put your hand up: Contact Marcel Ruedi@orcon.net.nz or 274901836. The more we are, the less everyone has to do.

Do not forget YOUR farm: With the balmy weather, which should last well into March, do spend a few days there if you like. Free for Swiss club members, but you must contact Marcel to make sure it is not booked already. Phone or email Marcel.

Plan for the Swiss year: We have a lot of activities up our sleeves. Check out the website: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland
Nelly Steinemann

*Marriage has three rings:
first the engagement ring
second the marriage ring
third the suffering.*

Found by Othmar Hebler

Wellington

Past Events:

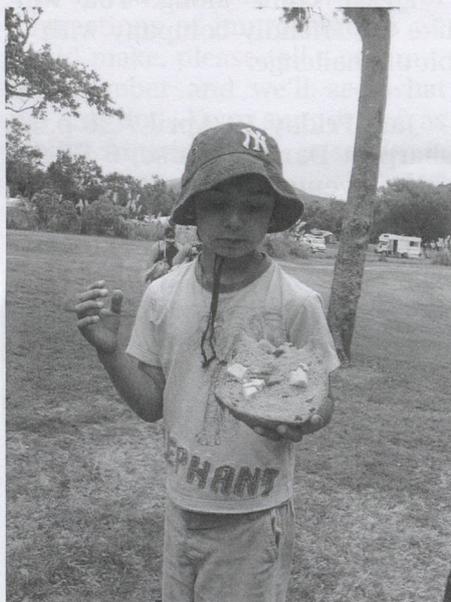
18 January: Krabbelgruppe

Petra was hosting our quarterly afternoon tea, in Island Bay. We had the pleasure to meet some families new to the Wellington Swiss club. The kids had fun playing around, dressing up and jumping on the trampoline.

These Krabbelgruppe are informal events for families with small kids, held at someone's home, generally during the school holidays. Join us for our next Krabbelgruppe during the April holiday! For more information email Odile:
odile.stotzer@gmail.com.

21/22 January: Camping/ Picnic in Kaitoke

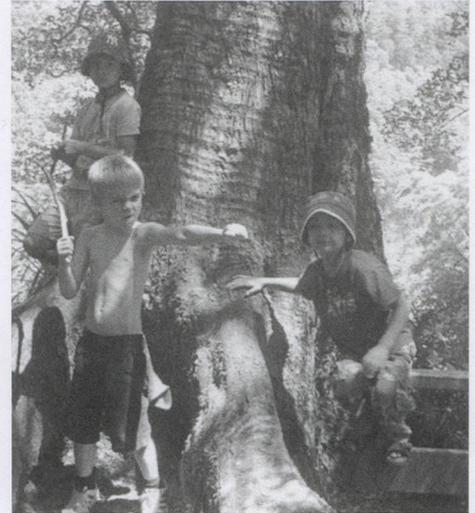
Not many members of the Swiss Club had the courage to take their tent and camping gear this year! Nevertheless the few



Can I eat all this?

who did had a good time.

The weather was idyllic. The campground was crowded, because of the sunny day and the long weekend.



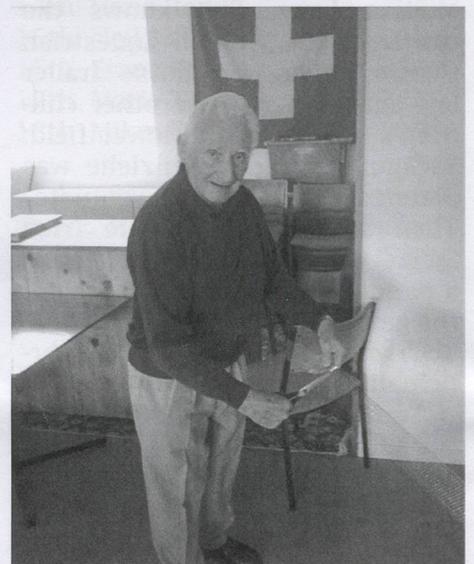
The three adventurers

Let's do it again next year, perhaps in another location?

29 January: BBQ at the Clubhouse

In the morning the Alte Post, owner of the clubhouse, had its shareholders' meeting at the clubhouse.

We cut the ribbon for brand new toilets!



Hans Scherrer cutting the ribbon for the new toilets

Most shareholders stayed on for the BBQ, and for the Jass afternoon - and two new young members came, too; a very warm welcome to Claire, and Daniele.

Some played cards all afternoon, and some, well - we might be in for a wonderful surprise in the not too distant future!

12 February: Shooting Practice and Medal Shooting

On the 12th of February we held our annual Society medal shooting competition. The weather was good but the wind was a little strong, which added to the challenge. Again, as in recent years, it was largely a family affair apart from Heinz Jaggi who actually gave us some good competition, coming second for the men on the day! A big thanks to Paul Scherrer for the use of his farm and hosting the event. JJ

Future Events:

17/18 March Cowbell Semifinal against Taranaki in Wellington

Our Taranaki friends will arrive on Saturday lunch time, and after a sausage from the BBQ the fierce and friendly competition in bowling, shooting, shotput and Jassen will start. There will be coffee and cakes all afternoon to keep us going. There is always time to catch up with old friends.

From 6.30 onwards we'll enjoy a meal with our friends from Taranaki. After the Znacht we'll compete again, this time in a friendly Quiz prepared by Odile. There isn't a cowbell at stake, but you can win prizes, too!

Please call Odile at 586 3095, or Sandie at 528 6960 if you'd like to join us for dinner and for the quiz.

25 March 1 pm: Medal Competition in Jassen at the Clubhouse

Come and enjoy a friendly game of Jassen. To compete for a medal you have to pay \$5. If we all agree, we could play for the medals according to the new rules, as proposed in the February Helvetia.

If you like to come for a Soup Lunch, please ring Trudi (56 28 019) so she knows how much soup she has to prepare.

7 April: Traditional Easter Eggs Dyeing

Details in the next Helvetia.

21 April: AGM of the Wellington Swiss Club

Don't miss it! Details in the next Helvetia.



We haven't had any functions at our Club since the last issue but all members should have received a newsletter. There is just one change to the dates on the newsletter:

Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton will now be on Sunday 22nd April - see below for more information.

Future Events:

Ruapehu Weekend - Friday to Sunday, 30th March to 1st April staying in bunk-style accommodation at the "Tokoroa Hut", with various walks to accommodate all levels of fitness. For further details please ring Vitus, ph 07 855 2841.

Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton will now be on Sunday 22nd April. Club members wishing to represent the Club and travel to Auckland please contact Herbert Staheli 07 847 7220 (daytime, work) or mobile 021 962 708.

Annual General Meeting - Friday 4th May 8pm at Swisscraft premises. 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. Please bring a plate for supper, to be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Card Evenings - the first card evening will be on Friday 11th May at the Union Parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Cambridge, commencing 7.30pm and then fortnightly thereafter. AZ

Swiss live long, work hard and help others

At 82.2 years, the Swiss have the second highest life expectancy in OECD countries, while health spending is third highest, at 10.7 per cent of GDP. These are among the results of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Society at a Glance survey which gives an overview of social trends and policy developments.

Switzerland has the highest proportion of working age people in the workforce, at 79.2 per cent, and Swiss workers retire later than the OECD average. With an average of 55 per cent of people volunteering time, giving money or helping a stranger in the previous month, the Swiss ranked sixth for engagement in social issues in the OECD.

One in four Swiss are foreign-born, the highest in the OECD after Luxembourg and Israel and more than double the OECD average of 11.7 per cent.

Despite its much lauded democratic tradition, Switzerland is one of only three countries in the 39 country survey, along with the United States and South Korea, with voter participation below 50 per cent.

World bullish on Swiss semen

Swiss bull sperm is in demand around the world: Swissgenetics surpassed last year for the first time the half million mark in sales abroad of bull semen packets. Swissgenetics said the amount of semen it exports has quintupled over the past ten years. Most in demand is semen from the breeds Simmental, Red Holstein and Brown Swiss. The company said the export market has taken on great importance since the domestic market fell into decline. *swissinfo*