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Taranaki

Past Events:

Keglen has recommenced with great rivalry, good chats and a delicious supper. Johnny would love to see a few more participants in the competition ... so come along and give it a go. If you've never played 9-pin bowling before, try ... there will be lots of encouragement and even some coaching ... whether that helps or not is another matter ... but these guys have a lot of fun, so please join them.

On the 5th of March we held our 60th Annual General Meeting with a good attendance. Our current membership is 285; this has been increasing over the last few years, which is a good sign. It was with regret that we accepted the resignations of Lisette Benkert, a committee member for the past 31 consecutive years, and Franz Schuler, also after several years of service. Thank you both for your valuable contribution to our club over many years, and I am sure that you will continue to help us from time to time. Remigi Zimmermann resigned as President of the Karabiner Shooting Club, but found a willing replacement in Bryce Kaiser. Thank you for taking the job on Bryce, and we are sure that you will do a good job. Thank you also to Remigi for his dedication in being Karabiner Riflemaster for fourteen years ... we're glad that you'll continue on the sub-committee and offer Bryce your total support. In appreciation of their many years of dedicated commitment and service to our club, Life Membership was awarded to Ruedi and Lisette Benkert. Well done and congratulations on a wonderful achievement. Remigi then handed out the Karabiner Shooting medals and cards, with a nice supper held at the conclusion of

the prize giving. Many thanks to all who attended the AGM, and we hope for another successful year ahead.

Several of our members experienced difficult times recently with the stormy weather and were without power for many days. We hope that times are on the improve for you all, and that you can start cleaning up your trees, Othmar!!! Wishing you all the best in your clean-up attempts!!!

After such a long report last month ... the table has turned, and this month is rather short ... but all will change in the winter months!!! Your committee will organise a new Calendar of Events and Newsletter after the AGM to let you know when our future events are. Your continued support of our functions is greatly appreciated.

Future Events:

April 5 & 19: Keglen will be held on these two nights ... come and support Johnny and his team of Mark and Walter.

April 14: Forget about penciling in this date ... the fondue evening has now changed due to prior commitments by some committee members ... this popular evening will now be held on the 19th of May!!!

April 15 & 29: Jassen/Euchre afternoons recommence. Walter is keen to organise these again, so please come along and give him your support. The games start at 1.15pm sharp ... so please be on time, so that we can start promptly!!! Walter would love to see a few new faces ... you don't have to be a pro ... just come for the enjoyment. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea, and then you may enjoy a few more games of cards.

On the 15th of April, Mark will be holding the Society / Championship Shoots from 1.00pm. Once again, Mark would

love to see a few new faces to make stiffer competition for the existing shooters, so please come along and give it a go!!!

May 3 & 17: Keglen is on from 8.00pm.

May 7: This is the last day to **order sausages** for delivery prior to the Fondue Evening (the sausages will be ready to pick up on the 17th of May). Please note that, except for an order done by Walter before the Anniversary Shoot, this will be the last order before the end of November (no order will be done before the 1st of August) ... so if you know that you'll be short ring now!!! Your orders can be placed with Marianne on 06 7628757 or Lisette on 06 7628718. Thank you for ringing early, as it makes our job so much easier!!!

May 13: Cards at 1.15pm ... enjoy the Jassen or Euchre.

May 19: Our fabulous Fondue Evening (with sausages and salads) will be held on the 19th of May ... the meals will be served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm ... so don't be late ... give Othmar, Marianne or Erna a ring to book your seat!!!

Last year the hall of full ... so don't be late, or you may miss out!!! We have decided that we won't hold the Preiskeglen this year due to low numbers for the past few years.

May 27: The Swiss Society competitions will be held from 10.00am with beautiful medals to be won. There is a separate section for juniors, so come along and bring your children to try out these "Swiss" sports. The sports are Jassen, Keglen (9-pin bowling), Steinstossen (shot put) and Shooting. By competing in any three of the four sports, you will get two chances for one meal at the Swiss Club ... so the more sports you play the increased chances of a medal and winning the voucher. Bring your own lunch. Mark will be holding the



Championship Shoot from 1.00pm. So come, make a day of it!!!

June 2 - 4: The Swiss Society AGM will be held in Auckland, so please ring Othmar or Marianne to book your seat on the bus ... further information in the next issue of the Helvetia. *MD*

Auckland

Past Events:

Beach Party Sunday 26 February

It's always a great excuse to spend the whole day at Long Bay Beach and do nothing but chat, laugh, eat, swim and enjoy the company of other Swiss people (and their partners). After we hung up the large Swiss flag we waited for the big crowds to arrive and a whole 11 others turned up! Everyone had a great time - playing soccer and hide & seek, playing in the sand with all the sand toys and even chasing other people away from the BBQ since it looked like they were staying for the day without sharing... well we couldn't have that with all our yummy Bratwurst all ready to be fried! It was a fun day out, all had a great time and enjoyed this probably "last" day of the very short summer we had! Better luck next time - in terms of Summer I mean!

Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

Pub night Friday 02 March Bricklane Bar & Restaurant, New Lynn.

The March Pub night, where we met out west, was a rather wet one again - and with all the storm warnings we had that day not surprising that only about 8 of us turned up! Well done for those that were still brave enough to face the weather - by saying that we were waiting for

the storm with anticipation but it only arrived once we were all safely back home tucked into our beds. I have to say though that whenever we do have a pub night at Bricklane it rains. So I decided that next time we have it out west, we might find another location just to see what the weather would give us. It was a great night though with lovely company and lots of laughter! Thanks guys!

Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

Special Working Bee Saturday 03 March

The bridge between the shooting hut and the butts suffered in the big downpour. We couldn't use the bridge anymore (safely). Henry called an emergency working bee. A total of 19 people offered their help and a lot got done on a day where everyone was on storm alert from the weathermen. Auckland got high winds and a few passing showers, but we didn't get the bad weather that our friends further down on the North Island suffered.



Bridge repairs Swiss farm

On the day we put 4 new posts into the sandstone base and concreted them in, the digger repaired the road down to the bridge, we laid a drain in front of the shooting hut so it won't get muddy anymore, we fixed the targets, the grass around the shooting hut and the butts got cut and the shooting hut had a spring clean (bonfire...). The crew enjoyed



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some lunch and worked until late in the afternoon. A happy Henry left the farm!

Thanks everyone who put a lot of effort into it.

Adrian Blaser

Jass Friday 09 March

Well done Iten family!!

| | | |
|------|-----------------|------|
| 1st | Hans Iten | 4059 |
| 2nd | Lynne Dunphy | 3976 |
| 3rd | Hilda Iten | 3920 |
| 4th | Edith Hess | 3887 |
| 5th | Hansruedi Wolf | 3868 |
| 6th | Andrew Iten | 3859 |
| 7th | Neil Kaiser | 3820 |
| 8th | Fidel Good | 3804 |
| 9th | Erwin Steiner | 3802 |
| 10th | Louis Wallimann | 3782 |
| 11th | Berta Good | 3778 |
| 12th | Othmar Wyss | 3718 |
| 13th | Annagret Wolf | 3660 |
| 14th | Matthew Kaiser | 3646 |
| 15th | Marcel Ruedi | 3551 |
| 16th | Emil Tellenbach | 3489 |
| 17th | Ernst Lanz | 3437 |

Future Events:

Friday 13 April

Your lucky day at the Jass! 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose. All welcome, tall or small, blonde or dark or gray, new or experienced. Friendly coaching available!

Weekend 14/15 April

Einzelwettschiessen Ausland-schweizer. Contact our rifle master Henry Werffeli 4103476 or werffeli@orcon.net.nz

Auckland AGM: Monday evening 23 April 7.30pm at the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

An error with the date sneaked into the last Helvetia, it is definitely on the 23rd of April

Your attendance is a MUST - we have such an exciting year ahead and need your input, with Auckland going to be running the NZ Swiss Society and editing Helvetia. You will be treated to a delicious supper.

Sunday 29 April: Cowbell Competition Auckland vs Hamilton

Semifinal. 10am start. Come to the farm and help us win that cowbell back. Have a go at stone throwing, and/ or bowling, and/ or card playing, and enjoy a free lunch.

The finals will be at the Society AGM on Queens Birthday weekend.

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS MAY AND BEYOND

Film evening: Friday 04 May
At the Danish Club

Market Day Saturday 05 May

It's coming up fast; we still have stalls available - you don't want to miss out! Contact Tanja: latham@zurbruegg.co.nz or 021 101 4432. See special notice in today's Helvetia, page 11.

Also see below re your unwanted German books / Swiss toys / tapes / memorabilia

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.

See notice in today's Helvetia for details, page 19.

Sunday 17 June: Chocolate Factory, hands on - Waitoki

Saturday 28 July: Swiss National Day Celebration.

Wednesday 01 August:

Bonfire - weather permitting!

AND MUCH MORE... . Check out the website:

www.swiss.org.nz/auckland

OTHER NOTICES

Your email address - please make sure we got it right. You should receive regular reminders of our events via email, if not, contact Adrian: adrian.blaser@slingshot.co.nz .

Swiss Memorabilia in your attic, German books in your bookshelf?

We will be having a stall at the Swiss Market with German books, Swiss souvenirs, T-shirts, cowbells, toys, DVDs, tapes etc. Proceeds all go to Auckland Swiss Club.

Clear out these well loved souvenirs, and let someone else enjoy them! We can collect from you or arrange drop off.

Please contact Nelly Steinemann, 09 4794038 or nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz

Hamilton

Past Events:

50 metre shooting competition 18th February 2012

Our shooting event went very well again this year with 20 par-



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ticipants supporting it. 5 juniors, 3 ladies and 12 seniors completed the program. The highest score was 75, highest ladies score 71 and highest junior score was 67. The four highest scores added up to 284, time will tell if this is enough to go to Auckland with a head start!! Well done all, thank you for coming along and supporting us. A special thank you to Erika and Ueli for having us at their place and for the endless cups of coffee and the food that we enjoyed. The weather was kind to us again and it was a very successful function.

Don't forget to mark the 300 metre shooting weekend in your calendar. It will be held 19/20 May at Kaukapakapa. If you have any questions or you would like to confirm your attendance please contact me on 021 658733 or hans@new-tech.co.nz

Hans Vetsch

Annual Picnic held Sunday 19th February at the Newstead School near Hamilton. Again, what an amazing day, considering all the miserable weather we had before and after the event. We managed to set nearly everything up under the big oak trees including the bowling alleys. It wasn't long before people arrived and many started lining up at the bowling alleys to try their luck at the medals, sausage or trophy bowling.



Showing off the cowbells...

We seemed to have several hundred people attend this event, but it is always hard to say how many. Some people reckon there were more than usual and then some say there were less than usual. Either way, a good

day was had by all. There seemed to be many visitors from Switzerland and also lots of new young families. Some people said they remember coming along to the picnic 30 or 40 years ago and had never been back so it was a bit of a trip down memory lane, although the venue was different.



Nobody had to be hungry

Many thanks to Rae and Vitus for organising some relays for the children and handing out chocolates, lollies and ice-blocks. This was much appreciated by everyone - receiving something without having to pay! Throughout the day the adventure playground and swimming pool was popular as well as everyone enjoying the delicious grilled sausages and the opportunity to buy a great selection of home-made baking. Rinaldo and Gritli even brought along a big pile of "Fasnachtchüechli" which were very popular with some people and disappeared quickly.

Many thanks to the committee and all the extra helpers on the day. This is always a big day and needs a fair bit of organising and running around on the day - especially cutting up all the cakes and making dozens of pots of coffee. In the end, the hard work is always worth it when you see all the happy families heading home.

See below the results from the day. Trophies and medals will be engraved and handed out at our Fondue Evening in September.

Shooting

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Men's cup | |
| Hans Vetsch | 75 pts |

| | |
|------------|----|
| Ladies | |
| Anna Rufer | 71 |

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Junior Boys | |
| Neil Matti | 67 |

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Junior Girls | |
| Nadia Cooper | 66 |

Shot Put

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Men's cup | |
| Kurt Bolli | = 25.45 |
| Ueli Hofer | 25.45 |

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Ladies | |
| Anna Rufer | 25.05 |

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Junior Boys | |
| Markus Bolli | 33.95 |

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Junior Girls | |
| Rosa Wallace | 19.05 |

Bowling

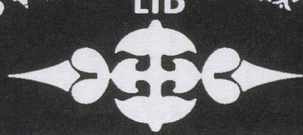
| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Trophy | |
| Peter Fluhler | 22 pts |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Ladies' Teapot | |
| Willettta Staheli (again) ! | 21 |

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Junior (under 12) | |
| Toby Haefliger | 12 |

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Junior (over 12) | |
| Olivia Studer | 14 |

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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*

Wellington

Past Events:

26th February: Family Day in Akatarawa

We had the worst weather we ever had for our annual Family Day: We had almost half an hour without sunshine! Then the sun started shining and warming up the paddling pool, where the younger kids could enjoy paddling with the plastic ducks (not yellow plastic ducks, much more realistic looking black ducks!)



Jake practising to be a Formula 1 driver, obviously representing Switzerland.



Bubble fairy Heinz delighting the children



Heinz explaining the treasure hunt to the children

The Jaggi's domain was as dreamlike as always, sheltered from the wind but not from the sun, with colourful flowers and bushes. The kids were let loose to play with the many, many toys, the swings, the sandpit, a merry-go-round and tree houses, to name just a few.

Shortly after lunch (and after a lolly scramble!) Heinz took the kids to the backyard, up to the garden shed, for a very much ap-

preciated distribution of ice-creams. Some quick adults were able to snatch some too.



The rush to the treasure hunt

We had the visit of a neighbour's little dog, who seemed very excited by such a friendly crowd!



A lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon

Later in the afternoon we enjoyed our traditional treasure hunt in the sandpit. The kids dug with all their heart and found a giant can full of yummy jelly beans.

A huge thank you to the Jaggi family who so generously share their place with us each year! Adults and kids alike had a wonderful day - and we look forward to the Family Day 2013. *OS*

26th February: Soup Lunch and Jass Afternoon at the clubhouse

Jassen is usually a fairly serious affair, with short moments of laughter when something unexpected happens. But this afternoon was different; it was absolutely hilarious, as the unexpected happened all the time. At first it looked as if it was going to be awkward: We had six keen and experienced players and one very reluctant, inexperienced do-I-have-to-play-player. But then Lotti remembered a way of play-



A game full of surprises!

ing with six players and two sets of cards. The two teams of three excellent players each quickly adapted to the new form, and we had a great afternoon. Two players had to leave early, around 4pm, and the remaining four players then had a more traditional game, which was fun, too.

Future Events:

7th April, Easter Saturday, 2pm: Easter Egg Dyeing at the clubhouse

Bring the eggs, the rest is provided. We'll dye Easter eggs the traditional way, with herbs and natural dyes. You don't have to be a child or have children to enjoy Easter egg dyeing!



21st April, Saturday, 7pm: AGM at the Clubhouse

We promise you will not be elected into the committee against your will, but we'd love to see you there and take an active interest in the club. Please support the club; it is **your** club! You should have received an invitation by the time you can read this. *tb*

Human ashes litter Swiss countryside

Not everybody wants to be buried in a cemetery. In Switzerland, you can have your ashes scattered to the wind, in a forest or over a glacier. The liberal practice has resulted in entrepreneurs hawking some rather unusual services to people in other countries. EU citizens can have their ashes buried or scattered in the Swiss countryside as there is no obligation to be buried in a cemetery.

A German funeral company has bought a 15,000m² plot of forest in the Bernese Oberland, where the ashes can either be buried among the roots of a tree or scattered across the ground.

According to an article in the *Berner Zeitung*, not everyone is pleased with the development of what some call "funeral tourism". But Switzerland relies heavily on tourism. The relatives come as tourists, of course. A year later

they come back to visit their deceased grandma and they stay for a week or two.

Resentment against open-air burials emerged in canton Valais a few years ago. Commercial open-air undertaking services have been banned there.

Open-air burials are nothing new in Switzerland. There have been "cemetery forests" since 1993.

Unlike typical Swiss cemetery plots, which are cleared after 25 years, a tree stays standing much longer. Open-air burials are not big business, but some people wish to return to nature after death. According to estimates, open-air funerals account for significantly less than ten per cent. 75 per cent of people are cremated. But what exactly happens to the ashes in Switzerland is unknown because the urn is handed to relatives.

Bearded vulture makes long excursion

A bearded vulture released into the wild in eastern Switzerland last year was seen in Normandy and Belgium, but has now returned home. Experts from Pro Bartgeier (the Foundation for Bearded Vultures) had worried that the male bird, named Sardona, would not find his way back to the Alps.

Sardona, who was bred in the Goldau zoo in central Switzerland, carries a transmitter, enabling his movements to be tracked. The foundation announced that it had released three more young birds and said they were doing well.

The bearded vulture - also known as the Lämmergeier - is one of Europe's largest birds, with a wingspan of up to 2.8 metres. It was once widespread, but became extinct in the Alps at the beginning of the 20th century.

Children don't prevent divorce

Rather than being the glue that prevents parents splitting up, children will at best just delay divorce, according to a Swiss study.

The number of divorces peak when the family's youngest child is aged between three and five. Parents are often too busy in the initial years, when the children are still dependent. When they start school, parents are suddenly relieved of a certain amount of pressure. Another key moment is when the eldest child turns 20 - a time when their life really starts and they often move out. Children are not the cause of divorce, nor do they prevent it. Religion, age and geography have a greater influence. According to the Federal Statistics Office, almost one in two Swiss marriages ends in divorce.

swissinfo