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Taranaki

Past Events:

On the 16th of March most of the Singing Group provided entertainment at the Catholic Church Hall in Stratford. Here, Barbara Kuriger and her merry band of helpers had about seventy of the elderly and disabled people from Stratford and the surrounding districts ready to listen to our music. These dedicated people, on a monthly basis, organise entertainment, have the odd games and provide afternoon tea at no cost to the people attending. They pick up some people, others arrive from rest homes, and yet others make their own way ... thank you for providing such a wonderful service to the elderly and disabled people in our area ... they absolutely love it and it was such a pleasure to entertain you all. The Singing Group provided its usual varied performance (music, singing, talerschwigen, alphorn), and was well received ... thank you to all the singing group members for coming along and providing entertainment for this audience who were so attentive. MD

Trip to Wellington

On the 17th of March a group of 26 Taranaki "Hopefuls" travelled by bus to Wellington to compete in the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition. Since most of us had a very early start a coffee stop in Bulls was welcome. Then we carried on and with a pass-the-parcel organised by Heidi, time just flew by and we arrived in good time in Wellington. After a great lunch we were ready for the challenges ahead. A group of six travelled to Scherrer's farm to do their best at shooting ... unfortunately the best just wasn't good enough!!! In the meantime the skittlers were also hard at work, only the supporters weren't cheering

loudly enough!!! So it was all down to the Jassers to lift our spirits with their win. All the "old age complaints" (sore shoulders, knees and backs) meant we didn't even compete in the shot put. Good on Wellington for winning the hard fought competition. Like always we got treated to a lovely roast dinner with all the trimmings, followed by a special dessert. A lot of knowledge of Switzerland was the key to the quiz that followed. A special thanks to all the musicians that entertained us for the rest of the evening and a special mention of the Vaudois that really liked the white wine!!! In the morning Trudi and her team spoiled us again with a "urchigs Zmorge mit Zopf, Chäs etc". Lucky Emmi had her spyglasses on, and spotted a big stranger on the bus and alerted us all ... both Othmar and Mark reacted straight away and were fortunately able to retrieve a cellphone he had stolen!!! Soon it was time to say good bye to our friends. On our long way home we stopped at ????? to stretch our legs!!! For lunch we had a break in Wanganui, which we well deserved after exhausting our IQs on a very interesting questionnaire. Vreni and Ruedi, who joined our trip for the first time in a long while, won this outright!!! Well done, and also well done to Heidi for putting the brainteaser together. Thanks Lou for keeping our sugar levels up and spirits high with a never-ending variety of lollies. Thanks also to the cabcrew; Othmar the driver and Mark the navigator and DJ!!! We hope that you all had an enjoyable trip and thanks for coming along.

Hope to see you all on our next trip to Auckland at Queen's Birthday weekend on 2nd - 4th of June. Heidi and Marlies

Must have been a great trip ... can't even remember where you stopped!!! Perhaps you were all drowning your sorrows after the loss????!! Or another "old age complaint", forgetfulness was in force!!! MD

Forthcoming Events:

May

You should all have received your calendar of events and newsletter, but if not please ring Marianne and she will post you one. The committee would appreciate you attending as many functions as possible. Catch you there!!!

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

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.



June 17&24: Cards ... that is Jassen and Euchre ... will be held from 1.15pm. Please come along and support Walter. The more competitors playing, the more fun it is for everyone. See you there!!! On the 17th of June, Mark will also be holding the final Championship Shoot ... so come along and have a shoot as well ... from 1.00pm. Just to make a day of it, join us for a few drinks at 5.00pm, followed by a potluck tea at 6.00pm. If you don't wish to play cards or shoot, just turn up for the potluck tea ... they're always great with a huge variety of food to choose from.

June 20: Should you wish to order any sausages, please ring Walter Seifert on 06 7628559 before the 20th of June. The next order will only be done at the end of November.

Saturday 30: The popular Anniversary Shoot will be held on the 30th of June, with shooting / keglen being played from 1.00pm, to 3.00pm. Come along and play one of the sports, then enjoy the delicious meal of Sauerkraut and Pork (also potatoes, peas, and Swiss sausages) served at 5.30pm. Mark will then have the spinning wheel going, with plenty of raffles to be sold!!! MD

Sadly on April 7th our long-standing past secretary, Doreen Schuler, passed away peacefully at Taranaki Base Hospital. She was very committed to our club, being secretary for many years, and honoured with Life Membership several years ago. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club I wish to convey our sincere condolences to the Schuler family. An obituary will follow.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
Bob Hope

Hamilton

Past Events:

Ruapehu Weekend

Sixteen people gathered at the Tokoroa Ski Lodge for the annual weekend away and with beautiful weather forecast, were looking forward to a scenic walk on Saturday. But, as they say, "mountains make their own weather" and the outlook was not



Urchin track summit walk

good after overnight rain and low cloud obscured the mountains. But most of us drove to the start of the Urchin Track in the Kaimanawas and climbed up the steep track through beautiful beech forest for about 2 hours to the trig at the top. Unfortunately, the clouds were so low,



Owhango walk

there were absolutely no views of any sort, so it was a quick lunch, then we descended in light rain.

That evening we had happy hour; then a great cheese fondue was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday the day was beautifully fine, so on the way home we stopped at Owhango for a most enjoyable bush walk by the Whakapapa River. R.A.

Future Events:

Annual General Meeting - Friday 4th May 8pm at Swisscraft Premises in Frankton. 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 held on Friday 11th May at the Union Parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Cambridge, commencing 7.30pm for medal jass followed by the evening's rounds. Please arrive promptly if you wish to participate in the medal jass. This will only be held on the first evening.

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Friday, 25th May - Second Card Evening

Friday, 8th June - Third Card Evening

Friday, 22nd June - Fourth Card Evening

Friday, 6th July - Fifth and Final Card Evening, with Overall Prize and Trophy Presentation.

We always appreciate some extra help with baking or a hand in the kitchen to prepare supper, so if you can assist, please ring Beatrice on 07 843 7971 or email bea.leun@xtra.co.nz

300 metre shooting weekend will be held weekend of 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, Riflemaster.

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2nd to 4th June - Swiss Society Annual General Meeting in Auckland. Information about this event is on page 12 in this Helvetia. If you are interested in representing the Hamilton Club at this event, please contact Anita Zuber - 0274 985 170 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz

AZ

Wellington

Past Events:

17/18 March: Cowbell Semifinal against Taranaki

Our friends from Taranaki arrived in a big bus right on time for lunch. Peter had the sausages ready, and after a sausage or two all were ready for action. The shooters went shooting, the bowlers went bowling - and the remaining people were busy in the clubhouse, busy talking, playing, peeling potatoes and generally getting afternoon tea and dinner ready. Rahel and Mark had arrived with a whole carload of Pavlova Roulades, and soon the roasts were in the oven, too. All went smoothly; the shooters came back; ah, the results were good. Then the bowlers came back, also with good results. In cards, the results weren't so good, but as the Taranaki club had come without their strong young men we won the shotput without trying too hard. We were so discreet about it that some had to ask who had won the semifinal. We had a great meal, all without stress; thank you, Rahel and Mark! And thank you to all the other helpers, too!



Time to play, time to dance

After the meal it was time to relax. Well, not quite yet; Odile and Nathalie had prepared a quiz. tb

Each table of dinner guests became a team, making it six teams of between 6 and 12 per-

sons. As usual in Switzerland, the group of French speakers was a minority, but not to be ignored!

All teams competed in good spirit on some easy and some not so easy questions. Some questions also related to the recent issues of the Helvetia, so we could find out who reads it thoroughly!

Would you know for instance:

- Which award is given at the Locarno Film Festival?
- Who is the patron saint of Switzerland?
- What is the capital of the canton of Ticino?
- Which club will take over the redaction of the Helvetia from August 2012 onwards?
- Who is the NZ delegate to the Swiss Abroad?
- Which Wellington-born soccer player was named Oceania player of the 20th century and played for Swiss clubs FC Aarau, FC Zürich and Grasshoppers?

Answers at bottom of the page.

All teams found the answer to last question. All teams also found the answer to the trailing question fairly quickly (the answer was Canton Bern). But only one person was able to recognize the logo of the late company Swissair (not to be mixed with Swiss!) OS

A big thank you to Nathalie and Odile for organising this quiz and finding all these questions!

Sunday morning saw happy Taranakians and quite a few equally happy Wellingtonians for breakfast at the clubhouse. We'll have more cheese next time..., we promise!

Answers:

The Golden Leopard
Niklaus von Flüe ("Bruder Klaus" was accepted too)
Bellinzona
Auckland
Othmar Hebler
Winton Rufer

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25 March: Medal Competition in Jassen

Ten keen, experienced jassers turned up, and the two not-so-keen, not-so-experienced people who had come to play Rummikub were required to play cards, too. A special thank you to Liliane who felt out of her depth with the 'strange' cards; you'll have to admit though that they are much more colourful than the French ones! It took all afternoon; well, we had a good break for afternoon coffee, too ... *tb*

Easter Eggs dyeing - Saturday 7 April

On Saturday April 7th, we dyed eggs at the clubhouse, the traditional way.

To do so, we first collected some pretty leaves and herbs. Then, using cut old stockings we tied them against the eggs, and Trudi put the lot into a decoction of onion skins and dried walnut husks. Boil and that is it! The eggs become beautifully red or dark brown with white herbs motives. Now that sounds simple, but that was thanks to Trudi who was a master at it and had prepared all the material we needed. We just had to bring some eggs. Raw eggs! That makes it slightly tricky, as you can't squeeze too tightly when wrapping them.... there were a few squashed eggs that Saturday.



Wrapping up eggs can be tricky

The kids loved it and are looking forward to try new patterns next year!

Krabelgruppe - Wednesday 11 April

That was a rainy day. I was a bit nervous at the prospect of

spending a rainy afternoon with an army of kids inside, but the kids were too busy to get bored, and ended up building a train track, playing mysterious suitcase games and chasing flies with little nets. The parents had brought some nice afternoon tea and enjoyed catching up. *OS*

Future Events:

Our AGM will be over by the time you read this Helvetia. The new committee will work hard on an interesting program for the new club year. Please support your club by attending the events and by taking an active part in the club. Don't forget: It is your club; the more you contribute, the more you'll get out of it!

Auckland

Past Events:

Hunua Walk 25 March

Unfortunately this had to be postponed, due to very wet conditions. Although the weather was not even too bad on the day, we got notified that the track was impassable. No new date has been set right now. It will be at short notice, you will receive an email when the weather looks good enough.

Helvetia planning meeting Monday 02 April

As you know, our club is taking over the production and distribution of the Helvetia Magazine from August this year, for five years. A dozen members who had indicated they might be able to help met at Edith's place. There was a lot of enthusiasm, and most offered to contribute something from their expertise or do some research into an area they are interested in. We are very grateful to Susie Wood who

volunteered to be the editor for the first year. Thank you also to Peter Deutschle, for fitting it all together. We are lucky to have a professional.

It is not too late for YOU to come forward; the more we are, the less the load. If you are interested in contributing in any way at all, please contact Susie: susie@ebg.co.nz or 021 588885

Jass Friday 13 April

It was a very special day: Our Jass - coordinator Hans Iten celebrated his 88th birthday. Just goes to show you how Jassen keeps your mind and body young and fit!



Happy birthday dear Hans

A record of 26 eager players turned up, so there was plenty of variety in partners. The winners were the Gordons, and as it should be, Mrs ahead of Mr.

1st	Carmen Gordon	4134
2nd	Ian Gordon	3991
3rd	Hilda Iten	3952
4th	Hansruedi Wolf	3910
5th	Andrew Iten	3910
6th	Othmar Wyss	3871
7th	Annagret Wolf	3831
8th	Erwin Steiner	3821
9th	Heinz Frei	3815
10th	Louis Wallimann	3806
11th	Walter Haller	3796
12th	Franz Krieger	3795
13th	Lynne Dunphy	3777
14th	Matthew Kaiser	3775



15th Anton Manser	3734
16th Fidel Good	3722
17th Emil Tellenbach	3708
18th Marie Theres Melville	3691
19th Nelly Steinemann	3687
20th Adrian Blaser	3675
21st Neil Kaiser	3641
22nd Renate Meyer-Knecht	3625
23rd Berta Good	3616
24th Marcel Ruedi	3611
25th Heidi Wilson	3571
26th Hans Iten	3503

May Events:

Friday 04 May: 7.30pm at the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose Film und Wähe / Tünne / Chueche / Flade

"HOSELUPF" is a homage to the Number One Swiss National Sport: SCHWINGEN.

Moderator Beat Schlatter is on a mission to find the soul of Schwingen.

During the buildup to the "Eidgenössischen Schwingfest" in Frauenfeld 2010 he spends time with the best of them.

In the process he digs into the history of the sport, tells one of the younger Schwingers that anybody could do this and challenges him to a match.

Saturday 05 May 8am to 3pm: Market day: Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

It's finally happening again! We do look forward very much to seeing you there, you won't be disappointed! Enjoy Switzerland for a day, in the midst of Auckland. Take your family and friends, you will all love it.

Friday 11 May: 7.30pm ; Jassen at the Danish Club

Be brave, come along, even if you have not played for a while. Promise nobody is going to be critical, every single one of us makes silly mistakes.

Looking forward to June and beyond:

NZ Swiss Society AGM in Auckland : Queen's Birthday weekend 2-4 June

We look forward to hosting the three other North Island Swiss clubs for this weekend: Wellington, Taranaki and Hamilton. Do join in some of the events, even if you are not a competitor, and meet likeminded people. Details on the full invitation, see page 12. Auckland members, register now with Heidi Wilson, 4789751 or heidi.wilson@hotmail.com for the Saturday dinner, or any of the competitions, or the more formal Sunday dinner with Swiss entertainment

**Sunday 17 June:
Chocolate Factory, hands on Waitoki**

**Saturday 28 July:
Swiss National Day Celebration at the Danish Club in Penrose**

**Wednesday 01 August:
Bonfire at the farm - weather permitting!**

**Sunday 19 August:
Cooking class - Marcel our multi-talented president will give us an insight into Swiss cooking. Hope he will show me how to do his wonderful risotto!**

AND MUCH MORE... . Check out the website: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland

Other Notices:

Last chance to get rid of unwanted Swiss memorabilia and German books: 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 the Auckland Swiss Club. Please let me know if you have anything you like to be loved by someone else. 09 4794038 or nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz

A warm welcome to our new members:

We are pleased that our club has been growing. Welcome to Simone Meier, Lisa & Trevor

Logan & children, Tom & Valerie Lanigan and children, Julia Kan-zso

Do make yourself known to one of our committee members when you come to an event, we would love to get to know you in person. Tell us your suggestions, or email to one of us, see Swiss Club website. *Nelly Steinemann*

SWISS NEWS

"We in Switzerland have a real poverty problem"

In an interview with swissinfo, Hugo Fasel, director of the Catholic church charity Caritas, said more than a quarter of a million Swiss children lived below the poverty line and that education was key to winning the fight.

A three-prong political approach was appropriate: improve equality issues, work for better access to job training and the labour market, and fight poverty on the family level.

It's important that people get a job rather than simply slipping off the market. Every month, 2,000 people lose their unemployment benefits; then they end up on welfare.

For a long time, poverty was not a topic at all. People didn't want to talk about the fact that one in ten people in Switzerland is poor. Many people in Switzerland are ashamed to go on welfare. Fasel said that youths should be provided with apprenticeships rather than welfare so that they're not poor on account of a low income. Rather than giving families welfare because they have several children, the benefits per child should be increased so that they can get a good education rather than end up in poverty.

swissinfo