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Swiss club news

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Past Events

In February, keglen re-commenced with a good muster for the first Thursday night ... Johnny is looking forward to seeing a few more people in the months to come. Prior to the picnic, the men tidied up the club house exterior by water blasting and touching up the paint work, and Johnny of course manicured the lawns ... thanks guys for your tremendous work ... the grounds and buildings looked great!!! Johnny even managed to get rid of the wasps ... huge thanks Johnny; they were a curse last year!!!

On February 9th, the Wellington Swiss Club members ventured north to contest the semi-final of the Cowbell competition against us. It was great to see so many of them make the effort to come, and we hope that they enjoyed their stay with us ... even if for a few, it was a short time!!! Everyone enjoyed a barbequed bratwurst or cervelat for lunch and then the serious business started. The shooters headed for the shed and the shot putters went to the petanque area to show their muscles. Well ... I can say that we did out-muscle the city-ites in the shot put ... but the other events were very evenly contested.

Six competitors from each club participated in the shot put, with Chris Jordan from Wellington throwing the furthest ... Antoni Sherman was our strongest competitor and our remaining throwers weren't far behind. So that was one discipline under our belt ... now to the shooting and keglen. In the shooting, five competitors shot 72 ... Theres Scherrer and Hans Kueng from Wellington and our own Lou Butler, Remigi Zimmermann and Marlies Hebler ... however we won overall by one point!!! That definitely wasn't a walk-over!!!

Meanwhile, the keglen was underway with a fierce battle taking place ... the highest score was achieved by Sam Simons from Wellington with 47 points, with Chris Jordan one point behind on 46. Taranaki's highest score came from Peter Canziani with 46 points, followed closely by our keglen master Johnny Bishop and Marcus Rufer, both with 44 points. As always, Mathias Seifert loves to skittle last ... everyone was holding their breath ... and he scored 43 points

to ensure we won the keglen by **one point** overall!!! Well done to all the competitors for taking part and ensuring that a close battle was well fought!!! As we had already won three disciplines, it was decided not to play the competition jassen ... and those who wished could play a friendly game.

Many thanks Wellington for coming up to contest the semi-final; friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship prevailed, and everyone seemed to enjoy their sports. In the evening, a dinner of cold cuts, cheese and salads, followed by a dessert was enjoyed by about 35 – 40 people. Many thanks to everyone who participated or helped to make the day so enjoyable.

Taranaki members, please remember to put the bus trip to Hamilton for the AGM of the Swiss Society and final of the Cowbell competition into your calendars, so that we can put up a good fight against either Hamilton or Auckland.

On Sunday 10th February, we held our annual picnic on a beautiful, sunny day ... as always in Taranaki!!! Many members from the Wellington Swiss Club stayed on ... and together with our own members, we also enjoyed the company of people from Canada and Switzerland, as well as the Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand, Dr Marion Weichelt-Krupski and her family. Thank you so much for coming Marion; it was great seeing you again and we hope that you and your family enjoyed seeing a little of our beautiful province, as well as our picnic!!! Once again, we enjoyed a huge crowd ... it is so hard to estimate, but many people believe that the crowd was bigger than last year ... who knows????!!! Thank you to Classic Hits (radio) for advertising our picnic on the "Community Notice Board" ... many people commented on hearing the ads ... and we enjoyed the company of many non-Swiss due to this advertising. The main thing is that people seemed to enjoy themselves and took part in many of the activities provided!!! Mark was in charge of the fishing again, and had many people giving the games a go ... thanks Mark - you do a terrific job. **A HUGE THANKS** to Reg and Rose Tecofsky who brought their bouncy castle and merry-go-round to the picnic for so many children to enjoy ... we are truly appreciative of your big effort and we hope that the children were well-behaved!!! Marcus, once again, had the shot put under control with a few helpers (thanks to all of you for your time) ... the winners were: Men - Mathias Sempach from Switzerland, ladies – Chelsea Heal (following in the footsteps of her aunty

Karen who has won the trophy many times ... I hear you just kept going until you had a winning score, Chelsea ... good on you for perseverance!!!) ... but Chelsea was only 2cm ahead of Sonja Werder (what a tight contest!!!) and the juniors – Toni Hess. Thanks to all the participants. During this time the barbecue was going flat-stick ... the bratwurst and cervelats were selling like hot cakes ... about 70 – 75kg were barbequed ... many thanks to Doreen, Heidi, Erna, Johnny, Leo, Walter and Marianne ... you all did a great job!!! To **New World Stratford** ... many thanks for donating the bread for the barbecue ... we really appreciate your sponsorship. Next door, the liquid refreshments and ice creams were selling fast too ... thanks to Mathias and Adrian for manning the bar. The distant noise of a helicopter could be heard, and Richard and Jolanda from Heliview were making an appearance ... several people took the opportunity to view the district from up above, and everyone enjoyed their experience ... many thanks to you for coming to our picnic and providing our spectators with something else to do.

Now the Schwingen was under way ... many thanks to Othmar for organising this event ... our great referee from Switzerland Thomas Ulrich was kept busy with the senior and junior participants fighting their battles hard. Grateful thanks to Martin, Silvia and Andrea for undertaking the administrative duties to ensure our records are kept accurately. After several bouts, the winners were announced ... the seniors' division was finally won by Stefan Sempach from Switzerland (boy, he won all the trophies!!!) with his brother Mathias second, and another Swiss tourist, Mathias Siegenthaler, third. Unfortunately many of our own wrestlers were unable to compete due to prior commitments, so we'll look forward to more of our own contingent battling it out next year!!! There were eighteen contestants in the juniors, varying in age quite a bit ... our Ambassador's son, Kasimir, took part too, and we hope that you enjoyed this challenge ... it was great seeing all the juniors doing their best. The eventual winner was Jonas Padruett ... from Taranaki ... yes; we did have a local boy winning on the day!!! Well done, Jonas ... and last year's winner Paul Whakatutu was runner-up ... thank you to all the juniors for participating ... we really appreciate seeing you take part and enjoying yourselves. We hope your arm is better Jarod and that you will take part again next year. Our grateful thanks to Alan

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and Maryanne Forsyth who regularly come as first aid officers to our picnic ... we really appreciate you giving up a day to attend our function. Once again, the Schwingen was the highlight of the day ... and we would like to thank all competitors for taking part and ensuring that our spectators had some wonderful entertainment!!!

During the Schwingen, our popular tombola tickets were sold ... and they sold so quickly this year ... no doubt due to our two main sponsors ... **thank you very much to the Swiss Deli for providing two hams and to Heliview for donating a short helicopter ride for FIVE people!!! Your sponsorship was greatly appreciated.** Maya Stutz and Margrit Gut won the hams ... so if you're hungry, give them a call ... oops, sorry by the time you read this they're probably all eaten!!! Gary Preston was the very lucky winner of the helicopter rides and enjoyed the ride every bit. **So next time you want to do something different, ring Heliview and go for a flight ... or call in to the Swiss Deli and buy some delectable fine meats!!! Once again, thank you both for your support.** Thank you to Erna and Heidi for organising the prizes and to the ladies who sold the tickets.

It was wonderful to see our very own Zeno playing the accordion again ... well done, Zeno, you've mastered your new "girlfriend" very well!!! We wouldn't even have known that you hadn't played for quite some time!!! A big thank you to our talented musicians who played live music all day ... Peter Canziani who makes the effort to come from Turangi every picnic (and other events we hold!!!), Zeno and Maria ... thank you very much for the entertainment which everyone really appreciates.

Club Tee-shirts – Erna and Heidi, with the help of Therese Orchard, organised new club shirts ... a men's navy polo shirt, a royal blue ladies shirt, and children's blue tee-shirts ... they look really smart ... and many people took the opportunity to purchase some. Thanks ladies for your great effort. If anyone would like to purchase one of these nice shirts, please ring Erna on 06 272 6438.

Late afternoon, people continued to enjoy a chat outside while having a drink or two. Everyone was relaxing after a hard day's work ... but it's so rewarding to organise an event when people enjoy themselves. After packing everything away, we all enjoyed delicious spaghetti bolognese (such a welcome change from barbequed meats!!!) and salads ... thank you to everyone who contributed to the dinner ... it was a wonderful way

to end a great day.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who attended the weekend's functions for their valuable support ... it was wonderful seeing so many people ... many of whom we hadn't seen for some time ... others who we see regularly ... it really makes our work a pleasure!!! Thank you also to those outside the committee who help in any way ... we really appreciate your valuable assistance. **THANK YOU!!!**

The following Thursday, the committee ladies gave the hall a good clean ... but even with all the people attending the picnic, going through the hall and using the toilets, the hall wasn't really too grubby ... but it just looks so much nicer after a good scrubbing!!! Thank you very much ladies for your great work!!! After the clean-up, we had a delicious pot-luck finger lunch ... an excellent way to finish off!!!

On the 28th of February, the Singing Group hosted the Hawera Ladies Probus Club for lunch, followed by entertainment. They were truly a great bunch of ladies to entertain ... you could have heard a pin drop. By the sounds of it, everyone enjoyed the meal and our performance. Thank you to the ladies who provided delicious salads and sweets; without you we would be lost!!!

On the 4th of March, we held our AGM with twenty-seven people attending. Othmar welcomed everyone and thanked them for their interest in our Club. It was decided that subscriptions will increase by \$5.00 to \$15.00 per person from 2014. Currently, our subscriptions only just pay our insurance premiums and it was felt that most of our running expenses should also be covered – rates, water rates, power and administrative expenses. At \$15.00 I would think that we're one of the cheapest clubs around!!! The Taranaki Electricity Trust and TSB Community Trust were thanked for their generous donations, allowing us to keep our building and grounds well maintained. Othmar thanked all those people who have helped and contributed to our Club in any way during the past year. We elected a new Patron, Lou Butler, although he was conspicuous by his absence!!! Lou has made a huge contribution to our Club over many years, and this accolade recognises his valuable input. After a little bit of persuasion by Othmar, Lou accepted the honour, very humbly. Congratulations Lou!!! There being little general business left, the meeting was soon over. A delicious supper was enjoyed by all.

On the 11th of March, the executive planned the programme for the coming year. We hope that you will enjoy what we have put together ... much the same as previous years ... and please put the dates into your calendar so that we have as many people as possible attending our functions. Thank you. You should receive your calendar of events, newsletter and subscription notice in the next few weeks. If for some reason you don't receive them, please give Marianne a call.

On the 12th of March, a good contingent of Taranaki Swiss Club members made the trip to Wellington to attend Max Fuhrer's funeral. Max and Rosina hosted our club many times at their place prior to the Wellington Swiss Club purchasing their own premises, and we really appreciated their kindness. They also headed to Taranaki several times to attend various functions. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club, we offer our sincere condolences to Rosina and family on the loss of Max, our dear friend from the Wellington Swiss Club.

Future Events

April

4 & 18 Keglen at 8.00pm. Please make an appearance; Johnny would love to see you. The more, the merrier!!! Johnny has indicated that this will be last year at the helm. As the saying goes, let's make it a good one so he goes out with a bang!!! Should anyone be interested in taking on the keglen masters' job, please talk to Johnny or a committee member.

14 & 21 Jassen will recommence at 1.15pm. As the numbers in Euchre declined last year, we are going to try having board games (which will include various card games), so please do come along and support the club.

On the 21st of April, Mark will also be hosting the Society / Championship Shoot from 1.00pm. So if you're not into cards or board games, come and give the shooting a go.

May

2 & 16 Keglen again ... go on, make the effort!!!

4 Fondue Evening – a delicious meal of fondue and / or sausages and salad will be served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Come and enjoy a great meal, a drink or two, and good company. To assist with catering, please book numbers with Marianne, Heidi or Marlies by the 27th of April. Many thanks.

19 We will be holding our Swiss Society competitions from 10.00am. There is a separate section for juniors, so parents /

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grandparents please bring along your children. There are beautiful medals to be won for the top 20% of participants in every discipline. From 1.00pm, the Championship Shoot may also be done. Bring your own lunch and make a day of it!!!

26 Cards / board games from 1.15pm. Join us!!!

June

1 – 3 We will be travelling to Hamilton by bus to participate in the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and also in the final of the Cowbell competition. Please join us for a fun-filled weekend. Your early booking with Othmar or Marianne would be appreciated.

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Past events

27 January: BBQ and Kegelbahn opening

Now it is official: we have our own Kegelbahn at the Wellington Swiss clubhouse! We had to wait until the BBQ to officially christen it when our president Murray presented Hans Scherrer with a bottle of wine. Peter Hynes had constructed a new gate and planted the flagpole, Heinz Jaeggi donated the impressive slabs for the outdoor tables and seats, Peter Hynes and Hans Kueng finished off the Kegelbahn with a coat of special paint – a big thank you to them all! The way to honour their work is to use our Kegelbahn now!

Jake Williams was in charge of raising the flag, which he mastered very well. We also tried to improve our skills on the Kegelbahn, in preparation to the Cowbell semi-finals in Taranaki two weeks later. Two very well behaved dogs joined our party. Candy showed us how patient and tolerant St. Bernard dogs can be!

3 February : Jassen

We are a solid group of dedicated Jassers. We take it seriously, but not too seriously, and there is always time for a cup of coffee at the beginning and half way through. Jassen keeps the brain active; it never ceases to amaze me how

fast the points are added and how sharp the short term memory is when it comes to remembering the trumps that have gone and the ones that are still in the game. Sometimes it borders on clairvoyance: How can you work out where the missing trumps are? It's all practice, I'm assured. Well come and practice! TB

9/10 February: Cowbell Competition and Picnic in Taranaki

Quite a few Wellingtonians went to the Cowbell Competition in Taranaki. One sure thing: We will not keep the Cowbell this year. We did lose in every single discipline, but never by far!

It was my first visit to the Taranaki Swiss Club. I was in for a few surprises. The road from Wellington to Kaponga is long, especially between Whanganui and Manaia. But then the volcano seems to appear out of nowhere, making the scenery startling. I did not need to be afraid of getting lost, as there are street signs indicating the way to the club house! The Swiss Club is a big part of the local community. Everywhere I went, people were mentioning the Swiss Club event that Sunday. Plus, everybody seems to be Swiss there! Well, without hyperbole, you keep coming across people who will tell you about their link to Switzerland, be it a grandfather or a spouse. The Taranaki Club members were very welcoming, and we enjoyed their hospitality and their cuisine. Wellington children were kindly invited to watch milking cows for the first time in their life. Quite an experience for an urban toddler to watch cows happily stepping in and out of the carousel and then walking away to get their treat! We also got a peek around the Dawson Falls Lodge, beautifully decorated with Swiss motifs which reminded me of some Swiss mountain houses.

On Sunday, we enjoyed the picnic party and I watched my first Schwingen tournament ever! It was my first visit to the Taranaki Swiss club, but certainly not my last!

24 February: Family Day

The favourite family event of the year! The sun was shining that day, as it has been all summer. We had a wonderful day at the Jaeggi's property, barbequing, watching the kids in the paddling pool and on a treasure hunt.

This year, the kids had to find the statues "hidden" alongside the place. They searched with enthusiasm and were rewarded with ice-blocks (parents were

allowed some too!☺).

Last but not least, we had the surprise visit of our friends Othmar and Marlies from Taranaki, who stopped by on their way to Wellington to deliver Zwetschge (pruneaux!). Much appreciated. A big thanks to Heinz and Trix for this happy day! OS

3rd March: Jassen

Again, we have two tables of dedicated Jassers. What a surprise: We also have overseas visitors! Margaretha and her son Jaden accompany (grand)father Hans to the clubhouse, and while Hans has a good game of cards, Margaretha enjoys catching up and Jaden practices Fahnenschwingen. He is a talent, it seems! We would have room for a third table and enough cake for another four players: Maybe next time? TB

One of the happy Jassers this Sunday was Max Fuhrer. On the way home he said he and Rosina planned to go to Hawkes Bay for a family reunion, to celebrate his 85th birthday. And three days later, we heard the sad news that Max had passed away.

Max and Rosina joined the Wellington Swiss Club very early on, and Max and Rosina's property in Ohariu Valley was home to our club for decades. Not only did they offer their property to the club for free; they also looked after it for us, mowed the lawn, provided firewood, and whatever we forgot to take along, we could borrow from their kitchen.

Max and Rosina became patrons of the Wellington Swiss Club and saved the club probably more than once. Even after they sold their property in Ohariu Valley, they stayed committed to the club. We wish to express our sincere condolences to the Fuhrer family. An obituary will follow in the next Helvetia. tb

Future events

7th April: Jassen

The hard core Jassers will be contacted; everybody else is more than welcome to join us at 1pm at the clubhouse. TB

20th April: AGM

This year, the AGM will be in the afternoon, to make travel more

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convenient for all. You should all have received your invitation by now, alongside the minutes of last year's meetings. Give me a call (ph. 586 3095) if you have not received it. We will discuss the five year plan and financial options and ideas of events for the coming year. OS

5th May: Jassen

The hard core Jassers will be contacted; everybody else is more than welcome to join us at 1pm at the clubhouse. tb

18th May: Fondue Night

Do not miss this first fondue of the year! It will be served from 6.30pm on Saturday 18 May. More details to follow. OS

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Past Events

The 50 metre competition was held on Saturday 23rd February at the Elmiger's property again and I would like to thank Ueli and Erika for their support in making this another pleasant outing, thank you to both of you. The turnout was fantastic and the weather was kind too, with the temperature rising as the morning passed. We had 26 shooters, of which 8 were juniors and 6 senior ladies. It was so pleasing to see all the new and an old faces - the top scores were not that brilliant, but I think Nadia Cooper with 67pts showed the best improvement of all. The top four scores were 72, 71, 69 and 67 pts, making this a total of 279 pts for the inter-club competition. Thank you very much to all participants, the club appreciates your input, and I hope we will see you all and more again next year.

Please remember that the 300 metre shooting weekend is only a few weeks away and I hope to see you all there. This competition takes place in Kaukapakapa on the 18th and 19th of May. For more information, please call Hans on 021 658733 or Verena_vetsch@hotmail.com Looking forward to getting swamped with email or calls!! Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster)

The Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 24th February at the Newstead School, and again we had a great turnout and

amazing weather. To start with, there didn't seem to be many people there, but as the day went on, more and more turned up. The grilled Bratwurst and Cervelats were popular as always and as soon as the cakes were served, we had quite big queues. Thank you to everyone who did baking and in particular to Gritli and Renaldo Rust, who again brought along a big box of Fasnachtuechli. We were also treated to some alphorn playing which was much appreciated. The children enjoyed lots of time in the pool and on the adventure playground. When Rae and Vitus rounded up the children for some sack races, it was great to see the enthusiasm, despite very hot conditions. They were all treated to iceblocks and chocolates, compliments of the club.

White Cross Orchard from Te Teko delivered ordered boxes of prunes which went down very well. Many thanks again for coming to our Picnic and providing this service. A lot of people queued up for fresh sausages to take home, so lots of sales were made on the day and everyone had a chance to stock up on some traditional Swiss favourites. Many thanks to all the committee and the extra helpers throughout the day. This is always a big day and lots of hard work, so any extra offers of help are always much appreciated.

Congratulations to all the winners and all the many participants. We had 36 adults and 5 juniors for the bowling, 10 men, 2 ladies and 4 juniors for the shotput, and 12 men, 6 ladies and 8 juniors for the shooting held on the previous day.

Trophy winners:

Shot Put Cup

Bruno Rufer 22.75 m

Shooting Cup

Hans Vetsch 72 pts

Bowling Cup

Vitus Achermann 26 pts

Bowling - Ladies' Teapot

Willetta Staheli 16 pts

Bowling - Junior Trophy, under 13

Toby Hafliger 22 pts

Trophies and medals will be handed out at our Fondue Evening in September. -- AZ

Future events

Sunday, 21 April – Cowbell Semi-final Competitions, Hamilton vs Auckland, at the Swisscraft premises. Participants are needed to compete in bowling, cards and/or shot-put (where we'd appreciate

some strong men!). For further information or if you would like to compete, contact Herbert Staheli on 07 847 7220 (Swisscraft), or on Mobile 021 962 708.

Sunday, 21 April – Annual General Meeting - The AGM will this year be held at the conclusion of the Cowbell competitions, commencing approx. 4.00pm, at the 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. Refreshments and snacks will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Monday 15 April 11am and Tuesday 23rd April 6.15pm – the film "Sister" will be screening at the Lido Cinema in



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Centre Place on Bryce Street in Hamilton.

This film is part of the French Film Festival and most members will have received a letter from the Embassy, including some information about this film. The setting is in the Swiss Alps and the film is in French, with English subtitles. If you are interested, please book your tickets at the cinema early and make this a gathering for our Swiss community. You can purchase refreshments (wine, coffee, etc.) to take in with you, and there is an opportunity to arrive early and mix and mingle with fellow Swiss.

Weekend 18/19 May – 300 meter Shooting for Hamilton Members at the Auckland Swiss Farm Clubhouse. Shooters - please contact Hans Vetsch as soon as possible to book for this weekend, by e-mail hans@new-tech.co.nz or phone 07 855 3294 (home) or 021 658733 (mobile). Hans will then liaise with everyone who has booked regarding food and transport, and can answer any questions. A good crowd of "old and new" shooters is most welcome at this popular event.

9 June – our club has received an invitation to compete at the Australian Jass Championship in Mudgeeraba, Gold Coast, Queensland. There will be a Swiss Dinner and Folkloric Show. You can register via their website: <http://tinyurl.com/AJC2013> or email tari@swiss.org.au. AZ

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Past events

Friday 1 February 2013 Pub night, Blankenberge Beer Café Takapuna

13 people were there and celebrated Tobi Blaser's 13th Birthday in the year 13. What a lot of luck all in one event! Best wishes to you Tobi.

Saturday 2 February: Working bee at the farm

A lot has been happening at the farm, thanks to all those hard workers. We (the kitchen crew) were particularly pleased to have water with pressure, thanks to new tank arrangements and pumps. Albert was busy fitting tiles into the new kitchen. Another project of the day was reversing some changes the TV crew

had made a few years ago, so we will be able to use the plastic coverings again on the walls, should the weather turn nasty. It will give us an opportunity to use the farm further into autumn or even winter. The new oven proved very useful again – once we had sorted out a few buttons and switches. 21 workers then enjoyed Edith's lunch, a variation on the theme 'Zwieble- Chäs- Zwetschge- Wähe'. As Edith was not actually there on the day, I took all the credit, totally undeserved.

Friday 08 February Jass

We all enjoyed resuming our favourite game after the summer break. The skills were still there. As a special treat, Renat offered us some of his Nelson wine to taste.

Louis	Wallimann	4267
Carmen	Gordon	4100
Annagret	Wolf	3996
Nelly	Steinemann	3993
Hansruedi	Wolf	3968
Franz	Krieger	3955
Adrian	Blaser	3910
Neil	Kaiser	3887
Fidel	Good	3881
Amelia	Fitzi	3863
Marie-Theres	Melville	3809
Ernst	Lanz	3804
Heidi	Wilson	3741
Berta	Good	3706
Walter	Haller	3679
Emil	Tellenbach	3673
Edith	Hess	3454
Hilda	Iten	3385
Hans	Iten	3370
Renat	Nussbaumer	3359
Matthew	Kaiser	3328

Saturday 09 February: Sleepover at the farm before the Swiss Day Out: Once again – the crowd was not huge, the two families who made it thoroughly enjoyed the experience of a night in the wild, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Sunday 10 February: Swiss Day Out – and Society Games

On another bright summer Sunday, about fifty members had a good go at some traditional Swiss sports: Kegeln (9-pin bowling), shooting, shotput (Steinstossen, 'throwing stones').

This time, there was also the option of 'Kugel-Stossen', using bowls that are ever so heavy, I can testify! We liked the barbequed Swiss sausages and yummy sweet treats, including the famous Cremeschnitten (to call them custard

slices does not do them justice). The turnout was not as big as at other times, so we are keen to find out how to make this event even more attractive next year.

Sunday 24 February: Beach Party at Long Bay

Long Bay is such a popular place, especially in this never ending summer. 30 of us had a good catch-up with the Swiss/ Kiwi group.

Friday 01 March: Pub night in Mt Eden

C.A.C Bar 26 Normandy Rd Mt Eden
<http://www.cacbar.co.nz/>

We had 11 people turning up at the Pub. Six of them had their "premiere" and we hope they liked the evening. The bar located in the historic 1920s bluestone building that once housed the Colonial Ammunition Company was quite impressive. The food however was a bit different from what we had expected.

By Erika Lanz-Wetli

Friday 08 March Jass, Danish House

We had a record turnout of 25 players and finished playing in record time around 10.30pm. Congratulations on a record score Heinz! But the best of all:

We celebrated the 90th Birthday of Hildi Iten. Wonderful to see you in such good health and sharp as! Does the secret lie in all these herbs?

Heinz	Frei	4375
Lynne	Dunphy	4063
Hansruedi	Wolf	4019
Heidi	Wilson	4001
Fidel	Good	3983
Erwin	Knechtle	3952
Marie-Theres	Melville	3930
Hans	Iten	3920
Annagret	Wolf	3903
Louis	Wallimann	3887
Neil	Kaiser	3794
Carmen	Gordon	3786
Emil	Tellenbach	3759
Ian	Gordon	3653
Walter	Haller	3642
Erwin	Steiner	3639
Franz	Krieger	3638
Nelly	Steinemann	3626
Berta	Good	3600
Andrew	Iten	3600
Matthew	Kaiser	3562
Hilda	Iten	3549
Adrian	Blaser	3462
Edith	Hess	3440
Othmar	Wyss	3417

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Future events, April and May

Friday 05 April from 8pm: Pub night in Howick, Basalt, 127 Picton St Howick (corner Picton and Moore Streets)

By special recommendation from Alex and Martin – they ought to know – we meet at the most popular bar in Howick! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Friday 12 April 7.30pm sharp: Jassen, Danish House, Rockridge Ave, Penrose

We hope the good turnout lasts, which means you get to know and play with lots of different people, and have less of a chance to draw the 'short straw' – being left out for one of the six rounds. Mind you, for me that's often a good thing, at least I am assured to get my 628 points!

Sunday 21 April: Cowbell Semi Final in Hamilton

Come and help us win the Semi-Final against Hamilton. We need all the muscle power to throw the stone, the brainpower and luck in cards and everyone for kegeln (9-pin bowling). Please let us know if you can help and travel to Hamilton. We always get treated very nicely there, with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, before travelling back to Auckland again. If we can secure the win, we will have a go at the Cowbell Competition at the AGM held in Hamilton over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Monday 29 April 7.30pm: Annual General Meeting Auckland Swiss Club, Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

We need you there to help us run this great club. Give us your valuable input. Or better still, consider filling one of the vacancies in the committee. It's not that arduous and mostly a lot of fun. The meeting will be followed by a delicious supper. You will receive a formal invitation soon.

Friday 03 May 6.30pm: Film evening at the Danish house

After a light meal, you will be treated to a Swiss film, details to follow.

Friday 10 May 7.30pm sharp: Jassen at the Danish House

Another evening of fun and games, with some frustrations no doubt.

Saturday 11 May 8am to 3pm: SWISS MARKET DAY, Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

You will have received your invitation – and may get another reminder or two. Don't miss this highlight of the Swiss year, you will be surprised how many Swiss and European goodies you can find right in the heart of Auckland. Take

your friends along, they'll love the flavour. See also separate advertisement in this edition of *Helvetica*. You might still be lucky enough to book a stall so please contact Tanja at: swissmarket@swiss.org.nz or 021 101 4432.

What's happening from June onward – mark your calendar

Weekend 1-3 June: Swiss Society AGM in Hamilton See separate articles in this *Helvetica*.

Friday 07 June: Pub night

Friday 14 June (and every 2nd Friday of the month): Jass at the Danish house

Saturday 06 July: Fondue Night at the Danish house

Saturday 27 July: Swiss National Day celebration at the Danish house

Thursday 01 August 6pm: Bonfire at the Swiss farm, always popular.

Other news: Vandalism at the farm

Just before Xmas, Henry installed our new water system at the Swiss farm. There is a new pump house where the water from the big concrete tank is filtered and pumped into the 1000 litre header tank. From there, it feeds into the different lines that go to the toilet block or the house, with a branch feeding the outdoor taps. On the first weekend in March, one of our members who rented the farm for the weekend went there on Friday to bring a car load of material, and found the pipes between the pump house and the main lines GONE, inclusive of the brass isolation valves. She called me and instead of attending the pub night, I went to the farm to assess the damage. We had a quick meeting to see if we could hook up the tank (still there at that point) directly so that they could at least use the toilets. But by the next morning, the new tank was gone too. It's so devastating to have so much work going into the water system upgrade to get more pressure, only to have it all destroyed by some vandals in a single weekend!

We will have to rethink how we re-instate the water tank. We will keep you posted. At least the insurance company has accepted the claim. By Adrian Blaser

New members

We warmly welcome to our club Daryl and Joanna Birchler, and Beat and Sheree Lacy-Goehring, with Sebastian.

Looking forward to meeting you soon. We hope you enjoy a bit of home away from home.

Nelly Steinemann, newsletter editor

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