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Swiss club news

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Past Events

On the 14th of April, our card afternoons started ... sadly a few people were away, and therefore there weren't many of us present. However, we all enjoyed good games. Biggest oopsie of the day went to yours truly ... listening to Erna and of course trusting her judgement ... well, all I can say "never again"!!! I was very, very fortunate to have a nice, understanding partner ... thank you Robert, I was very thankful!!! Results of the day were – 1st Albi Schuler, 2nd Robert Buhler and 3rd Margrit Dudli, with the booby going to Joe Buhler. The raffle winners were Margrit Dudli (twice) and Walter Seifert ... must have been your lucky day, Margrit!!! Hopefully, we get a few more participants next week.

The second afternoon's attendance on 21st April was much better and it was great having more people to play with and against. The winner was Marianne Drummond, second Myrtha Seifert and third equal were Joe Buhler and Ruedi Benkert. The booby prize was shared by Marlies Hebler and Albi Schuler ... hey, the luck or the skill must have deserted you this week Albi!!! The lucky raffle winners were Walter Seifert, Daniel Drummond, Frieda Meier and Marlies Hebler. Mark also held a shoot, and had a few participants in the wet weather. The shooters and jassers all enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, after which several people continued to play cards ... hard luck player of the day went to Walter, who announced that his team had won the game, only to find out that he was four points short!!! Better luck, or better counting, next time Walter!!! The only consolation being that your whole table laughed about it, eh?!!! We've had no takers for the board games, so if anyone has another idea for the non-jassers, please let us know.

We held our fondue evening on 4th of May with 130 people enjoying a fabulous fondue, cervelats and salads. By all the favourable comments, the meal was

thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks to all those who cooked, cleaned, and served. Many thanks to the musicians for the great music, as well as the ladies who made beautiful grocery parcels for the raffle. The lucky winners were Jennifer Bosch, Ruedi Benkert, Reg Tecofsky, Hans-Peter Ludi, Yvonne Werder (twice ... very lucky lady!!!), Mathias Seifert, Gary Preston, Ernst Denzler, and Vreni Kull. Grateful thanks to everyone who attended to ensure a wonderful evening was had.

New Members

We welcome Mrs Janine Colson and family as new members to the Taranaki Swiss Club. Janine is the granddaughter of the late Charlie and Doreen Schuler who were loyal and dedicated members, including many years on the committee of our club. We look forward to seeing you at one of our future functions.

Important News

Please note that our Hall Custodian, Erna Zimmermann, shifts in May. Should you have any queries regarding usage of the hall please call her on 06 278 8215.

Future Events

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.

16 Jassen / games at 1.15pm. Mark will also be holding the final Championship Shoot at 1.00pm. As always, afternoon tea will be held after the last card game, and everyone is welcome to stay for Happy Hour and a pot luck tea around 6.00pm. I'm sure several people will enjoy another round of cards!!! It would be wonderful to have a good crowd, as the dinner is always delicious and the company excellent.

23 Jassen / games will be held from 1.15pm. Come and make Walter grin by making an appearance. As the saying goes, "the more, the merrier"!!! Sausage orders for the Anniversary Shoot are due

by today, so please make sure that you have rung Walter on 06 762 8559 for your delectable fine meats.

July

6 The very popular Anniversary Shoot will be held with participants able to shoot or skittle. Remember everyone receives a prize ... so come along and enjoy a bit of sport, maybe a game or two of cards, a drink or two, a delicious Sauerkraut and pork meal and good company. You may be tempted to buy a raffle or two too!!!

Sausage orders for the 1st of August are due by today, so please ensure that you have rung Lisette on 06 7628718 or Marianne on 06 7628757, as no late orders will be taken, as we hope to be away for a few weeks in July. Thank you very much.

14 Jassen will be held at 1.15pm. Walter awaits your attendance!!!

21 Come and join us for the last afternoon of jassen for this winter.

27 Come and listen to some Swiss music and enjoy the culture and tradition that the 1st of August presents. We may even be treated to another play ... let's hope so anyway!!! Supper will be provided, with a Swiss touch!!!

August

Happy calving to our farmers, and we'll catch you in October when our activities recommence.

MD

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Past events

24 March: Eggs Dyeing

We did the traditional eggs painting, using onion skins. Trudi was not able to help this year, but luckily Petra came, who is an expert as well. We had boiled the onion skins the night before.

Swiss club news

There were some broken eggs, but this year I was somewhat wiser than last year and made sure I did not throw away the broken eggshells in the clubhouse bin, only to be found weeks later, in an undisclosed state.

7th April: Jassen

Well, that's what was intended. The weather forecast was not very inviting; nevertheless I tried to find players for our gmüetlich Jass afternoon. Soon I found out that some weren't here, some had left for Switzerland already, some had other commitments.

It looked like one table only, so I decided we could play at my place, where I could guarantee for cozy warm venue. But then another potential jasser couldn't come, and another had to cancel – we were down to two.

So I invited the last two (I know this isn't a word, but that's exactly what I did: Instead of inviting them I invited them) and had a quiet afternoon all by myself, near the fire, and the cake went to the freezer. tb

20th April: AGM

This year, we had our AGM in the afternoon, so that members living further away could attend. We had some big topics to discuss, and it was important that we reached a quorum (which we did!). We discussed the five year plan and financial options, and ideas of events for the coming year.

The committee was re-elected, with Mark stepping down, and Jeanine Macdonald being voted in. Welcome Jeanine! We now have a committee of seven members.

Some members played musical chairs, with Odile moving out of the secretary position and into the vice-president chair, and Nathalie becoming our new secretary. Murray stays president, Craig treasurer, with Pitsch, Peter and Jeanine as members. John Jordan is still our rifle master.

The new committee is now as follows:

President: Murray Simons

Vice-president: Odile Stotzer

Secretary: Nathalie Leamy

Treasurer: Craig Press

Committee Members:

Peter Hynes

Pitsch Leiser

Jeanine Macdonald

Rifle Master: John Jordan

5th May: Jassen at the Clubhouse

More luck this time! We had two tables, thanks to two very generous ladies who didn't really want to play but played to make up the numbers, as two keen players weren't able to make it; one had sudden work commitments, the other one hadn't recovered from a fall. Gueti Besserig!

The players decided they had enough medals at home already and it would be more fun to play 'normal', not according to the Society Competition Rules, and so we had a pleasant afternoon – with fresh cake, not the one that went into the freezer a month ago.

I hope we have enough players in June. tb

Future Events

7 July: Jassen

The hard core Jassers will be contacted; everybody else is more than welcome to join us. Please contact Trudi on 56 28 019 just to make sure there are enough players and we do play at the clubhouse!

11 August: Jassen

This time on the second Sunday, because we are having the National Day Dinner on the 3rd August:

The hard core Jassers will be contacted; everybody else is more than welcome to join us. Please contact Trudi on 56 28 019 just to make sure there are enough players and we do play at the clubhouse!

1st August bonfire

Let's meet on Petone Beach for our yearly bonfire. There will be hot drinks and sausages to keep us warm.

As every year, we still need to secure a fire permit and count on decent to good weather, so will confirm the event closer to the time.

3rd August: National Day Dinner

We will celebrate our National Day with a nice dinner at the Club house. More details will follow.

July-December 2013

The committee is busy organising the fondue night, tidying up administrative matters from the AGM and of course the shares sale. They will get together soon to plan our social calendar and it will be posted out as soon as possible. June is the Swiss Society meeting and Cowbell Finals in Hamilton on Queens Birthday weekend. July will have an event to take us through to 1 August dinner and Bonfire. September will most likely be our second Fondue Night and we will be planning something new for October. Now that we have three francophones in the committee, we may try and get you some flavours of the Welschland. Let us know quickly if you have any suggestions. OS

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Past Events

Weekend in the Waitakere Ranges 22-24 March

After years of enjoying club weekends at Ruhapehu, it was decided to go somewhere else this year. That somewhere else ended up as a weekend at Whatipu Lodge at the north entrance of the Manukau Harbour in the Waitakeres.

The weekend was a joint effort between the Auckland and Hamilton clubs and we ended up with good support from both camps.

Friday night we had about 30 people there and enjoyed a lovely afternoon (at least the early birds did) with walks up the hill, down to the lighthouse or just around the lovely surroundings of the lodge, before settling down for BBQ and lots of R+R.

A tramp was organised for Saturday and a good number of us took off at 9am.

Swiss club news

The first part was all uphill through lovely bush and beautiful views over the coastal hills. Some of us thought we could see Mt Taranaki but I only made it down to Mt Karioi and a bit further down the coast. After about 2.5 hours, we arrived at the other end of the range and we stopped for quite an extensive lunch break, thinking it would be an easy stroll along the beach back to the Lodge.

Well, it took us half an hour through soft sand out to the tidal, firmer sand and then it went on for another 2 hours for some of us to get home. The beach is just fantastic, with the hills close in and a swampy tidal strip between beach and hills, but a good number of us arrived back with some very tired bodies.

The social part of Saturday kicked in with a fondue dinner and a few drinks. A lot of wisdom was exchanged before the lights went out.

Sunday was a leisure day, with some taking off to the hills, the caves or the beach, while others just leisured around the Lodge. Most of us left after lunch and I certainly thought it was a very successful weekend, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Auckland team for their input into this lovely outing. Have a look at the Auckland report, I suspect you will read more about this there. Let's keep this activity on our agenda.

Hans Vetsch

Cowbell Semi-Final

The Cowbell Semi-Final between the Auckland and Hamilton Clubs was held on Sunday 21st April on a very wet day at Swisscraft. The Auckland contingent arrived very promptly and after quick refreshments, the bowling got underway. Auckland had already won the shooting and the bowling was very close, but went Hamilton's way. The cards also went Hamilton's way, so after some lengthy discussion, Auckland conceded the shotput. Maybe our big, strong men put them off?? Hamilton now look forward to the final against the Taranaki Club on Queen's Birthday weekend. Thank you to the Auckland group for participating and having to put up with storm-like conditions in Hamilton.

Hamilton Club AGM

This was held on the same day following the cowbell competition. Most of the

people waited around and played cards or enjoyed the delicious afternoon tea on offer, but a few members braved the storm and joined us at 4pm. We had 26 members attend, four more than last year. The meeting followed the usual protocol and whilst we had no resignations during the year and no new nominations for this year, we will go ahead with the same committee and office-bearers for the coming year. Thank you to everyone who attended and offered their on-going support to the committee and club.

AZ

Forthcoming Events

Card Evenings will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge, commencing promptly at 7.30pm. The four top scores will count towards the overall prize.

Friday, 7th June: Third Card Evening

Friday, 21st June: Fourth Card Evening

Friday, 5th July: Fifth and Final Card Evening, with Overall Prize and Trophy Presentation

Sunday, 28th July – First of August Celebration.

This day-time function has proved very popular to celebrate our National Day, so we are again planning to have a lunch time family meal at the Matangi Hall.

A newsletter and booking form will be sent out prior to the function.—AZ

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

Past events

Weekend 23-25 March: Whatipu with the Hamilton Club

When the notice went out for the combined Hamilton/Auckland Swiss clubs weekend getaway, my first thought was – where on earth is Whatipu?

Having lived in Auckland my entire life I felt a little dumb upon doing some research, to find this place IS in fact in Auckland. Time to destination from our dwelling in Kaukapakapa was 1 hour 31min which I thought could easily double knowing Friday night traffic through Auckland.

So "yes" I replied "we will there, but we will be arriving late". "No worries" Tanja replied we will keep dinner for you.

The drive was actually no problem and after passing through Titirangi we immediately felt way out of town and enjoyed the somewhat narrow and windy journey through bush and past beaches. It was a delight to reach the Lodge which on first appearance looks like a group of old school buildings.

The BBQ was on and we were quickly welcomed with the plates full of wurst & salat, followed by Mum's fabulous Zwetschge Wähe.

Most settled in for an early night, because they had big plans for the next day. Up bright and early we were – thanks to the resident rooster. Breakfast was had, lunches made and suddenly the camp was empty as a large group set off on a four hour hike. Some set off on smaller walks to the beach and lighthouse, and others remained behind to take care of camp.

It seems the four hour hike was somewhat underestimated and it was more like a six hour one as the walkers re-entered camp midafternoon.



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Swiss club news

No sooner than they were back, preparations began for the evening's Fondue dinner. Many thanks, Hamilton for this very enjoyable meal.

After dinner, the cards were out for the Jass enthusiasts and a game or two of billiards was also enjoyed.

Sunday arrived all too soon (that rooster again). We all set off for a walk to the caves after breakfast and then it was tidy up and homeward bound.

Thank you to the organisers for the welcome, the food, the friendly company and the stunning surroundings. We would definitely go back again.

By Sandra Hess

Friday 05 April: Pub night in Howick

Our pub night in the 'Basalt' attracted a group of nine Swiss and their friends. It proved a good venue for the 'locals' out East.

Friday 12 April Jassen



There were 19 people which is a good turnout, but one more would be even better – why don't YOU come next time, then we don't have the table of six that some of us do not like!

Results:

1st	Hansruedi	Wolf	4116
2nd	Edith	Hess	4096
3rd	Andrew	Iten	4004
4th	Heidi	Wilson	4000
5th	Heinz	Frei	3984
6th	Lynne	Dunphy	3910
7th	Nelly	Steinemann	3850
8th	Othmar	Wyss	3844
9th	Hans	Iten	3819
10th	Annagret	Wolf	3811
11th	Walter	Haller	3711
12th	Adrian	Blaser	3698
13th	Fidel	Good	3672
14th	Franz	Krieger	3653
15th	Hilda	Iten	3551
16th	Daniela	Schwarz	3535
17th	Louis	Wallimann	3495
18th	Lilian	Steiner	3424
19th	Emil	Tellenbach	3419

Sunday 21 April: Cowbell Semi Final in Hamilton

We did try hard! 11 of us went down to fight for that cowbell. And we had already won the shooting, hooray! Very close at the bowling – we lost by just two points with the last ball by Hamilton. Despite our most experienced cardplayers doing their best, we were beaten there too. The very heavy downpours made for muddy grounds which were unsuitable for stone throwing. Looking at all the muscular young competitors from the Hamilton club, we decided we would not have had a chance. So we gave the point to them. Which means that Hamilton will compete at the final at the Society AGM. Good luck Hamilton!!

Monday 29 April: Annual General Meeting Auckland Swiss Club

Some 40 members attended our AGM. Thank you for coming.

Yeah right, said Adrian, who conducted it efficiently like he had never done anything else in his life. He had been thrown in at the deep end: We had re-elected him as vice president last April. The next month Marcel the president told us he was leaving Auckland, so by June Adrian had settled into his new role. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and skilled leader, and thanked him. The club is doing well, with many enthusiastic and hard working members in the various sections, including shooting, jassen, Swiss and Knusprig, Farm maintenance, and us 'general' ones. The accounts are healthy and well-kept by Carmen. The largest expense next year will be an upgrade of the last 300m of road to the farm; we had a choice between two variations, and elected to go for the less expensive one. Keep fingers crossed it will last the 5-8 years that we expect it to. Our Edith Hess received a special thanks including a gold medal. Edith has done far more for the club than is expected of anyone: Committee member, chief cook, floral artist, decorator of halls, networker, and friend to us all. She has resigned from the committee. We are not quite sure how many years she did it – forty is probably a good guess. Fortunately though she is not leaving the club, and has promised us help when needed. We can even

make use of her hospitality and have our committee meetings at her place – looking forward to more baking!

The elections brought us three new committee members: Alexandra Beskid Jung and Martin Beskid will share the role of vice president. Sabine Wyss is going to join us, as a Swiss speaking French. Neat to have young people, we welcome you and look forward to run this great club together. The evening concluded with Edith's 'last supper', beautifully presented cold cut meats and cakes.

Friday 03 May: Film evening at the Danish house

After some funnier movies, "Der Verdingbub", the movie we watched in the latest instalment of our Film Evening, dealt with a much more sinister topic and a dark chapter of Swiss history. Verdingkinder were orphaned children or children living in whatever the authorities deemed to be troubled families, who were taken away and put into new families to live with. More often than not they had to work incredibly hard, were treated like slaves and had to suffer beatings and other physical and psychological abuse.

This hushed up practice that took place from 1800 until 1960 became prominent recently, when the Bundesrat issued a formal apology for those blatant violations of human dignity. The thousands of Verdingkinder still alive are yet to be compensated for the unpaid work and the mental-health problems resulting from their treatment.

"Der Verdingbub" tells the story of two of those children. Max an orphan, whose only possible retreat from the horrors of everyday life is his beloved accordion and Berteli who was taken away from her widowed mother are placed on the same farm. Life is hard and full of deprivation and the farmer, his wife and his son take out their frustrations on Max and Berteli more and more often. While their relationship is hostile at first, they soon build a companionship which becomes for both the only thing making life bearable, especially their shared dream of leaving the misery for a much better life in Argentina. Whereas most of the people in the village turn a blind eye to what's going on at the farm, a new teacher's decision to intervene bears tragic consequences.

Swiss club news

Although heavy to digest, it was good to see a thought provoking film for once and the gloomy atmosphere was quickly brightened by the wonderful Wähe we were treated to by Erika and Edith.

By Lukas Lanz



Friday 10 May: Jassen
Eighteen people! What a good turn-out.

Results:

1	Marcel Ruedi	4339
2	Heidi Wilson	4191
3	Andrew Iten	4010
4	Heinz Frei	3962
5	Emil Tellenbach	3897
6	Hans Iten	3866
7	Edith Hess	3864
8	Lynne Dunphy	3833
9	Neil Kaiser	3786
10	Carmen Fitzi-Gordon	3733
11	Franz Krieger	3715
12	Hilda Iten	3641
13	Louis Wallimann	3596
14	Othmar Wyss	3595
15	Walter Haller	3521
16	Ian Gordon	3516
17	Matthew Kaiser	3445
18	Fidel Good	3314

Saturday 11 May: SWISS MARKET DAY

On a sunny Saturday 11 May, people flocked to the Danish house to see the wares of the Swiss community.

The "Zuckerwatte" guy next to the carousel offered his sweet welcome in the courtyard. The coffee queue was long but swift, and there was fresh juice too. The two bakers offered fresh bread, Nussgipfel, Berliners, buns and Cremeschnitte to have with it. The meander along the stalls was sprinkled with fragmented conversations with old acquaintances, their friends and family, a glance at the displayed health elixirs, dogfood, lebkuchen, light therapy machines, homemade salad dressing, sauerkraut, vinegar, scarves and jewellery, Swiss tools, chocolate, Swiss cheese, news, carvings, Rivella, measuring rulers, a brief inquiry on price, origin, decision made, purchase.

People spilled out the side door to the food stalls and settled for a sausage or raclette around the tables set up under the canopy, and took the chance to conclude that conversation.

Thank you for a wonderful event. Thank you to the stallholders and the Yodellers who made this market so very Swiss.

By Trudi Fill-Weidmann

Future Events

Weekend 1-3 June: Swiss Society AGM in Hamilton

By the time you read this, you may well be on the way to the AGM. Please see last *Helvetia* for details.

Friday 07 June from 8pm: Pub night in the centre of Auckland

Brothers Brewery, 90 Wellesley St (corner Nelson St). Within reach for many of us, see you there!

Weekend of 8-9 June: Shooting at the Swiss Farm

Note reserve shooting weekend 22-23 June depending on weather.

Friday 14 June 7.30pm sharp: Jassen: Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Our 7.30pm sharp start has worked out well – I find I hit the pillow before midnight now, great for elderlies like me!

Saturday 06 July 6.30pm: Fondue Night at the Danish house

Get warmed up inside with our national dish; bring your friends along, they will love it. Please register with Adrian Blaser: Phone 09 832 0366 or Email adrian.blaser@swiss.org.nz

Friday 12 July 7.30pm sharp: Jassen - Danish House, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Be brave and try – we will coach you along!

Saturday 27 July: Swiss National Day celebration - Danish house, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 7pm. Celebrate our National Day in Swiss company, with Swiss folklore, music, and beautiful food. This event tends to be booked out early. Secure your place now with Adrian: Phone 09 832 0366 or Email adrian.blaser@swiss.org.nz

We love YOU to entertain us: As usual we like to share some of our talents at this celebration; a good opportunity to get rid of stage fright in a friendly

environment. Please contact me if you are considering contributing: nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz or 09 4794038 (message). If you don't do it, it will be the same old...

Thursday 01 August 6pm: Bonfire at the Swiss farm

(Weather permitting). The real thing – like in the old days. A trip up the hill in the dark, warm front and cool backside, the smell of burnt wood, it could not be more Swiss. If weather is doubtful, check out the website. www.swiss.org.nz/auckland

Diary notes for the coming months

Friday 09 August: Jassen at the Danish club

Friday 06 September: Pub night

Friday 13 September: Jassen

Sunday 22 September: Inline Skating

New members

We warmly welcome to our club: Daniela and Ernst Schwarz. Trust you enjoyed that Jass Daniela – looking forward to seeing you again!

Nelly Steinemann, newsletter editor

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