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The Foundation of the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand

This article on the right was published in the *Helvetia* magazine from June 1952 and announces that Taranaki has successfully founded the very first "Swiss Social Club" in New Zealand. That was obviously a huge success as very soon Auckland, Waikato, Wellington and Christchurch followed suit. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a *Helvetia* article mentioning the foundation of the Auckland Swiss Club. With the help of the New Zealand and Swiss National Libraries we searched for hours and hours but to no avail.



From Taranaki: Claire, Christian, Edith, Susie, Raymond, Patricia, 2nd row: Peter, Mathias, Brian & Louise



Soccer Tournament in Kaponga and "Top 10" competition

The Auckland Swiss Club was founded on Tuesday, 3rd November 1956. In January 1957, the first ever picnic was held together with the Waikato Club in the Bombay Hills. On that day, the first inter-club competitions were introduced, a tradition that has been kept up for almost 60 years now.



The handsome young men of the Auckland Swiss Kiwi Yodlers

The foundation of the Taranaki Swiss Club: Article from *Helvetia* June 1952

NEWS OF THE COLONY

Swiss Social Club

Whereas the Swiss colonies abroad in nearly every country enjoy all kinds of social clubs, our compatriots in New Zealand in this respect are not being spoilt. They have no clubs where they can meet and have a nice time among themselves, talk of their old folks at home, exchange childhood memories, make a "jass" or read Swiss magazines, etc.

The question of having Clubs such as one finds in Cairo, Istanbul, or in some of the American States, does not come into consideration. The number of Swiss in New Zealand would not permit it, and neither would their finances. In order to build such luxurious clubs our colony should have a few millionaire members and unless we are wrongly informed, this is not the case. But wealth is not all; there is something more important, and that is the spirit. We have just discovered that those who doubt its existence are utterly wrong, for we have the great pleasure of announcing that a patriotic spirit does exist, as is evidenced by the birth of a Swiss Club in the region of Stratford, which has just been registered under the name of "Taranaki Swiss Social Club," and we wish to congratulate the founders very heartily for their initiative. Here are their names:—

President: W. Risi, Ohangi.

Vice-President: John Steiner, Mahoe.

Secretary: L. Nolli, Stratford.

Executive members: J. Kaiser, Kaponga; Fr. Imhof, Whakamara; H. Helbling, Riverlea; J. Schupfer, Lowgarth; Fr. Gwerder, Te Roti; Miss I. Bernold, Stratford; W. Fluhler, Hawera; Ch. Chamberlain, Kaponga; P. Zimmerman, Mere Mere; D. Luond, Awatuna; H. Schicker, Manga-teki.

At present there are 61 members and it is expected that this number will reach the 100 mark by August 1st. Let us hope that this club will develop rapidly and become so prosperous that its members will eventually be able to buy their

own "Swiss House" with a little Swiss flag flying on its roof.

Let us also hope that this fine example will be followed in cities such as Wellington and Auckland in due course, when the number of Swiss have increased.

The Taranaki Swiss Club was founded on 29th March 1952 (at their first AGM)

The Foundation of the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand

The foundation of the Hamilton Swiss Club: Article from *Helvetia* December 1956

SWISS CLUB, WAIKATO

On Sunday, 27th May, 1956, twenty-four Swiss resident in the Waikato District attended the original meeting organised by Messrs. A. Biland and W. Risi and held in the Te Rapa Hall, Te Rapa.

The meeting decided to form a Swiss Club, as a branch section of the Swiss Benevolent Society (now the Swiss Society of New Zealand), for the purpose of sociability and fellowship among Swiss by regular monthly gatherings. As committee members were elected: Mr. A. A. Biland, president; Mr. W. Risi, vice-president; Mrs. O. Fitzi, secretary; Mrs. Spirig, Mr. and Mrs. Binzegger, Mr. J. Arnet and Mr. Otto Fitzi. At a later committee meeting Mr. T. Loetscher was elected treasurer and reporter to the Head Office of the Swiss Society of New Zealand.

Since its inception the Club has held four social evenings at the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton, which were all well attended and proved most enjoyable. Such items as Swiss card games, folk songs and yodels, Fahnenschwingen, popular music, dances and raffles made every

evening a cheerful and pleasant reunion. The usual supper consisting of a Servela, bread and a cup of coffee has also proved to be most popular.

The Club membership is steadily increasing and we now have 60 members. Meetings are held every third Sunday of each month at the Riverlea Cabaret, Hamilton, at 8 p.m. All Swiss resident in the Waikato, who are not yet members, are heartily invited to join the Club, where they will be most welcome. The life membership fee is £1, in addition to the annual subscription to the Swiss Society of New Zealand.



A musical celebration in Hamilton

The foundation of the Wellington Swiss Club: Article from *Helvetia* November 1957

FORMATION OF A SWISS CLUB IN WELLINGTON

The committee of the Swiss Society wishes to congratulate the Swiss people of Wellington for the formation of a club. Our special thanks must go to Mr. Bischof for his efforts and to everyone else who helped this worthy cause come to a fruitful conclusion. We wish them every success in the future.

WALTER RISI,
President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
(Inc.).



Wellington Picnic in March 1957



First group travel to Switzerland in 1964



Dedicated club members who in 1976 converted a shed into their first Swiss Club house

The Swiss Club in Christchurch was founded in 1960 and used to be part of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

NEWS OF THE COLONY

NEW SWISS CLUB IN CHRISTCHURCH

We proudly announce the formation of a new Swiss Club in Christchurch. The executive of the Swiss Society wish to congratulate and warmly welcome this Club into our family of the Swiss Society.

Our thanks go to all who helped in any way to bring this achievement to fruition.

The committee of the new club is:

President, Mr Peter Muller,
7 A Whareora Terrace, Cashmere,
Christchurch.

Vice-President, Mr Fritz Wangler,
180 Cashmere Road, Christchurch.

Secretary, Mrs Erica Grantham,
156 Aldwins Road, Christchurch.

Treasurer, Miss Hilda Wangler,
180 Cashmere Road, Christchurch.