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Swiss club news

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

Past Events

During November and December, the Singing Group was kept very busy entertaining and catering for various organisations. They all seemed to enjoy the variety we offer and thought the bratwurst / cervelats with salads were delicious, together with the cakes and biscuits for dessert.

Thank you to the entire Singing Group for their commitment to providing entertainment to our audiences, and to the ladies who prepared so much food ... you're great!!!

On the 13th of December, our HUGE sausage order arrived (totalling \$11,800.00 ... that's a fair few bangers as Kiwis say!!!). On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club, our grateful thanks go to Ruedi and Lisette for sorting out all the fine meats and calculating the prices for the many individuals who purchase these delicious products. The camper shed was cluttered with boxes stacked everywhere!!! This is a big undertaking and the Club appreciates your big effort ... thank you very much.

On the 15th of December, we held our Christmas Shoot, well-organised again by Mark Kiser. Attendance wasn't huge, but those who came enjoyed the get-together and delicious pot-luck lunch. Competitors could either shoot or skittle before lunch, while the children were kept busy with making Christmas cookies ... thank you Marlies for making the Mailänderli dough ... the children thoroughly enjoyed cutting out biscuits, decorating them and then baking them.

Thank you Lisette for cleaning the oven as some of the decorations fell off and made a bit of a mess!!! We all enjoyed seeing the children dedicated to their task and using all the dough!!! After lunch, Father Christmas arrived, and after the children had sung some carols, distributed some presents.

Mark then commenced the adult prize-giving with everyone bringing and receiving a prize. The shooting results were: 1st Emmi Kiser (my gosh you've got great talent, Emmi!!!), 2nd Mark Kiser and 3rd Othmar Hebler. The skittle results were: 1st Vreni Kull (the quiet achiever, eh Vreni??!!!), 2nd Heidi Werder and 3rd Lou Butler. Then followed the distribution of the Mystery Prizes with Othmar, Lisette, Yvonne Werder, Marianne, Nicole, Peter and Bryce Kaiser, Emmi, Marlies, Vreni and Ruedi being the lucky winners. Many thanks Mark for organising this day for us ... you're marvellous!!! It was great to have Claire Hunn amongst us ... Claire is the granddaughter of our late President Len Chamberlain. Thanks for coming Claire and we hope you all enjoyed the day.

If anyone has any ideas on how we could attract more people to this event, please talk to Mark, Othmar or Marianne. We tried holding this event a little later to see if more people would participate, but numbers stayed about the same. So any ideas would be welcome.

Mark also handed out two trophies that have been contested recently in the small bore shooting programme. The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot was won by Mark Kiser with Kate Fitzgerald runner-up. The Ted Napflin Memorial Shoot, which has been competed for since 1978, was won by Othmar Hebler, with Mark Kiser runner-up. Well done to all the competitors in these shooting events and congratulations to the winners. If anyone is interested to take up small bore shooting, please contact Mark Kiser. He is quite happy to offer a bit of coaching and would love to see new faces!!! Not that he minds the 'old' ones!!!

December 31st – New Year's Eve – well there were 33 vans parked on the beautifully mowed grounds (thanks heaps, Johnny). Happy hour was great ... held outside in the warm sunshine, followed by a BYO BBQ ... so everyone was fed and watered awaiting entertainment!!! There were numerous skits by campervanners and Swissies alike ... well done Othmar and Marlies for your great skits ... must have taken you hours to perfect!!!

Sorry, Fred, that you were the sucker at the end of the stick!!! Couldn't have happened to a nicer guy!!! Thank you to Trevor, Alan and Pam for their great entertainment, together with all the campervanners and Swissies who contributed to make such an awesome evening.

All too soon, supper was served and then it was time to toast in the New Year. A big thank goes to Ruedi and Lisette for organising the afternoon and evening, and also to everyone who came to help create a wonderful atmosphere.

On New Year's night, just fewer than fifty people enjoyed a smorgasbord meal at the Stratford Club. It was a great way to end an enjoyable two days ... having a chat with friends, making new acquaintances and appreciating a drink and meal.

Hope our year continues in this vein!!!

Forthcoming Events

February

6 & 20 Keglen recommences from 8.00pm. Come and join this fun-loving crowd ... enjoy some keglen, the odd drink or two, a delicious supper and a good chat!!!

9 Our annual Picnic will be held on the 9th of February. The ever popular Schwingen will be held for the young and the young at heart ... give it a go ... you may be surprised at your fitness (or lack of!!!). Barbequed cervelats and bratwurst, drinks, ice creams and much more!!! There is plenty of fun to be had and heaps for the kids to do ... pony rides will again be available, as well as the bouncy castle and merry-go-round (thanks so much Reg and Rose for committing to our picnic again) and the popular fishing game. Come along from 11.00am and enjoy a great day amid friends. And why not make new acquaintances? We would love to see you!!! This is one event not to miss!!!

10 Othmar will be taking orders for the delicious Zwetschgen ... please tell him the quantities that you would like by TODAY. Taking orders and delivering the fruit is a huge job; thank you very much Othmar and Marlies for organising this for our Club.

Swiss club news

March

3 Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 3rd of March at 8.00pm. Come and see what was achieved in the past year, and look forward to the new one. Please bring a plate for supper.

6 & 20 Keglen is back in full swing ... come along and enjoy a game, a chat, the odd drink or two and a delicious supper. Fun and laughter are top of the chart!!!

8-9 We will be travelling to Wellington to take part in the semi-final of the Cowbell competition. Strong men, skilful card players and accurate shooters and keglers are sought ... however if you just want a good, fun time, then we would love to have your company too!!! Please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878 to book your seat.

16 Mark at the small bore rifle club is hosting the Championship / Society shoots from 1.00pm. Please go along and support him. Juniors are most welcome to participate and will be in a separate section for the Society Shoot.

April Our new programme and newsletter will be organised and dispatched so that you will know what is happening in our Club. Please try to come to as many functions as possible. MD

**WELLINGTON
SWISS CLUB**

New Members

We would like to welcome Karen, Oliver and Finley Waldis. I understand Karen and Oliver have given the jassers a run for their money already! We are also pleased to announce that Felix and Marion Bolli-Guerin, whom we met at the Christmas dinner, have now joined the Club. We look forward to seeing you all again soon and getting to know you better!

Past Events

Jass – 1 December

Our last Sunday afternoon Jass in the old year! Most of the 'regulars' came for this pleasant afternoon in good company. Sometimes it takes us quite a while to get going; we are a very sociable group! Isaiah Fuhrer, our youngest player, is showing much promise, so watch this space.

Samichlaus – 8 December

The children all had a lovely time decorating the gingerbread house for Samichlaus and Schmutzli. Thanks to a mix of Swiss design and Kiwi ingenuity, we even managed to hand it over in one piece! Samichlaus and Schmutzli arrived bang on time and surprised the kids who were all watching out for them on the wrong side of the Club House.

As usual, there were many promises to keep rooms tidy, eat vegetables and use nice words. Samichlaus and Schmutzli had notes from the previous year, so were able to congratulate the children who had made special efforts during the year.

Thank you to Barbara, Bruce, Craig and Petra for organising this fabulous day.

Christmas Dinner – 14 December

Once again, our volunteers surpassed themselves and cooked up a storm. We had the biggest and most delicious array of salads I have seen in a long time and the ham was just perfect.

Thank you to all those who helped with the cooking and setting up. Everyone had a lovely evening. We also got to meet Flavio Milan of the Swiss Embassy and new members Karen, Oliver and Finley Waldis and Marion and Felix Bolli-Guerin.

Jass – 5 January

The new year hadn't quite started yet when the usual jassers were reminded to meet for our first afternoon, and yes, we had enough players for two tables. Our new members Karen and Oliver Waldis are expert jassers, and I hope they enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed theirs. Before we started playing, we had a cup of coffee and a piece of the Königsuchen. Rosina was queen of the afternoon.

Future Events

ERRATUM:

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME DATES WERE INCORRECTLY ADVERTISED ON OUR CLUB CALENDAR AND PREVIOUS ISSUES OF HELVETIA. THE DATES BELOW ARE THE CORRECT ONES. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DIARIES ACCORDINGLY.

Jass – 2 February and 2 March

We'll meet again at 1pm at the clubhouse. The usual players will be reminded; newcomers are most welcome. Please contact Trudi on 56 28 019.

Taranaki Picnic Day & Schwingen Festival – 9 February

The annual schwingen festival organised by the Taranaki Swiss Club is a great opportunity to (re)discover traditional Swiss wrestling. It is a very vibrant festival that draws hundreds of people from all over Taranaki. The little ones are also catered for with a merry-go-round and bouncy castle. Everyone is welcome to attend and sample the legendary Taranaki hospitality. For more information you can contact the Taranaki Swiss Club via littleacres@xtra.co.nz or phone 06 278 6878 or 06 762 8757.

AMI Round the Bays & Picnic – 23 February

Some of our members have already registered for the 10K and half-marathon and have started training seriously. It is open to walkers and runners and has three course options: 7K, 10K and half-marathon.

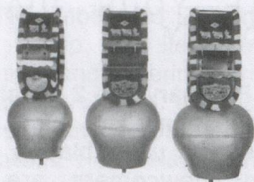
You can enter competitively, or get a group of friends together and enjoy a scenic walk along Wellington's waterfront. If the weather permits, we will have a picnic at Kilbirnie Park after the event.

Cowbell Competition and Dinner – 8 March

Our annual face-off against the Taranaki Swiss Club will take place during the weekend of 8-9 March. The events are Jassen, Steinstossen (shot put), Kegeln (bowling) and rifle shooting. A detailed programme for the weekend will be sent soon, but in the meantime, get practicing!

Swiss club news

The Saturday dinner will be followed by our Swiss Quiz, which was a big success in 2012. We will provide lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday to our Taranaki friends, so will need as many hands as possible. Anyone who is able to help with baking and/or cooking, please let us know. The Cowbell competition weekend is always a very happy event, so do join us.



Shooting Day – 16 March

Medal Shooting Competition is taking place at 1pm on Paul Scherrer's farm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Rd, R.D.1, Mangaroa Valley. For more information, contact our Riflemaster John Jordan 528 7846. Everybody is welcome!

Family Day at the Jaggi's – 30 March

As each year, the Jaggis will be hosting our Family Day at their stunning property in Akatarawa. This is always a fun-filled day and one of our most popular events. Bring your own picnic (barbecues will be available to grill your own meat) and togs. If you have never been to the Family Day, you don't know what you have missed!

Jass – 6 April

Unfortunately, there will be no jass in April as it clashes with our AGM. However, Trudi might be able to arrange an alternative date, so have a chat with her if you are interested.

AGM – 6 April

Because of the clash with Easter, our AGM will take place on Sunday 6 April at 2pm at the Club House. A formal invitation with detailed agenda will be sent closer to the time. Please bring a plate to share afterwards.

Kids Easter Craft Day – 13 April

Save your laddered stockings and onion peels! We will need them to decorate Easter eggs the traditional way. From 2pm at the Club House. Please bring a plate to share and a few fresh eggs (uncooked).

Nathalie Leamy

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

We welcome everyone to 2014 and hope you have all had a good start to the year.

Past Events.....

The Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday 1st December at the Newstead School. Families started arriving after 11am and most young ones started off with doing a few crafts, made Christmas cards and decorated some biscuits.

After this, there was time to spend on the adventure playground and soon it was lunchtime. Everyone enjoyed plenty of free sausages and drinks. Unfortunately, the turnout wasn't that good, but all those who attended had an enjoyable time.

Ursula organised a small concert and songs and got a lot of the children involved, as well as entertaining Santa when he arrived. Santa handed out presents to everyone and so the children were happy. After that, the raffles were drawn – many thanks to those who donated prizes, as well as bringing a plate to share for afternoon tea.

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The children enjoyed an ice-cream, while the adults had coffee, cakes and biscuits. It turned out to be a lovely warm day so everyone enjoyed sitting in the shade for some of the time.

Forthcoming Events

Practice Shoot on Saturday 15th February at Elmiger's property on Maungatautari Road from 10am to 12 noon.

50 metre Shooting Competition for Swiss Society Medals will be held on Saturday 22nd February 9am to 12 noon, also at Elmiger's property. Bring your own drinks and snacks if you need something.

For further information or car-pooling options, please ring Hans on 07 855 3294 or 021 658 733.

Annual Picnic on Sunday 23rd February from 11am at the Newstead School on Morrinsville Road. We will be having our usual events including Medal Bowling and Shotgun as well as activities for the children and lots of food for everyone including grilled sausages, baking, coffee and cold drinks.

For further information please ring Anita 0274 985 170 email zuber@xtra.co.nz or Beatrice 07 843 7971 email bea.leun@xtra.co.nz

Our February newsletter and calendar of events will be sent out to all club members mid-February. This will confirm whether there is going to be a Zwetschge order this year – subject to availability and delivery.

Anita Zuber



Swiss club news

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB

PAST EVENTS

Saturday 30 November: Working Bee

Some 20 of us proudly got our very special farm up to standard for the coming weekend, enjoyed the company and a delicious lunch, courtesy of our competent and cheerful kitchen crew. Thank you very much everyone. Why don't YOU join us next time (Saturday 01 March, see below). We can always do with more helping hands.

Sunday 08 December: Santa

The atmosphere, the weather, the Man from the North Pole arriving from the sky – all worked out perfect once again. Young and young at heart had a good day. It was a delight to see the children's excitement. The photos speak for themselves. Special thanks go to Adrian who manages to wear so many hats (pssst!), to Edith once again for not only creating unique table decorations, but also making delicious Anis-Brötli for the children to paint, to Osci for financing the heli again, to the kitchen team and all the other helpers, and to everyone who joined the festivities.

Sunday 15 December: Carol Singing

Another Swiss Christmas to make many of us a bit homesick. The carols just sound so different in German, even 'Zimmetstern han-i gern' is fun to sing when you are quite sick of the 'Jingle Bells'. Many thanks to my choir friends for a great effort in singing and for making these delicious 'Guetzli', it was so much appreciated by all. Looking forward to next year.

Sunday 12 January: Okura walk

Two dozen of us, together with many others, enjoyed a day that was just right for a walk, not too hot, nice breeze, through beautiful bush and along foreshore. I found it particularly interesting to have so many nationalities represented, as several of us took their visitors and family.

Nice spread of ages too, from 7 to 80, and they all coped well with those hills. Do keep an eye out for our next walks – see below.

COMING EVENTS FEBRUARY AND MARCH:

Enjoy summer with a Swiss Club outdoor event – or perhaps a nice evening over a drink, or a game of cards. Please note: Our traditional picnic / society games day now has a new date and a new name: Moved from February to March, it is now known as 'Swiss Day Out'.

Friday 07 February from 8pm: Pub night at Brothers Brewery, 77 Cook St, Auckland CBD

Do join your fellow Swiss and their friends for a relaxed evening during a long weekend. Brothers Brewery have a great selection of fancy beers and you may treat yourself to a pizza for your dinner. As usual, you will receive an email reminder or you can check the Auckland Swiss Club website, www.Swiss.org.nz/auckland/, or the Auckland Swiss Club facebook page.

Friday 14 February, 7.30pm sharp: Jassen at the Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Rd, Parnell.

Have you had withdrawal symptoms over summer, too? I hope you did not get too rusty!! We look forward to catching up with you on the day.

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If you have not been brave enough in the past – please do come, we do love to see new faces and will coach you along!

Sunday 23 February 11.00 : Beach Party at Lake Wainamu (near Bethells Beach) at Waitakere Ranges.

Drive to Bethells Beach Car Park and walk up the stream to the black sand dunes and Lake Wainamu, where you will see the Swiss flag. Bring a picnic and join us at Lake Wainamu for a family day full of fun! Go for one of the many walks around the lake or just enjoy a ride down the sand dunes into the lake on your boogie board! Optionally for those who fancy spending a weekend out at the Waitakere Ranges, we have booked the Opanuku Pipeline Campground at Bethells Beach, too. Arrive on Saturday and enjoy a fun filled weekend! Booking in advance required.

Cost: \$6 per person (bring your own camping gear). Spaces are limited, there is only room for 20 people.

RSVP Camping: 7th February 2014 to alexandra.beskid@swiss.org.nz. For further details or if weather is doubtful, check out the website www.swiss.org.nz

Saturday 01 March: 10am Working Bee at the Swiss farm

Properties always need maintenance – the farm is no exception. Please help us out, the more we are, the faster these jobs get done and we can then enjoy a nice lunch together.

Friday 07 March from 8pm: Pub night in Howick, at Basalt, Corner Picton & Moore Streets

We had met there for our pub night last April and found it a great venue. Try it out!

Sunday 09 March from 10am: Swiss Day Out / Society Games at the Farm

Have a fun day and compete to win a medal or two with traditional Swiss sports: Kegeln (9 pin bowling), Steinstossen (shotput - choose between throwing a stone or a concrete ball), and 50m shooting or air rifle shooting. There are separate categories for men, women and children, so you will have a chance!

Swiss club news

The charge for each discipline is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. 20% of participants will get a beautiful Swiss medal.

No picnic without delicious food: Choose between various barbecued sausages and a delicious Swiss pastry – this is the time to savour an original Crème-Schnitte (Swiss Custard Slice) or another delicacy.

Friday 14 March, 7.30pm sharp: Jassen

Have some fun with likeminded people, all ages and looks welcome!

Friday 21 to Sunday 23 March – Tongariro Crossing, combined with the Hamilton Club

The invitation went out last year and the places were snapped up very fast. Please contact Tanja if you like to go on a cancellation list to sleep in the hut. There are other accommodation options available, including Skotel or camping etc. You could still join us for the dinners. If you still like to join us on a walk (long or short) or even do the whole Tongariro Crossing, please get in touch with us: 021 1014432 or tanja.latham@swiss.org.nz

APRIL 2014 AND BEYOND

An exciting time awaits you. Have a look at our website (www.swiss.org.nz/auckland) or check us on Facebook.

We have regular events on Friday nights (pub nights or films on the first Friday of the month, and Jassen on second Friday). But there is much more. Do mark your calendar now for:

Sunday 04 May:

Society semi-finals in Auckland against Hamilton. Support our club by participating in shot put, 9 pin bowling or card playing.

Monday 05 May:

Auckland Club AGM

Saturday 10 May: Swiss Market day NOT TO BE MISSED.

More to follow next edition, but feel free to talk to Tanja now.

Sunday 18 May:

Walk - to be confirmed.

Weekend 31 May to 2 June (Queens Birthday):

NZ Swiss Society AGM in Taranaki. You are warmly recommended to participate. It's so good to get together with Swiss from other parts of the country. We intend to car pool.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Ziemke Family! I hope you enjoy our mini Switzerland. Please make yourself known to one of the committee members when you attend your next event.

GREAT NEWS: ZWETSCHGEN on the way (Damsons, Prune plums):

Peter Schuler from Whakatane tells me the crop is exceptionally good this year. Won't it be lovely to savour the fresh fruit, make Wähe or jam, or freeze them for later! They come in boxes of 10kg at \$40 per box. If one box is too much for you, share with friends. We are not able to sell smaller lots.

They will be delivered to Edith Hess at 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield, somewhere around mid-February. You will need to pick them up from Edith. She does not have cool store facilities. We need to have an order of at least 400kg (40 x 10kg) to make it worthwhile for Peter to come to Auckland.

Please put in your order NOW with Tanja: 021 1014432 or tanja.latham@swiss.org.nz. Give Tanja your email address, as well as phone numbers. There may be a relatively short notice for pick up in the order of one to two days.

GIVE US YOUR SUGGESTIONS:

YOU and your fellow Swiss make up our club. Do give us your comments and suggestions. Write to the editor regarding society and Helvetia issues: editor@swiss.org.nz, or to our secretary for Auckland club matters, sabine.wyss@swiss.org.nz.

Nelly Steinemann

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