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Swiss Club News

Taranaki Swiss Club

Past Events

Taranaki bus trip to the Ambassador's Residence in Wellington on 14 – 15 November.

The early morning started with a light frost. Nearly everyone boarded the bus at Heblers with Othmar the driver as usual. We left around 7.10am and picked up five more on the way with the last one in Waverley. Nice to see a few new faces on our bus trip. Breakfast or morning tea was just south of Sanson. The majority of passengers stayed in Petone at motels and the rest in Wainuiomata motels for a short break before being picked up to arrive at the Ambassador's residence in Lower Hutt at 3.00pm. Over 500 Swiss and friends came to celebrate the Battle of Morgarten. Food galore with barbequed cervelat and bratwurst plus Swiss baking, raclette, landjaeger, coffee, beer and wine on offer. Lots of Swiss music with accordions

and alphorn, plus yodelling and flag throwing. Other activities included sack racing, helium balloon competition, face painting, bottle fishing, cart rides drawn by St Bernard and Bernese Mountain dogs and air rifle shooting. After several interesting speeches, including one by our own Barbara Kuriger, the raffles were drawn with many wonderful prizes. The wind by now was very chilly so it was nice to see the bonfire being lit; it was quite spectacular! Shortly after it was off to the motels.

Thank you to the Ambassador, his wife Laura and their staff at the Embassy for a wonderful and enjoyable day.

The next morning was breakfast at the Wellington Swiss Club put on by Trudi Bruhlmann. It was wonderful, as usual!!! Thank you, Trudi. It was home time with a lunch break at Bulls and we arrived in Hawera just after 4.00pm.

I would like to thank Othmar and Marlies for this great bus trip as there is always more to organise than is sometimes realised.

Mark Kiser.

On the **29th of November** we held our Christmas Shoot with a good number of people attending with their children and grandchildren. We were pleasantly surprised to have many more people than the past few years, and certainly hope that this trend continues!!! Claire Hunn, once again, organised the children's activities, with the children being busy baking and creating Christmas decorations. Thank you so much Claire for your time and effort ... the children had a great time!!! All participants in the prize draw either shot or played 9-pin bowling before a pot luck lunch was held ... there was a huge amount of food on display, but we certainly made a good dent in it!!! Truly delicious way to have lunch, and what great variety!!! Father Christmas arrived shortly after, with the children all very attentive and listening to what he had to say. After singing a few carols, Father Christmas kindly gave each child a present. The adults also had their turn, and then Mark did the lucky draw with many people receiving a bonus present. Mark also presented two shooting trophies; the Trudi Ott Belt was won by Othmar Hebler and the Ted Napflin Memorial Shield was won by Jacob Whakatutu. Congratulations to you both.

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club committee I would like to thank Mark

Kiser very much for all the hard work he puts into our functions. We really appreciate all you do, Mark. Thank you to everyone who attended this function, and we hope that we will see you again next year.

The Singing Group has once again entertained for various other organisations that all seem to enjoy our varied programme. We will be hosting the Merrilands Ladies' Probus at our Club house on the 8th of February. If anyone has any other "Swiss" musical talents they would like to share, please ring our leader Lisette. We would love to hear from you!

On the **3rd and 4th of December** we hosted a farming tour group from Switzerland. The people were billeted by our members and after a tour around parts of Taranaki they thoroughly enjoyed a pot luck tea at the Swiss Club. The short time in our province always seems to be a highlight of their trip; spending time with farmers who they can speak with. All the billets were amazed at the generous hospitality of their hosts, the welcome and dinner at the Swiss Club and just being in the company of our members. Thank you to everyone who billeted people on this tour group. We will be hosting another tour group during our picnic in February 2017 so please if you can assist with accommodation ring Othmar on 06 278 6878 or Marianne on 06 762 8757.

Welcome to new members:
If anyone wishes to join our Club, please



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Swiss Club News

ring Marianne on 06 7628757 or Othmar on 06 2786878. We always look forward to seeing new members and please remember to look up your calendar of events or the website to ensure that you attend as many functions as possible.

Members who are currently unwell

We were saddened to hear that Margrit Dudli had had a fall in November and spent a few weeks in hospital. She is now recuperating at home. Several other members have had a rough time of late ... we wish them all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them at one of our future functions. In the meantime, if any of you have time to visit our elderly or sick members, the Club would really appreciate it.

Break-in at Swiss Club

Unfortunately our Swiss Club was broken into prior to the Tour Group coming, and these individuals tried their hardest to get in again after everyone had left the pot-luck tea. Except for the door that they entered through, no damage was done; only alcohol was taken ... and now we have reverted back to leaving none on the premise. Although reported to the Police, with no further information they are unable to continue their investigation. So please if you live close by or if you see anything untoward happening around our club house, ring the police.

Forthcoming Events

Please note: The Taranaki Swiss Club applies for Special Licences to sell liquor for most functions and when we hold a Licence people may not bring their own alcohol. However when we don't have a Special Licence (only New Years' Eve and very small functions), the function then becomes a BYO.

February

4 & 18 Keglen recommends after the summer break ... come along and enjoy some great company, an excellent supper (everyone brings a plate!) and a few games of 9-pin bowling. We need to have skilled people to compete in Wellington, so please come along and get some practice!!!

14 We will be holding our Annual Picnic on Valentines' Day ... so why not take your lady to the Swiss Picnic?!!! Really romantic!!! Plenty of Swiss culture with music, barbequed cervelats and bratwurst, the tombola (Swiss raffle)

and the most popular of events ... the schwingen (Swiss wrestling) ... some enjoy participating and the rest of us enjoy watching!!! There are also various other activities for the children to enjoy, so come along and have a great Valentine's Day at the Swiss Club in Kaponga!!!

27 Now, I know this is early ... but it's being printed so you can set aside this weekend to help us compete in the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition against our friendly, wonderfully hospitable Wellington neighbours!!! The competition aside, this is always a happy weekend with plenty of laughs!!! Not that we're fierce in competition ... but please don't let Mathias and Albi play competition cards ... their reputation is to lose by a couple of points!!!????!!! Just kidding guys!!! Please, ring Othmar and book your seat ... you won't be disappointed going on this trip!!!

March

3 & 17 Heidi is looking forward to your participation in the keglen ... it's fun, exciting and the company just great!!! The competition is fierce!!! Please bring a plate for supper and enjoy an excellent night.

7 Tonight we will hold the AGM of the Taranaki Swiss Club ... please come along and hear about the activities of the past and what we intend to hold in the future. If you feel you could spare some time and become a committee member please talk to Othmar, Zeno or Marianne. We currently have a good muster of people who aren't on our committee but are happy to help at all our functions ... and we thank Margy, Nita, Vrene and Lisette (and all our other helpers) for their valuable commitment to our Club. All our helpers, be they big contributors or small are really appreciated. THANK YOU ALL!!!

April

Our new Calendar of Events and Newsletter should be out for you to peruse. Please make a note of the functions you wish to attend and come along!!! We do enjoy seeing big numbers at our events!!!

May

7 The Swiss Market in Auckland is on this weekend. If there are sufficient people interested Othmar will organise a bus. However for this to happen, people do need to book early, so that Othmar can organise a bus and accommodation. These don't happen overnight, so if you

are keen, please ring him NOW. 06 278 6878!!!

June

4 – 6 We will be attending the AGM of the Swiss Society (yippee Auckland say as they can hand over the reins to Hamilton) and hopefully we'll be in the final of the Cowbell Competition (but I know that Wellington will have other intentions in February in the semi-final!!! So we will see what the outcome is ...). This is always a great trip mixing with Swiss from the other clubs in New Zealand and all host clubs try their best at organising a varied programme and entertainment. Once again, your early bookings will assist Othmar and Marlies organising this trip ... don't dilly dally ... pick up that phone NOW and ring them on 06 278 6878 or if you can't get hold of them try Marianne on 06 762 8757.

MD

Wellington Swiss Club

Past Events

29 November: Jassen

It was a sunny, warm Sunday afternoon and we enjoyed a good game at two tables in our Gartenwirtschaft, in the shade of our big umbrellas. The second half of the afternoon we spent indoors – too much sun (oh no, not too much wind...) outside.

6 December: Samichlaus

What a great afternoon we had! Thank you Peter for sourcing the beautiful Christmas tree. The children had a ball decorating it and they did a very good job of it too. Thank you also to Petra for making and supplying all the bits for the gingerbread house. The new a-frame design was a great idea and it was nice to hand the gingerbread house in one piece to Samichlaus and Schmutzli. Once again, the pair knew all about the children's achievements and "areas of improvements". There were many promises to keep rooms tidy and be nicer to parents/siblings/pets. Thank you to Barbara and Bruce for making this day so special for the children.

12 December: Christmas Dinner

It was a huge turnout for our Christmas

Swiss Club News

dinner this year, so much so that at one point we wondered if we would have to sit some people outside! In the end, it all worked out perfectly and there were enough seats for everyone. Thank you to all the kitchen helpers in particular Peter for the delicious hams, Trudi for the scrummy nibbles and dessert and all the people who contributed to our beautiful salad buffet. Zita and Daniel Keller did a fantastic job of reading the Christmas story and Carolyn Lane was a great choir master. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone's contribution. If I have, you will have to forgive me as I am typing this on Christmas Eve while I am in the middle of preparing our family Christmas feast tonight. One year, I will be better organised...

Future Events

Jassen: Our usual Jass afternoons will be on 7 February, 6 March, 3 April. The usual Jassers will be contacted; new players are always welcome. Please ring Trudi on 56 28 019.

16 January: Club Walk & Camping
Join us for a walk in the beautiful Catchpool Valley at Rimutaka Forest Park. Weather permitting we will camp at the DOC campsite. More information will follow closer to the time.

17 January:
BBQ/Society Medal Competition

A popular event for the whole family! BYO picnic and drinks. We will get to practice Jassen, Kegeln and Steinstossen in preparation for our Cowbell Competition face off against Taranaki. Or for those who prefer a more leisurely Sunday, just hang out and chat in good company.

21 February:
Family Day at the Jäggi Park

Book this date and make sure you do not make any other plans for this day or your children will never forgive you! The Jäggis are once again inviting us to their traditional family day at their beautiful property in the Akatarawa Valley. BYO food and drinks and a dessert to share. There will be games and the usual treasure hunt for the kids. Thank you, Heinz and Trix, for having us again!

27-28 February: Cowbell Semi-Final
We will be hosting the Taranaki Club and battling it out with them in the Cowbell Competition Semi-Final - so keep practicing. We will also need some helpers with meal preparation.

20 March – Egg Decorating

As usual, we will gather at the Club House to decorate eggs the traditional way using onion skins, stockings and herbs. More information will be sent closer to the time.

16 April – Garage Sale

We had to postpone our garage sale as, unfortunately, we had not received enough donations to hold it in November. Also, our trusty Heinz who is the driving force behind the garage sale was out of action following knee surgery (we hope you are recovering well, Heinz!). We have rescheduled it for 16 April, so that'll give you the whole summer to have that well overdue clear out. You can bring your donations to any club event. For larger items, please contact Heinz or any committee member to organise pickup. Please note that we need as much notice as possible for pickups, as our volunteers fit this around their working and family lives.

2016-2017 Events Calendar

The committee will soon start working on the 2016-2017 events calendar. Your feedback and suggestions are welcomed so that we can organise events that you will all enjoy. Please feel free to let us know what you have liked/disliked and what you'd like to see in future.

**Hamilton
Swiss Club**

Past Events

Morgarten Celebrations at the Ambassador's Residence: on the weekend of 14th November at least a dozen Hamilton Club members headed south to participate in celebrations organised by the Ambassador and his dedicated team of helpers. We were not disappointed and very much enjoyed the hospitality and all the various activities and selection of food and drinks on offer. It was very interesting to hear the various speeches and find out the connections everyone had made with the Swiss community and the various historic events being recognised. A big thank you to the Hamilton members who provided baking to take south - we

had a great selection of cookies that were very much appreciated, together with the cakes and coffee provided by the locals as well as some people from further afield. A great weekend and a worthwhile trip south!

Family Christmas Party was held on Sunday 6th December - Samichlaustag at the Newstead School. Families started arriving about 11am and soon the young children were busy decorating gingerbread men, Christmas trees and the small parts to build a Gingerbread House. They also decorated their own Christmas Cards and together with the biscuits wrapped in cellophane they all had something to take home. Around noon the BBQ was fired up and everyone enjoyed delicious Bratwurst and Cervelats, courtesy of the club. After lunch raffle tickets were sold and this is always popular as there were so many lovely prizes to choose from. Ursula then rounded up a group of young children and together they told the Christmas story and sang some Christmas carols - many thanks Ursula for doing this once again. Then it was time for Santa and his helper to hand out Christmas gifts. Thanks to Vreni for organising the gifts this year. This was followed by ice-cream for the children and a delicious selection of baking provided by everyone who brought a plate. Thank you for making this a special day for young and old alike and great to see so many people support this day and share a bit of Christmas cheer.

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Forthcoming Events

Shooting Practice will be held on Saturday 13th February 10am to 12 noon at Elmiger's property on Maungatautari Road, Karapiro. Come along and take part in this club activity. Very keen to see even more young people than last year and the regulars, I count on you to be there. For further information please contact the rifle master Hans Vetsch on 07 8553294 or 021658733.

Shooting Competition for Society medals will be held on Saturday 20th February 9am to 1pm at the venue above. This 50 metre competition is open to all members and friends, minimum age 14 unless arranged otherwise with parents and myself.

Picnic will be held on Sunday 21st February at the Newstead School on Morrisville Road starting 11am. Throughout the day there will be opportunity for Swiss Society Medal Competitions in Bowling and Shotput as well as trophy bowling for adults and juniors. There will be plenty of BBQ sausages available as well as the usual great selection of home-made baking, coffee and cold drinks. This is always a very busy day for the committee so any offers of help, especially on the food stand would be much appreciated.

Hiking Weekend – tentative date is 1-3 April.

300 metre Shooting Weekend in Kaukapakapa is planned for 21/22

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May. Please mark this weekend in your new calendar now. More on this in the next issue or direct from Hans.

Please put these dates into your 2016 diary. A newsletter including a list of all events planned for the year will be sent out to all Hamilton Club members in February.

AZ

Auckland Swiss Club

Past events

Samichlaus, 6 December 2015 Swiss Farm

My yearly visit to the Auckland Swiss Club Farm

As every year I looked forward to the long trip to the Auckland Swiss Club farm in Kaukapakapa. Due to the malfunction of the regular helicopter I had to be rescued and I then managed to finish the trip to the farm in a bigger helicopter. Ernst and Melissa Lanz helped me on the last leg. I had the privilege to speak to 40 plus children and praise them for the many things they achieved and did so well. What stands out for me is the help the parents get around the house and the achievements in school and sport. Then of course Santa wouldn't be Santa if he didn't have anything bad to say. A common theme is not tidying the rooms, talking back to parents or not listening at all. But I am sure that the children themselves know what I told them.

After having talked to the children I saw all the guests queuing up for bratwurst, cervelat, salads and sweet treats from the Swiss bakery all of which looked tempting. But I couldn't wait and someone pointed out that my belly is already too big.

I sincerely thank the committee and all the helpers for the great day they put on for me and the children.

I wish everyone a lovely Christmas and some quality time at the beach and around families and friends. May you all have a great 2016.

Yours, SANTA

Carol Singing and Cookies 12 December, Danish Hall

The joy in the eyes of everyone joining in more than made up for the relatively small numbers of guests. I particularly

liked to see lovely children dancing to our songs and to hear men's voices mixing with ours. Sometimes it is rather nice to have guys around. The carols – traditional ones and some newer ones too – gave us the warm fuzzy feelings that make Christmas so special. And the 'Wiehnachtsguetzli' to top it all off were delicious. Thank you very much my dearest singing friends for a most pleasant afternoon, and for making such a difference all year round. And thank you to all our supporters. Trust you all had a good start to 2016, and look forward to making music together next year.

Nelly Steinemann

Forthcoming Events

Jass, Friday, 12 February, Danish Hall

Join us for the First Jass of the Year. We look forward to catching up over a game or two.

Society Games, 14 February, Swiss Farm

See website for details, or check your email.

Beach Picnic, Sunday 28 February

Join us for a fun filled day. Further information on location to follow via email.

Pub Night, Friday, 4 March

Join us for the first pub night of the year. Further information to follow via email or check the website.

Jass, Friday, 11 March, Danish Hall

What better thing to do to mark the start of the weekend, than a bit of fun and competition.

Looking ahead further

Friday 1 April – Sunday 3 April – Auckland / Hamilton weekend away
Friday 8 April – Monthly Jass
Friday 6 May – Pub Night
Saturday 7 May – Swiss Market Day
Friday 13 May – Monthly Jass
Monday 16 May – Auckland AGM

New members

We welcome Angela Ruegger & Family, and Claudio Ruegger & Family. We look forward to meeting you at one of our events.

Are you interested in the electronic version of the Helvetia?

Please advise Nelly Steinemann at nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz.