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## The Auckland Swiss Farm

Information obtained by an interview with Hans Enzler and Henry Werffell's brochure from 2004.

Towards the end of the 1950's a group of 20 shooters from Auckland and Hamilton met for the first Picnic Shoot with Air rifles. In 1961 they had the first small bore competition over 25 meters. On a private property in Henderson owned by Frank Reichmuth the first 50 meters shooting range was built. In the sixties they competed in the first worldwide competitions. The wish for a 300 meter range with a change to carabines was born. In 1965 the first Rifle Master, Hans Enzler, met with "Oberstbrigadier Lüthy" and after meetings and a few letters the shooting section got approval and was sent the first shipment of 30 carabines and much more material needed. Each of the 18 shooters needed to pay £10 (which equalled a week's salary) to pay for the shipment and insurance. The first shoot was organised on the NZ Deerstalkers Range in Riverhead.

It was the year 1967 when the Auckland Swiss Club purchased the farm in Kaukapakapa. From then on the shooters had a home and the Swiss Club could also have other functions on the farm. First the shooting range was built, then the shooting hut, followed by the chalet.

The initial cost was met by many donations, some were paid back and

some were donated to the club. With a few fundraising shoots the money was raised to pay back the private loans to our members. Now the farm is an invaluable asset for the club. Access was difficult at the start. There was no harbour bridge and members walked up the hill from the quarry site before the access road was built. Access is now easy by car as the club developed the paper road, and only in the last few years the road was improved. Unfortunately attempts to try to buy the road from the council came to a stop due to not enough support being received from the neighbours.

The addition of the big hall in the nineties certainly was a great step into the future for the site. The farming of pine trees brings in some income especially when bigger areas of pine trees get farmed.

In the last 8 years the farm got used as a filming site for a NZ TV series "Two Gardens". The income received from that helped to improve the road and a few other areas around the farm.

The water system got upgraded only to get stolen a couple of years ago, but the newly installed system is robust and shouldn't be able to get nicked. There is hope.

The shooting hut recently got a refit inside and a new roof. Many working bees by our hard working farm and shooting committee helped in achieving this. The ongoing problem of the gorse growth got tackled lately and we seem to be making progress (at least for now).

Thanks to all those visionaries back then **FOR BUYING** this property

By Adrian Blaser

