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Swiss Market Day

Another successful Swiss Market Day

A warm and sunny day dawned on 7 May for the Swiss Market. It was hard to believe that the weather gods were so benevolent once again! The Swiss Market Day "crack team" arrived at 5.50 am, consisting of organiser Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg and her helpers Herbert Staeheli (appointed traffic executive) from Hamilton, Andrea Balona from Queenstown and Pierre Pedroni, a friend from Switzerland: an able and dynamic team! After a short calamity with the alarm system, the Danish Club House was entered successfully and preparations started in real.

In no time, the hall started to fill up with merchants and their colourful and delectable array of goods and food stuffs. Baked goods, chocolates, Swiss cheeses, Rivella, Swiss biscuits and cakes, lovely jewellery, dried mushrooms and "marroni", second hand German books, knitted and other crafts, perfumed soaps, honey, some sharp knives – it was an incredibly diverse assortment. Lots of ideas for Mother's Day on Sunday. Outside, there was even more activity: a bouncy castle was soon inflated and the merry-go-round erected, more colourful stalls put up, the barbeques and serving tables all lined up for the coming onslaught, tables and chairs put out, and the magnificent and ever so sweet-tempered St Bernard and Bernese mountain dogs arrived.



Everything was ready and guess which visitors arrived first? None other than our Swiss friends from Taranaki. Some 38 club members made the long journey to Auckland in a very flash bus, with a short overnight stay in Hamilton. What a great surprise. We are very grateful for your support and trust you had a good journey home!

The hall and outside area filled up quickly with people to almost bursting point – it was hardly possible to move about. Food was sold in great quantities from the Auckland Club's barbeque, the three bakeries on site, and the many other stalls selling a range of edible delicacies. The Auckland Club sold 900 sausages and 60 kg of Swiss bread; and a further 180 kg of sausages was sold for fundraising purposes. Tanja sold some 130kg of Swiss cheese. Edith Hess sold her world-famous potato salad and Spätzle, and freshly made coffee was available on site from the mobile vans. Most definitely no-one went hungry! Nelly Steinemann made some extra dollars for the club with her second-hand bookstore and did her best to sign up new club members, while Peter Deutschle offered plenty of brochures and good advice for anyone interested in Switzerland as a destination and trading partner.

Music filled the air both inside and out – the Swiss Yodellers and Alphorn blowers attracted a wide audience with the beautiful songs and sounds. The Guggemusik arrived at lunchtime in their green frog costumes and thrilled everyone with their loud and out-of-tune clatter. Traditional music was played by "Alpine Connections" from Taranaki, while inside Peter Canziani as usual played his accordion with great skill.

It was yet again a brilliant day and everyone enjoyed it very much. A BIG thank you goes to Tanja who has spent an enormous amount of time organising this very successful event, her "crack team", the very hard-working and competent Auckland Club committee, the many volunteers who contributed in some way, all the amazing store holders and last but not least: the Swiss Market Day visitors who end up making this such a special day.

Many of us can't wait for the next market; bring it on!

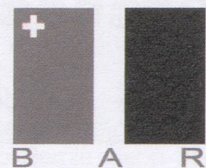
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Swiss Market Day



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