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## Swiss Club News

# Auckland Swiss Club

### We need you!

We have a lot of vacant positions in the committee for the upcoming AGM and desperately need new people. The positions of President, Vice-President and committee members are open. Please come forward if you are prepared to take on a role. Thank you!

### Translation from Italian into German

Can you help? Jolanda Muehleemann's mother was in the resistenza in the 2nd World War. Jolanda has received a book in Italian about the resistenza and is keen to find out more about her mother's experience (who sadly passed away very young). Are you able to assist Jolanda in translating the book from Italian to German? Get in touch with Jolanda at [jom\\_boxer@hotmail.com](mailto:jom_boxer@hotmail.com)

### Zwetschgen / Damsons for sale

We are told they look good so far, and will probably be available in the second

half of February. We will keep you posted via emails on details. If you don't have the internet and would like some, please enquire in early to mid February at Nelly Steinemann: 4794038, leave a message.

## Past events

### Pub Night, 4 November, Bar Takapuna

About 17 of us ventured to the Takapuna Bar with our Swiss hosts Peter and Andrea Mathis. It was great to see some new faces and some potential new members. It is a mix of regulars and new ones at our Pub nights. Thanks to Peter and Andrea for the great hospitality. The Committee is planning a few Pub Nights next year. Just join in and have a drink and a yarn. Adrian Blaser

### Onehunga to Stonefields Walk, 6 November

#### A WALK ON AUCKLAND'S OTHER HARBOUR

Because there was a forecast of the weather seriously declining in the afternoon, our organiser Nelly had cut the planned walk on the north shore of Manukau Harbour from Onehunga to Stonefields in half for this Sunday in early November. So most of us met at the halfway mark on Creamery Road, Mangere, re-distributed ourselves into some of the cars and drove back to Onehunga Lagoon where we found Isabella and Max with their two children amongst a Sea Scout water event in full swing. After a brief introduction to the geology of the area, our group of 14 people now headed to the shore of the Manukau Harbour, crossing the motorway over the beautiful new footbridge. Then we headed south, in warm sunny weather, along the newly landscaped walkway, first passing the port facilities with its (now obsolete?) brightly labelled Holcim cement silos and next crossing over the old harbour bridge which has also been done up as a car free zone. On the Mangere foreshore we examined the spectacular lava blisters and ropy pahoe-hoe lava surfaces on the flows that had come down from Mangere mountain some 30 000 years ago. To the west of us we could see some dark clouds moving in, but the sea still sparkled brightly. We had our packed lunches at Ambury Farm Park, and then proceeded towards Mangere Lagoon, a hole excavated by a volcanic eruption. As we now were in the bird sanctuary, we were initially a bit disappointed as we did not see much life on the wing. However a bit further on, things got better and we could observe

hundreds of pied oystercatchers, knots, a group of spoonbills, a few pied stilts, Caspian terns, a black reef heron and quite a few other birds. Susie, our photographer went into overdrive! We got back to the cars we had left in the morning without having got wet, and did the drop-off back at the Onehunga Lagoon, very satisfied with this interesting walk. Many thanks, Nelly for having the idea and organising us.

Bernhard Sporli

### Jass, 11 November, Danish Hall

1st	Jane Coughlan	4026
2nd	Carmen Gordon	4025
3rd	Edith Hess	3992
4th	Hansruedi Wolf	3981
5th	Nelly Steinemann	3972
6th	Emil Tellenbach	3942
7th	Ian Gordon	3858
8th	Adrian Blaser	3805
9th	Heidi Wilson	3784
10th	Heinz Frei	3742
11th	Hilda Iten	3720
12th	Franz Krieger	3717
13th	Fidel Good	3712
14th	Berta Good	3688
15th	Hans Iten	3680
16th	Andrew Iten	3627
17th	Marie-Theres Melville	3491
18th	Louis Wallimann	3487
19th	Annagret Wolf	3343

Thanks everyone for attending the Jass nights and providing supper and prizes. We had a good year and look forward to see you again next February.

The full results are on the website under <http://www.swiss.org.nz/auckland/blog/category/4jass-results/>

Adrian Blaser

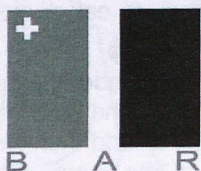
### Samichlaus, 6 December

Once again the "Samichlaus" day was a highlight of the year! The weather was glorious and Santa landed on time in his Northpole Express helicopter. The kids were super excited to see him and to find all the lollies that were thrown around. 50 kids had the pleasure to have a chat to Santa personally and all received a lovely Christmas mug with treats.

After lunch Caroline Boyed-Chevin delighted the kids with Swiss songs and entertainment. The Swiss Farm was packed with parents, grandparents and visitors and everyone loved the Swiss treats like Nussgipfel, Schnecken, Erdbeertoertli etc. Once again Edith created wonderful Christmas decorations for all the tables and it all looked and felt very festive at the Swiss Farm.

There was never a dull moment in the kitchen either as it was a full on day for

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## Swiss Club News

the committee and helpers. A huge, massive thank you to everyone that contributed in some way or shape. But a very special thank you goes to the Blaser Family – once again they were all tirelessly helping and working all day long. Apparently Adrian even missed the big red guy with the sack...

It was truly a very exciting day once again, thanks Santa for making it so special!

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg

### Christmas Carols, 17 December

On Saturday afternoon 17 December our women's choir put on a Swiss Christmas in the Danish Hall. Despite fantastic summery weather, we had a nice number of guests. Edith's imagination and skills are unlimited; she had decorated the tables with the cutest ever Santas. I thought I would miss the glass of wine we usually start off with (Tough NZ licence laws!), but the alcohol free punch turned out so delicious we'll happily do that again. Our carols were a mixture of old faithfuls and some lesser known ones. I particularly enjoyed 'Maria durch den Dornwald ging', a not so well known old song in three voices, and am proud of how well the choir managed the challenge. It was also great to have the audience participate in our singing, those male voices make a big difference, and of course the additional women too. Pia and I kept up our tradition to play a few recorder / flute duets, to give the voices a rest. This time we also fitted in a craft session. Under Edith's guidance we made some 'Scherenschnitte'. Amazing talents were discovered. To top it all off, we had a feast of Swiss type Christmas biscuits, treasured by all.

Thank you very much to our guests for sharing our joy of music and fellowship. A big thank you to my dearest singing friends for making the event so successful. What would life in New Zealand be without our group!

Nelly Steinemann

## Forthcoming Events

**10 February Start of the Jassen in 2017.** Please come and have a go. Expert or beginner, we can accommodate all.

### 26 February Beach Party.

Meet at Long Bay (towards the end of the carpark. Past the playground. Find the Swiss Flag. Bring your own lunch and drinks and some games to play. Start from 11am.

### 12 March

#### Picnic/Swiss Day Out/Society Games

Come and enjoy the farm for a fun day. This year we decided to change the format. We will have drinks and sweets to purchase, but you have to bring your own lunch. We hope that brings costs down for families. You can participate in all the Society games (Shooting in the morning, Bowling, Stone/Shot put) as well as air rifle shooting and other bowling competitions. We hope you can make it to a fun filled day up at the farm.

**25/26 March Shooting Program starts.** Contact Henry Werffeli for further details

## Hamilton Swiss Club

### Past events

#### Karangahake Valley family walk

was held on Sunday 7th November. Sunday is always very busy in the gorge, that's why some of us arrived there almost an hour early to score a carpark. Eight turned up so we started with the crossing of the swing bridge then up some steps to the Windows Walk. If you were lucky you didn't need a torch with the person behind you shedding enough light ahead. Silhouettes of people formed at both ends of the tunnel, looking like a "Scherenschnitt". Such an amazing construction, old mining tunnels with holes to the side providing splendid views across to the other side of the steep gorge and down to the stream. Wherever you looked you could see the remains of all the train tracks that carried the quartz out to the old noisy batteries. The tunnels had been deep into the Karangahake many years ago with pick, shovel and dynamite.

We continued downhill, followed close to the stream along the Waitawheta pipeline with many photo opportunities. Dickey's flat provided our half time lunch break. Turning back and returning down the other side of the stream was not enough for Willetta who had it all planned as to where we should go: Dubbo 96 Track which meant a climb up through beautiful bush and along a levelled path where we all guessed names of towns that came to view,

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## Swiss Club News

maybe Waikino or Mackytown, Paeroa or Waihi? It was a great walk which ended at the Frischknecht's for coffee and cake. Anna Blaettler

### Family Christmas Party

was held on Sunday 4th December and what a wonderful summer's day and thanks to lovely new shade-cloth at the Newstead School we managed to stay out of the sun most of the time. Most families started arriving after 11am and for most of the little ones the first stop was decorating gingerbreadmen, Christmas trees and stars. This is always very popular and most get tempted to try a few lollies while carefully decorating the biscuits. Soon the biscuits ran out as we've never had such a big turnout. Vreni also prepared crafts which included cardboard Christmas trees and greeting cards.

At lunchtime freshly barbequed sausages were served together with cold drinks and these also started running out due to the thirsty weather and the big crowds. After lunch all the generously donated prizes were set up and raffle tickets were sold. We had a great selection of prizes and lots of lucky winners – even some very tempting prizes for the little ones.

After this it was time for Ursula to round up a group of willing children to do some singing around the crib and greet Santa. We had just a few upset children when they saw Santa but most were happy to receive their gifts. Following this it was time for ice-cream for the children and afternoon tea for the adults. What a great

selection of home-made baking! Thank you to everyone who supported this day and brought along raffle prizes and baking. Also thanks to the committee and helpers for creating a happy and friendly occasion for all to enjoy and many thanks to Santa for making time to visit the club.

## Forthcoming Events

### Saturday 18th February – Swiss Society Medal Shooting Competition,

9am to 1pm (approx), at Elmiger's property, 618/12 Maungatautari Rd, Karapiro (100m past the turn off by the Karapiro Dam). Along with the 'regulars' we'd love to see some more young shooters (male and female) have a go. The Fluhler-Cooper family will be kindly donating a new ladies/girls trophy so this will be a special reason to come along and compete. Tuition will be provided to ensure safe and accurate shooting. Please bring your own snacks or drinks if required.

For further information including transport assistance or car pooling call the Riflemaster, Hans Vetsch on 07 855 3294, mobile 021 658 733.

### Sunday 19th February – Family Picnic

commencing 11am at Newstead Country School, Morrinsville Road. We look forward to wonderful weather and a great turnout - particularly lots of kids for this family function! Bring your folding chairs, rugs and sun umbrellas. The use of some extra folding tables would be appreciated. Grilled sausages (Veal Bratwurst and Cervelas) and a selection of cold drinks will be sold throughout the day; with plenty of homemade baking and tea or coffee will be available for sale from about 1pm.

### Sports' Events

We encourage you to take part in the variety of events on offer. All members can compete in the Swiss Society Medal bowling, and the Hamilton Club trophy bowling (adult's cup and ladies' teapot). The Swiss Society Medal Shot-Put competitions (men, women, and junior girls and boys) will take place on the field.

### Other Activities

A variety of childrens' games, races, and activities will take place during the afternoon, and the adventure playground is open for the children to play on. Some friendly tug-of-war competitions ("Seilziehen") to test the strength of 'all ages and abilities' will be held on the field! The school's swimming pool will be

available for use, but children must be strictly supervised by adults at all times. Please bring your own "water toys" (school equipment is not for our use).

Parents please note: you are completely responsible for the safety of your own children, both in and around the swimming pool (refer to the notice by the pool), as well as around the adventure playground.

**Sausage and Zwetschggen** orders to be confirmed in club newsletter to be sent out early February. Please contact Beatrice to place your orders by Sunday 12th February.

**4th March** – keep this date free and see elsewhere in this issue details of a great function coming up in Wellington, hosted by the Ambassador and his team.

**7th – 9th April** – Ruapehu weekend of hiking and socialising. Please contact Herbert on 021962708 if you would like to reserve a place in the hut.

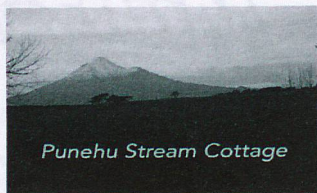
For further information please contact Beatrice 07 843 7971, email [bea.leun@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bea.leun@xtra.co.nz) or Anita on 0274 985 170 (phone or text) or email [anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz](mailto:anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz) AZ

# Taranaki Swiss Club

## Past events

The 25th of November was the date set aside for our annual committee barbeque, where we also invite our life members. This was a lovely gathering, and a good social occasion where we can all sit and enjoy a meal and each other's company, without serving others for a change!!! Unfortunately a few forgot, so will be making up for it next year!!! Lovely to see Lou and the Benkerts join us. Othmar thanked everyone for their valuable contribution to the Club over the past year.

On the 27th of November we held our Christmas Shoot / Keglen with a very good number of adults participating in the sporting events. It really was a pleasure having an increased



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## Swiss Club News

participation and scores in both disciplines were very good. Many thanks to Claire Hunn for organising the childrens' activities which were greatly appreciated by the children; the Christmas trees looked wonderful and the crunchy biscuits looked good and tasted delicious!! People enjoyed the table soccer and pool, besides having a social chat. It was absolutely terrific seeing so many children, the most we've seen for many a year. A delicious pot-luck lunch was served, before Father Christmas made an appearance. He was impressed with the childrens' singing (with adult help and Margy playing the clavinova) and loved seeing the crafts they had created. He then proceeded to give out a present for each child, receiving a polite 'thank you' and many a smile. Thank you so much Father Christmas for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit our Club; we're so appreciative. Next the adults' competition winners were announced by Mark with each participant receiving a prize, then the prize draws were done and presented. Thank you so much Mark and Emmi for organising this day ... it really is a nice start to the Christmas season.

On the 30th of November the Singing and Entertainment Group ventured south to Patea and Waverly to play at the rest home and Baptist Church respectively. One of our elderly members, Rudi Milesi, was so very appreciative of us travelling to Patea and entertaining his fellow residents. It really was a pleasure to visit you, Rudi, and so humbling to see

the happiness both groups expressed. A delicious lunch was provided by the Baptist Church, thank you so much. Our group has entertained quite a bit recently, but we've been both fascinated and enthralled by our attentive and captive audiences. This really is a great way of promoting our culture and the Taranaki Swiss Club.

## 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

**2 & 16** Keglen recommences under the watchful eye of Heidi ... bring a bigger smile to her face by turning up!!!

**11** This year we will be hosting the Wellington Swiss Club for the semi-final of the Cowbell competition ... so come along and support YOUR club ... we need strong men for the shot put, skilful keglen players, lucky and skilful jassers and accurate shooters ... now that's not asking for much!!! Lunch will be provided to all participants. We will also be hosting (and billeting) a Swiss Tour Group, so if you are able to billet some people, please give Othmar a ring on 06 278 6878.

**12** Hurray, the Annual Picnic is nearly here ... and it promises to be a good one!!! Let's hope the weather plays its part!!! This is the busiest day of the Club year with people arriving from 10.30am on. All things Swiss will be available ... music, sausages, tombola (swiss raffle) shot put, schwingen (swiss wrestling) so come along and enjoy what the day has to offer. Anyone interested in wrestling needs to register by 12.00 noon ... juniors and adults are in separate divisions, with everyone winning a prize. Johnny always has the grounds looking superb and there is plenty of parking. Come and enjoy a wonderful social day seeing old friends and making new acquaintances. A light dinner is served at a small cost. We look forward to, once again, seeing a great crowd!!!

### March

**2 & 16** Keglen again ... lots of fun and laughter and a little sport!!! What better mix could you get!!!


**4** Othmar is organising another bus trip to the Embassy who will be hosting a festival. The bus will be leaving early in the morning on the 4th of March to attend the festivities on that day, overnight stay and returning to Taranaki the next day. Organisers are looking for Schwingers (swiss wrestlers) to participate in a competition, young and 'older', so if you are interested please ring Othmar. Anyone keen to take part in the bus trip please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878 or 027 677 8915. He's looking forward to your phone call!!!

**6** AGM of the Taranaki Swiss Club at 7.30pm. Hear all about the past year and look forward to the new one. We look forward to a good crowd and your valuable input into what activities and functions you would like to see in YOUR club!!! There will also be an amendment to our rules proposed - changing the word "auditor" to "reviewer" to ensure that we comply with the Incorporated Societies stricter rulings ... also our rules haven't been changed since 1952 so the "pounds" need to become "dollars"!!!

**19** Championship and Society Shoots from 1pm. Come along and support Mark in his bid to increase the numbers participating in the small bore shoots. It has been great seeing so many juniors taking part ... let's keep the momentum going!!!

The new calendar of events and newsletter for the 2017/2018 year will be sent out in March ... so please if you have any Swiss friends who may be keen to attend an event and / or become a member, let Marianne know.

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## Swiss Club News

### Wellington Swiss Club

#### Past events

##### 6 November: Jassen

Eight keen jassers met at the clubhouse. We had an enjoyable afternoon in enjoyable company – what a good way to spend an otherwise dull afternoon: Where is summer?

##### 4 December – Samichlaus

Samichlaus came to the club house. Almost 20 children turned out to what we initially thought would be a very small event. Everybody helped decorate the tree that Peter had brought to the club house while waiting for Samichlaus and Schmutzli. Samichlaus knew a lot about each child. Some children were looking slightly worried, asking what would happen to the kids who end up in Schmutzli's bag (spoiler alert: no child ended up in the bag!).

Thanks a lot to Paul and Michael Scherrer

and Marc for a fun family afternoon and thank you to all the parents who brought delicious treats to the shared afternoon tea.

##### 4 December – Jassen

Six jassers met at Trudi's place, as the clubhouse was 'unsafe' – not because of the earthquake, but because of Samichlaus; we didn't want to be reminded of our shortcomings. We had a great afternoon; the jassers invented and modified the rules of the game as they went, and the surprises were accepted in good grace and with lots of laughter. We certainly deserved the Grittibaenzli Samichlaus had deposited for us!

##### 10 December – Christmas dinner

With the good season approaching some of our members came back from their holidays in Switzerland. We enjoyed seeing them back. The ham was delicious, as was the strawberry dessert. Zita and Daniel Keller read the Christmas story and Caroline then accompanied the carols on the piano. Merry Christmas and see you all next year!

## Forthcoming Events

##### Sunday 5 February – Jassen

##### 11/12 February

Cowbell semifinal in Kaponga, Taranaki. Come join us in Kaponga for a fun weekend, not to be missed! See the Taranaki club calendar column for details.

##### Saturday 4 March

60 years celebration of the Wellington Swiss Club

##### Sunday 5 March – Jassen

##### Sunday 19 March – Family Day

As each year, the Jaggis are inviting us to their beautiful property.

##### 18 or 25 March – Garage Sale

Final date yet to be confirmed. Thanks to all members who already brought items to sell to the club house. Keep it on!

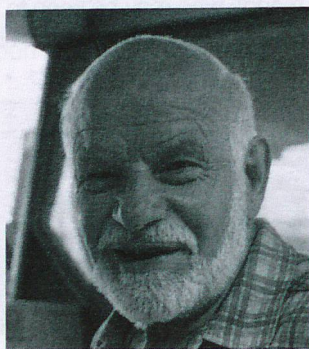
##### Sunday 2 April – Jassen

##### Sunday 9 April – Eggs decorating

Decorate your Easter eggs the traditional way, with onion skins. A nice family Sunday afternoon activity.

**Sunday 30 April** – mark this date in your agenda for the Club AGM.

## Obituary



### Werner Fässler

1 August 1933 – 5 November 2016

Werner was born in Brülisau, Appenzell, on the first of August 1933. He was the fourth child of eight to parents Albert and Lina Fässler who were goat and dairy farmers. Werner started school at the age of seven. Summer school holidays were fun but hard, spent with an uncle in Rehhütte up in the alps taking care of brown Swiss cows and during autumn he loved helping his mother fill sacks with pine needles and herbs which were used as duvets during winter time. Werner did his apprenticeship as a butcher in Wil.

In 1957 he sailed to New Zealand and worked a while at Horotiu meat works and Huttons. In 1958 together with Albert Schweizer and Ernst Wüthrich, Werner headed up north passing by Opononi and visited Tane Mahuta, the huge kauri tree. In 1960 Werner went to Sydney to work and then in 1961 was in the Melbourne region in a small town of Hay where he worked on a sheep farm for seven months. In 1962 Werner slowly made his way back by visiting the Philippines, China, Thailand, India, Israel, Greece, Italy and finally back home to Appenzell, Switzerland, in time for his only sister Lina's wedding in 1963.

Werner settled in Brülisau and worked on the family farm together with his father. During this time he met Albina Manser. They married in 1970 and together they moved to Thurgau where they worked as farmers for 10 years. During this time they had four children, first Urs, followed by Erich, then Evelyn closely followed by Andrea.

On the 9th of May 1980 Werner and his family immigrated to New Zealand where he and Albina set up the Swiss Sausage Company in Te Aroha-West. For many years they worked

together making and selling their products. Their Bratwurst, Cervelats and Wienerli came to be known far and wide. Sadly Albina passed away suddenly in June 1997. The decision to close the Swiss Sausage Co was made and a new era in Werner's life began. Retirement and being a grandfather.

Werner is grandfather to ten grandchildren. He loved nothing better than spending some quality time with family and friends. He loved tramping the Wairongomai tracks with his friend or children's friends. Every year he travelled to visit his Swiss grandkids when it was summer over there. Back in New Zealand he loved cooking Sunday dinners for his son Erich's family and playing Jass with his grandson, Daniel Fässler. He had a great sense of humour, an adventurous spirit and an unwavering faith.

Sadly Werner passed away on 5th November 2016. Werner is survived by his four children and nine grandchildren.

*Members of the Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to the Fässler family.*