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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!

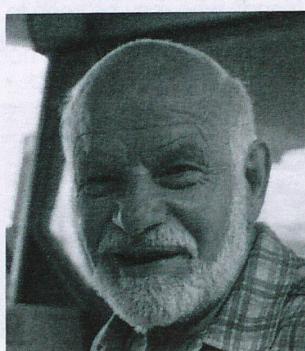
#### Sunday 2 April – Jassen

#### 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, Cervalats 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.*