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The Swiss Society of New Zealand

The Hamilton Swiss Club would like to invite you to attend our festivities as per the program below.

We would be thrilled to see you in Hamilton on Queen's Birthday Weekend for our annual get-together.

Please register with your club secretary for Saturday and Sunday's dinner by 10 May 2017 at the latest. If you are a Swiss Society only member and wish to attend please register with Anita Zuber by emailing anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone or text 0274 985 170.

Programme

Saturday 3 June 2017

5.30pm Meet at the Matangi Hall, Tauwhare Road in Matangi (10 minutes south-east of Hamilton) For welcome drinks and a casual dinner. Cost per person for dinner: \$15, cash bar. Followed by a few rounds of Jass and a chat.

Sunday 4 June 2017

10am Final of the Cowbell Competition (Keglen, Steinstossen and Jassen) to be held at Swisscraft Premises, 33-39 Colombo Street, Frankton
1pm Lunch at the Matangi Hall followed by coffee and cakes
2pm AGM of the Swiss Society of NZ
5.30pm Happy Hour
6.30pm Dinner prepared by the committee of the Hamilton Swiss Club Cost: \$25 per person, cash bar

Monday 5 June 2017

Have a safe journey home!

Please make your own accommodation arrangements.

The Swiss Society of New Zealand invites all members and friends to attend the

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Sunday 4th June at 2pm at the Matangi Hall, Tauwhare Road, Matangi

Agenda

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Scrutineers
4. Minutes of the previous AGM, held on Sunday 5th June 2016 in Kaukapakapa
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Obituaries
7. President's Report and matters arising
8. Editor's Report and matters arising
9. Treasurer's Report and matters arising
10. Riflemaster's Report and matters arising
11. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and matters arising
12. Setting of Subscriptions 2017/18
13. Change of invoice/payment dates and pro-rata subscriptions
14. Guideline of reimbursements, donations and honorary payments
15. Election of Officers – including Delegate for Swiss Abroad and Deputy (four year term ends)
16. Club Reports
17. General Business
18. Date and Venue for Society AGM 2018
19. Meeting Closure

Nominations for Delegate for the Swiss Abroad

The four-year term is nearly up and everyone needs to think about nominations for the above position as well as the Deputy position. Peter Ehler has done a fantastic job and we believe he is happy to stand again for nomination as is Peter Canziani, Deputy Delegate. Please contact Hans Vetsch on 021 658 733 or email hans.vetsch@swiss.org.nz if you would like to be considered for nomination or would like to know more about the position. Alternatively please talk to Hans prior to the meeting.

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The Swiss Society of New Zealand

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on Sunday, 05 June 2016, 2pm, at the Auckland Club's Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

Present:

Dr David Vogelsanger, Ambassador and our Patron, and 60 members

Welcome

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg, President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, welcomed all present, with special thanks to Dr David Vogelsanger, the presidents of the clubs and all the members.

Congratulations to the Hamilton Club who won the cowbell for the second time in a row.

Apologies

Auckland: Urs & Marianne Reinhard, Jürg & Maggie Amacher, Brigitte Richards, Walter & Ulrika Haller, Susie Wood, Dominic & Ueli Hess

Hamilton: Vitus Achermann, Ruth & Karl Waldvogel

Wellington: Bernie Napp, Peter Hynes

Taranaki: Remigi & Erna Zimmermann

Moved Peter Canziani, seconded Heidi Wilson

Appointment of Scrutineers

Adrian Blaser and Roland Schütz, nominated by Marianne Drummond, seconded by Herbert Stäheli

Minutes AGM 31 May 2015

in Wainuiomata, Wellington
Appeared in *Helvetia*, and distributed today. Matters arising – nil

Moved Adrian Blaser, seconded Martin Beskid

Obituary:

Sadly, some of our members have passed away in the past year:

Auckland: Willi Gerle, Ursula Nixon, Syd Melville

Taranaki: Joe Sidler, Margrit Herren, Frances Hermann and Tony Buhler

Hamilton: Jack Hartmann, Jürg Russenberger, Josie Stone (Schuler) and Marie Grossmann

Wellington: Hans Buess

Society: Evelyn Imhof
A minute's silence was held in remembrance of these members

President's report

(Tanja Latham-Zurbrügg)

(summarised) Our four year term is up, we are proud of having made a difference. Some of our achievements in this time:

- The 'Swiss.org' website has had a major revamp. Thank you to the club secretaries who maintain it

- Our online database has been up and running for nearly three years. It has proved very convenient and user friendly. Thank you to David Latham for setting it up and maintaining it.

- Our Delegates for OSA, Peter Ehrler and Peter Canziani, have been attending regular meetings in Switzerland. Peter Ehrler keeps us well informed about the proceedings, and is active in trying to improve the situation with Swiss AHV and NZ Superannuation being incompatible.

- Our relationship with the Swiss Embassy in Wellington has become tighter. It has been a pleasure to work together with both the previous Ambassador Marion Weichelt-Krupski, and our new Ambassador and patron, David Vogelsanger.

- Last year saw the launch of 'Oceania', our regional news in the Swiss Review.

- The 'Helvetia' magazine is in its 82nd year. It has proved very popular as an interesting, professional publication. Tanja thanked all, and expressed her pleasure of handing over to the Hamilton Club.

Moved Martin Beskid, seconded Doreen Zehnder

Treasurer's Report (Carmen Fitzi-Gordon)

from 31 March 2016

Profit \$560 (\$1200 last year) average cost Helvetia (publishing, printing, distributing) \$2400. There are around 600 members (many of them are family members). Advertising income is similar to last year's. Bank balance decreased because of debtors, which were due to pay just after the end of the financial year; most of them have since paid. Accumulated funds \$70,800. The full report was circulated at the meeting.

Moved Henry Werffeli, seconded Martin Beskid

Rifle master's Report (Ernst Lanz)

The rifle master collects all the scoring lists from the four sports/ games disciplines and orders medals. Currently all the orders are in for the year. Full results will be published later in the year.

Statistics on participation:

Wellington: 21 participants / 6 medals (much up from last year), *Auckland:* 55 participants / 16 medals (2 doubles, 1 triples), down from last year. *Hamilton:* 78 p / 18 medals (3 doubles), usually over 100 participants. *Taranaki:* 101p/18 medals, 6 doubles In total: 58 medals, 13 stars, i.e. total of 71 awards.

Moved Carmen Fitzi-Gordon, seconded Adrian Blaser

Delegate for Swiss Abroad Report (ASO), Peter Ehrler.

- Letter sent to Swiss Federal Council, Mrs Sommaruga, re lack of social security agreement between Switzerland and NZ. Sent 13 copies to heads of political parties and other political bodies of interest. Disappointed about hardly getting any echo in Switzerland. The only one showing interest was SVP.

- ASO meeting in Geneva was somewhat disappointing. There is a technical problem with electronic voting which has been discontinued in most areas. Hoping it will be resolved soon.

- Banking: It looks like there is a trend to reverse the banks' attitude to Swiss abroad. It's mainly the legal departments of the banks that are holding it back, they are scared they could do something wrong.

- Thank you to Dr D Vogelsanger for all the assistance.

- Our delegates also have close contact with Swiss in Australia. There will be a further conference in Melbourne 6-9 October. All NZ Swiss club presidents invited. There will be a new website launched at that conference, a platform for Australasia which includes all NZ, Australia, plus the outlying Islands, clubs, private companies.

- Swiss Medical Insurance will be discussed at the next OSA meeting again in August, in particular the suspension of insurance when a person leaves Switzerland temporarily.

- New Zealand is re-drafting section 70 at present, but it looks like nothing is going to be changed. Germans, Austrians, Canadians are affected too, not just the Swiss. A NZ pension now is defined as a benefit. Which might well signify that it will be means tested eventually. Now is the time to lobby your MP to make changes. Peter urges us to talk to our friends. NZ First is the only party which has taken this on. See latest *Helvetia* (June/July 2016) how you can be a 'donor' (without becoming a member of NZ First) and make your opinion count.

- Peter thanked Tanja for four years of support, plus all the people who have given feedback, and also David Vogelsanger and the embassy.

Moved Herbert Stäheli, second Peter Canziani

Intermezzo:

Ronald Schütz: thanked Tanja and the

committee for their work, and invited Tanja take her organisational skills to Wellington.

Moved : Anita Zuber, seconded Hans Vetsch

Setting of Society Subscriptions 2015/16

Suggested to remain at \$25 per year.

Moved Hans Vetsch, seconded Anita Zuber

Election of Officers

President: Hans Vetsch

Vice President: Anna Blättler

Secretary: Anita Zuber

Editor: Heidi Wehrle

Treasurer: Sandrine Smith

Riflemaster: Manuela Epp

Moved Marianne Drummond, seconded Doreen Zehnder

New signatories for bank account of Swiss Society of New Zealand: Hans Vetsch and Sandrine Smith

Moved Adrian Blaser, seconded Anna Blättler

Club Reports

Auckland – Adrian Blaser

We look back on a busy year: Fondue and National Day celebration (01 August) were combined, and proved popular, whereas other functions were not so well attended. The shooting hut in the farm got a new roof, and gorse has been sprayed. Market day was a great success, it gets more popular every year. Five members left the committee at our recent AGM. We found some replacements and welcome Neil Kaiser and Carolyn Boyed. Dominic Hess returned into the farm committee. Adrian will remain president for another year.

Moved Nelly Steinemann, seconded Heidi Wilson

Hamilton - Herbert Stäheli:

Herbert thanked the Auckland club. He is particularly proud of Hamilton having earned the cowbell again.

He is also thrilled that over a dozen volunteers are on the Swiss Society committee. Herbert thanked Hans Vetsch for taking over the presidency.

Hamilton is in the middle of their card evenings. The last one drew 36 members. Another successful event was the picnic. Hamilton is looking forward to their 60th jubilee function on 31 July, combined with the National Day celebration. They had some 300 at their 50 year jubilee, may be cannot expect quite the same this time. Please book soon with Beatrice. – The Fondue evening in September tends to be one of the biggest functions too.

Moved Richard Wehrle, seconded Hans Vetsch

Taranaki - Othmar Hebler

Taranaki has around 310 members, they are doing very well, have good attendances at their fondue, picnic, card afternoons – which now have increased in number to 12 per year, they keep on going all winter.

Othmar thanked the committee and the Society,

Moved Mark Kiser, seconded Leo Zehnder

Wellington - Roland Schütz

Roland thanked the Auckland Club. The Wellington club has rejuvenated itself a bit, younger members joined, but did not quite manage the trip to Auckland. He is hoping to put Swiss culture more into the open, in order to attract more interest.

He also thanked the Taranaki Club who supports some of their events, in particular Lisette and Ruedi who come to Bernese evening, as well as Marianne and Adrian come in their campervan.

Roland also thanked the Ambassador and his staff for their participation and enthusiasm.

(Comment by Peter Ehrler: In New Plymouth there is an International Parade followed by local foodstalls which is a good opportunity to get exposure. Heidi Wilson commented that children would love to be part of such an event).

Moved: Marianne Drummond, seconded Hans Vetsch

General business

- Othmar Hebler: A Swiss Folklore Group from Baar/ Zug will be coming to NZ in Feb 2018, around 30 people, 18 days tour in total. He tried to gauge interest of the clubs. The group are looking for billets in their area, and would like to organise some shows, with the idea to profit share. They had been here 25 years ago to a folks festival in Rotorua. Roland Schütz remembers a folk festival in the 1980s, combined with NZ cultural activities, the hall was full. Hans Vetsch suggests sending this info out to each club to discuss.

- Dr David Vogelsanger. Thanks to all presidents, committee members, Tanja, Peter Deutschle our consul in Auckland (looking for one in Christchurch, not found yet). They have a Swiss consul in Apia, Fiji, hopefully soon in Tonga (a Tongan of German descent). Dr Vogelsanger also thanks Peter Ehrler who does an amazing job. The way NZ deals with Swiss Pension is the only major disagreement between the two countries. – The embassy is appreciative of the closer cooperation with the Swiss clubs. The Morgarten celebration was

a great success, and the embassy is looking forward to working together with the Swiss Clubs in further events. The Swiss Army Band will come to New Zealand for Dr Vogelsanger's retirement in 2018. Dr Vogelsanger also suggests for the Christchurch club to become an associate member of the Swiss Society; he has had contact with Christchurch who are keen on joining. A lively discussion ensued. Tanja and Peter Ehrler had been in touch with the Christchurch club too. The Christchurch club has had a rough time since the Earthquake, currently they have just over 60 members. It was decided to give Hamilton the mandate to pursue this further. Moved Nelly Steinemann, seconded Hans Vetsch, agreed by all with a show of hands.

- Marianne Drummond: Moved that Auckland Swiss Club be given \$1000 to help with the running of AGM. Seconded by Hans Vetsch
- Hans Vetsch thanked everyone present, and invited us to give Hamilton suggestions in the running of the Society.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Next meeting 4 June 2017 in Hamilton

Nelly Steinemann, Auckland

Outgoing secretary of the Swiss Society of NZ

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anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz.



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