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Swiss Market Day in Auckland

The date was locked in back on October 2016. So what would the weather do? Well, what a stunner it was. We couldn't have chosen a better day.

So there we were, after setting up on Friday night with tents and the layout in the hall we went to *Der Metz* in Kohimarama for our Pub Night. We got entertained by the *Alpine Connection* band from Taranaki. They thought that coming for the Market Day was a great opportunity to also perform somewhere in a Restaurant on Friday night for the Pub Night. The Ambassador David Vogelsanger and wife Laura joined us for dinner and a Weissbier.

The morning was fresh to cold, but no cloud in sight. The sun came out and it was an absolute gorgeous day. The Market visitors were greeted by the Bernese Mountain Dogs and the St Bernards. There was even a Kiss Booth, you could get your photo taken with the dogs and they were happily giving you a slobbery kiss if you so wished. There were the regular stalls that one expects at the Swiss Market. We had Victorinox, Rivella, the sausages, Gretels Gingerbread with the famous Wernli biscuits and Munz and Ragusa, Safka with many European treats, the swiss bakeries, Swiss Bliss chocolates etc. A new Swiss butcher in Blenheim, Peter Koller, sold his wares and delivered the sausages for the bbq and the take home packs. Then of course all the arts and

crafts. New this year was Erich Widmers stone carvings, Pia and Erikas T-Shirts, tea towels and cards, and the regular stalls with many more art and crafts. A new addition was also Laurastar, a swiss ironing system to make ironing a breeze (I am told).

The Swiss bakeries had mouth watering displays of bread, small buns and lots of sweets. Yummy. For the chocolate lovers there was the display of Swiss bliss' treats and also a variety of Swiss chocolates and biscuits from Gretels Gingerbread and also Safka. Cheese lovers got their fix at Tanjas stall. The clubs bbq was going flat out from 8am. We have never started to cook sausages that early but there was demand. It meant that shortly before 1pm the last of the 900 sausages were sold and we had no more. Word had it that the take home packs of sausages were sold out at 11am. Edith and her grand daughters Nathalie and Petrina offered potato salad and spaetzli and those sold out quickly too. Alternatively you could have some Hungarian fried bread or a pizza.

And what better to eat your sausage with than a beer or a cider. As a first we had a stall selling Quöllfrisch Appenzeller beer, Flauder, Möhl Cider and the popular Swizly, an elderberry flavoured cider. It drinks like lemonade - dangerous!

A very popular stall was the clubs second hand stall. Nelly and her team had a fantastic display of all things Swiss

and german books. Thanks to generous donors of the goods, we got so many boxes full of interesting books and gifts. If you are after some german books, then please get in touch with Nelly Steinemann and she can tell you what is left. All proceeds from this stall are going to the Auckland Swiss Club.

At this point I would like to thank everyone who made this day possible: Tanja with her organisational skills got us all going again. Thanks Tanja. Also all your friends who help you at the stall and then the clean-up. Much appreciated.

The clubs committee was again tasked to bring many items from the farm to Penrose and back. Thank you to Daniel and Sandra for loading it all and for Sandra and Dominic to bring it all back.

Many helpers came on Friday to setup and then others also stayed after the Market for the big cleanup. Thanks to many hands we had it all wrapped up and cleaned by 4.30pm.

A great team was at the BBQ and drinks stall. Due to the many helpers we could all have breaks and enjoy the market too.

Last but not least a big thanks goes to Herbert from Hamilton. He helps with transporting tables around, makes sure that no one drives in with the car at 6am and is selling Rivella. I think he should be made an honorary member of the Auckland Swiss Club.

See you all next year at the Market again.

Adrian Blaser

