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Swiss Club News

Auckland Swiss Club

Past Events

Friday, 9 February, Monthly Jass

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Upcoming Events

Friday, 6 April – Pub Night

We look forward to a social catch up at a place to be confirmed

Friday, 13 April, Monthly Jass

at the Danish house – who will be victorious this month?

The Swiss Café and Bakery has been operating in Milford since 1993 and specialises in all things Swiss. All our products are baked fresh daily without the use of premixes. Some of our European specialities include Berliners, Engadiner Nusstorte, Zuger Kirschtorte, Swiss fruit flan and many more! We also offer catering, special occasion cakes and party breads upon order. As well as our baking we offer cabinet food and a full cooked breakfast menu in store. Although we have a wide range of traditional products our bakers are always keen to develop new products to keep up with customer demands. We are proud to now have a **wide range of gluten free sweet and savoury items** which we endeavour to keep expanding! We are also proud to serve award winning coffee from Toasted Espresso.

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find us on Facebook under Swiss Café and Bakery

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Sunday, 15 April, Cowbell Semi Final at the Swiss farm.

Further details to be confirmed. We look forward to a fun day of sportsmanship!

Friday, 4 May – Pub Night

Relax over a few drinks and yarns with old and new friends. Venue to be confirmed.

**Saturday, 5 May
Auckland Market Day**

See advert. Spread the word amongst New Zealand friends.

Friday, 11 May, Monthly Jass

at the Danish house. Join us for an evening of competition. We always look forward to welcoming new members to the game.

Tuesday, 15 May, AGM

7:30 at the Danish House. Please attend and help the committee with suggestions and ideas on how to make clublife even better.

Share the joy of singing!

It nurtures your soul and nourishes your brain.

Our Auckland women's singing group is looking for additional members, as some of our stalwarts have moved away. We meet twice a month on a Tuesday evening in Glenfield, with some of us coming from as far as Howick and Red Beach. We enjoy singing old favourites, as well as learning many new pieces. Kanons are amongst our many favourites. The evenings conclude with a friendly chat over a cuppa and a bite of something nice, where we share many laughs as well as some of our joys and woes.

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nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz
or any other choir members.

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We look forward to seeing you there!

For further info visit us on
www.facebook.com/swissmarketday
or call Tanja on 021 101 4432

Swiss Club News

Hamilton Swiss Club

Past Events

The Swiss Folkgroup from Baar-Zug was hosted by our club on 6th and 7th February. Many thanks to all the 12 families who hosted this group of 30 plus the bus driver Othmar and tour leader Martin! Everyone met at the Matangi Hall on the first evening for a pot-luck dinner and to meet their guests and hosts. A lovely dinner of home-made salads and BBQ was put on together with a selection of home-baking and coffee schnapps. Throughout the dinner we had an impromptu accompaniment of live Swiss music and following dinner we were treated to some yodelling and dancing. The following morning most of the group met at the Hamilton Lake for a bus trip to Raglan to check out the black sand, huge swells and quaint township. Late afternoon everyone was collected by their hosts and taken home for a quick shower and change before meeting at the Cosmopolitan Club for a light buffet dinner before the evening performance began. We had about 200 people packed into the club and everyone was treated to some

fine examples of Trachtentanz as well as Alphorn playing, flag-throwing and music. I believe the group very much appreciated being hosted by Swiss-Kiwis and hopefully host families found this a unique experience not likely to be repeated in a hurry, if ever. Again, many thanks to those families who hosted guests and for collecting and dropping off everyone on time.

50 Metre Shooting day was held on Saturday 24th February at the Elmiger's property in Karapiro. As usual the shots were fantastic and Ueli did a great job in making the shooting platform more comfortable, thinking this would improve our performance!! (You just have to wait for the outcome!). The day was just fantastic weather wise and people started wandering in at just about the right pace to avoid long queues like the previous year. We had 19 participants made up of two juniors, six ladies and the rest men. This I think may be the largest representation of ladies we had for a long time. So all positive but now looking at the results, I am disappointed in reporting very low scoring across the board. The highest score was achieved by Walter Zuber with 72 points and I was second with 71, from there it dropped to third place with 62 points achieved by four shooters! The result of four top scores at 267 total was some 20 points below last year's all time high. At least there is plenty of room to improve on next year. Thank you to all the people who made the effort to attend and thank you to Erika and Ueli for having us at their place. Remember - the 300 metre shooting weekend is set down for 26/27 May. If you need more information on this give me a call on 021658733. Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster)

Family Picnic was held on Sunday 25th February at the Newstead School on a lovely warm summer's day – much nicer than last year's rained-out event. Most people arrived early with their chairs and picnic rugs and soon people were lining up for bowling or shot-put before the grilled sausages were ready. We had a really good turnout with lots of new faces and some we hadn't seen for many years as well as our regulars. The big crowd kept all the helpers busy and many thanks to all those who offered to help. We hope you all got your payment of a free sausage, cake and coffee. If not, come again next year and help out! Also thanks to those who brought baking along – what a great selection. Probably better and much cheaper than any local café or possibly even cafes

in Switzerland! After lunch the children enjoyed some organised games, lolly scramble and some went swimming. Thanks to Kurt and Bruno for providing a bit of entertainment which even encouraged some singing and dancing. Thanks to Beatrice, Herbert and Richi for sorting and selling a huge sausage order. The different chiller trailer made everything much easier to sort and handle.

Picnic Sports' Results: *ShotPut* - Daniel Rust, 22.10 metres; *Shooting* - Walter Zuber, 72 points; *Bowling Trophy and Ladies Tea Pot* - Willetta Staheli, 25 points; *Junior Bowling Trophy* - 12 years and under: Pascal Burri and Louis Schweizer, 19 points; *Junior Bowling Trophy* - 13 to 16 years: Fraser Betham, 22 points.

Forthcoming Events

23rd to 25th March – (please note new date) **Ruapehu hiking and biking weekend** staying in bunk-style accommodation at the "Tokoroa Hut" with a number of walks and cycle tracks to suit various ages and fitness levels. For further information or to book a place please contact Herbert on 07 8477220 (at Swisscraft) or mobile 021 962 708.

15th April – **Cowbell semi-final** in Auckland: Participants are needed to compete in the bowling, cards and shot-put (we'd appreciate some



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Swiss Club News

really strong men) – so please contact Herbert (details above) if you are willing to travel to Auckland. Car-pooling will be organised.

29th April – Club AGM commencing 4pm at Swisscraft Premises 33-39 Colombo Street, Frankton. A light dinner will be served after the meeting. Please bring some baking or finger-food to share for dinner. We'd love to see some new faces, either to join the committee or just to show your support to our hard-working existing committee.

Card Evenings will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge commencing promptly at 7.30pm:

Friday 11th May – First Card Evening as well as Society Medal Jass

Friday 25th May – Second Card Evening and then fortnightly.

26th and 27th May

300 metre shooting weekend: our regular shooters have been sent an email but if you are interested in giving it a go please contact Hans Vetsch on 07 855-3294 or 021 658 733 or email verena_vetsch@hotmail.com

2nd – 4th June, Queen's Birthday Weekend: we will have a contingent travel to Taranaki for the Swiss Society AGM and Cowbell Final (if we should be lucky enough to win the semi against the Auckland Club). Further details are elsewhere in this issue of Helvetia. If you would like to attend any of the dinners please let Anita know 0274 985 170 or email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz and

please book your own accommodation. We will organise car-pooling closer to the time.

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



**"Innerschwiizer" Trachtengruppe
warms up the hearts of the people of
the North Island!**

Sensational – nothing short of an amazing cultural experience for the fourteen days the group from Baar were here. They received a very warm welcome wherever they performed and formed friendships with their fabulous hosts in Hamilton and Taranaki. They held thirteen performances throughout the North Island, which were all very well-patronised and appreciated. For the many Kiwi-Swiss who witnessed a performance, I'm sure this brought their homeland that little bit closer, evoked some emotional feelings and recalled some great memories from days gone by.

The entire group appreciated the whole Kiwi experience greatly – they fell in love with our country, our people and our way of life.

Thanks are in order to our Ambassador, David Vogelsanger, and his wonderful team (Juerg, Tamara, Gloria and Maurus) who were supportive and interested in this tour from Day 1, and who then assisted us in every way possible. During our time in Auckland, Peter Deutsche kindly organised Edith Hess and Pia Knarston who took the group on a memorable and informative tour of Auckland. Thanks to the three of you, you did a sterling job!!! The meal at the Sky Tower was the highlight. A big thank you to the Swiss Club Presidents and their committees for their wonderful support of this tour! Herbert, Othmar and Roland you were absolutely incredible. Thanks Anita for all your work being the liaison person for Hamilton; your work was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to

the members of the various Swiss Clubs who provided delicious meals that were immensely enjoyed. Othmar, you were a wonderful bus driver for the group, and you deserve huge thanks – the group always felt safe and you looked after them very well. They appreciated all the extras you did, including visiting various places of interest. Weir Bros, you provided a luxurious bus for this group, thank you very much. Many thanks to: Father Craig for allowing the group to join in church mass; the Irish, Scottish and Maori groups who assisted in the Hawera concert; and the South Taranaki District Council staff for their help organising the Taranaki event. Should I have forgotten to thank someone, I extend a huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way to ensure the success of this tour.

Overall this trip was a huge success and a wonderful and unforgettable experience for everyone. The group was grateful for the opportunity of visiting New Zealand and appreciative of the terrific hospitality they received during their marvellous fourteen day trip.

It was a pleasure organising this tour but it cannot be done alone. On a personal note, many thanks to Silvia Luond for doing all the work behind the scenes to ensure the itinerary ran so smoothly.

Regards
Martin Hess

Past Events

New Years' Eve was a grand affair ... 68 campervans ventured to Kaponga from the Waikato, Wanganui, our own Taranaki members and a few from further afield ... what a wonderful picture seeing such an amazing village on our club house grounds, nicely mowed by Johnny and Mark a few days prior!!! Thanks also to Mark for water blasting the club house ... it looked terrific!!! Both Johnny and Mark are wonderful caretakers of our grounds and buildings ... THANK YOU BOTH SO VERY MUCH!!! A few club members and friends also arrived to enjoy the entertainment and camaraderie ... and it was a great night. The entertainment amazing, a great raffle and a delicious supper ... many thanks to the campervanners who helped ... with parking, preparing nibbles, selling raffle tickets and helping to provide the entertainment ... a wonderful way to see the end of 2017 and welcome in 2018!!!



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Swiss Club News

Thank you to everyone who came to support this function, and a huge thanks to Ruedi and Lisette for, once again, organising a great night!!! All too soon the next New Years' Eve will be upon us ...

On the 9th of February the much anticipated International Summer Night Festival 2018 was held in Hawera. Delicious food was available from 4.30pm organised by Stony River, Okato, before the wonderful concert commenced at 7.00pm for two hours. Amazing talent from the youthful Scottish, Irish, and Maori groups, together with the truly fabulous Trachtengruppe Baar was an evening to remember!! Our local talent from the Scottish, Irish and Maori groups was superb ... so varied in their performances with some very young members too ... and they were all from the Naki!!! We don't realise the talent we have on our doorstep!!! The Trachtengruppe didn't only dance beautifully ... the duet songs were breath taking and stunning ... the alphorn players terrific ... the flag throwers incredible ... and the music fantastic!!! The Memorial Theatre was packed with many Swiss, but also an incredible amount of locals who also appreciated the amazing talent on display. A huge thank you to Martin, Silvia and all those who helped organise this amazing event (and the Swiss touring group) ... everyone really enjoyed it!!! Huge thanks to those billeting members of the group for your marvellous hospitality.

The weather forecast for Sunday the

11th of February was not great ... yet we hoped that the sun would shine to ensure that the Schwingen could go ahead!!! However this was NOT to be!!! Many thanks to Peter Sullivan for supplying a top-up of saw dust which will be used next year!!! Mark was, as usual, very organised with everything on hand in the event of good or bad weather!!! Thanks Mark! The chiller with food and beverages was at the back door, the barbeque straight opposite with a gazebo nicely tied over the top so no-one would get wet (from the outside anyway ... it was so humid and muggy that most people got wet from the inside!!!). Our trusty dab hands on the barbeque (Walter, Erna and Johnny with Doreen preparing the packets of sausages) fired up ... and soon we were serving the delectable sausages from the kitchen ... thank goodness we have a wonderful big hall ... and it was crammed packed as we searched for more chairs!!!

We were totally amazed at the number of people who turned up ... many were disappointed that we weren't able to hold the wrestling but we certainly didn't want any injuries due to the hard sawdust!

The raffles sold like hot cakes, and drinks were going down well too ... lucky there is a little 4 Square in town so we could replenish our stocks from time to time!!!

Our visitors played music, as well as our local geniuses ... so we were very lucky to have so much talent on hand! We had a face painter available for the children ... but some adults also took the opportunity to have a creative picture painted on their faces ... Helen is an unbelievable talent, thank you for coming!!! Lisa arrived with two ponies to give the children a ride, and this also went down a treat!! The dependable Mark had the fishing going ... donating all the goodies as prizes ... thank you so much Mark ... what would we do without you?

During a fine spell, the *Trachtengruppe* performed outside, as well as the flag throwers, alphorn players and some lovely duets. All performed outstandingly, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by their audience ... it was a real treat!!!

A delicious dinner of cold cuts, potatoes (lovely and fresh thanks to Remigi and Erna), salads (grateful thanks to Heidi, Marlies, Margaret, Silvia, Lisette, Vreni, Doreen, Andrea, Sonja and Marianne for the huge variety and beautifully

presented salads which went down a treat), cheese platters and bread was served with over 100 people relishing this meal. Although we didn't anticipate having to be inside all day, it was a thoroughly enjoyable picnic ... perhaps extra social with more chatter and laughter than the ordinary picnics when everyone is outside ... but we'll hope for better weather next year!!!

It was great to see so many new families come along, and we hope that they will come again next year and experience a 'normal' picnic!!! Many thanks to all who turned up to ensure the success of this day ... we really appreciate your support!!! A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the picnic, or assisted on the day ... and there were many helpers outside the committee which we were very grateful for!!! THANKS EVERYONE!!!

On the 3rd of March a few of us participated in the Taranaki Multi-Ethnic parade, greatly assisted by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club who came along in Swiss costumes with their dogs ornately dressed pulling beautiful carts ... they really stole the show!!! One of the dogs had a lovely Swiss harness (imported from America!), which was having its' first outing!!! It looked superb!!! Many thanks to the members of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club for your participation; we really appreciated the effort you made, and we look forward to hosting you at our Fondue Evening.

The Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club Inc was held on the 5th of March with a good number of people attending to hear what had happened in the past year, and what we have to look forward to!!! We only had one resignation; Doreen Zehnder who has been a very helpful and fun committee member for twelve years. We will miss you Doreen, but we're sure that you will continue to help us when required! He thanked everyone for their help over the past year, and looked forward to great participation of our events in the coming year.

Karabiner Shooting

We are looking at making improvements to our big bore rifle range, with possible financial assistance via Switzerland, and would love to gauge the interest in the karabiner shooting programmes from our younger members. Would any younger members interested in participating in the karabiner shooting

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please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878 or 027 677 8915 or e-mail him at heblers@xtra.co.nz as soon as possible so that we can plan ahead and look at different options? **It is VERY important that you make the effort to contact him, as we need to act urgently on the proposed upgrade.** Thank you for your time!!!

Forthcoming Events

April

5 & 19 Keglen

(9 pin bowling) starts at 7.30pm. Heidi Werder keenly organises this competition, so please make her evening by turning up!!! A friendly group of people participate in this; have a chat, some fun and much laughter, together with a delicious supper!!! Heidi awaits your arrival!!! Ring Heidi on 06 273 4286 for further information.

8 & 15 Jassen

recommences for the next few months organised by our jassen guru Walter Seifert!!! There are seven card afternoons, with five scores counting towards the trophy ... come along and enjoy the jassen, and after a cup of tea / coffee and some delectable treats, then have another few rounds of jassen!!! The competition starts at 1.15pm sharp. Please support the raffles too!!! For further information please ring Walter on 06 762 8559.

15 Mark diligently organises the small bore shooting, and today the Society / Championship Shoots can be competed for. Shooting starts at 1.00pm, with Mark more than happy to help coach anyone. Juniors may also participate in these events, so come along parents / grandparents bring your children / grandchildren along!!! For further information please ring Mark on 06 278 6266.

May

3 & 17 Keglen again at 7.30pm ... come along and make Heidi's night by turning up!!!

4 - 5 The Taranaki Swiss Club will take a bus up to the Swiss Market in Auckland again. It is proposed to leave on the 4th of May, staying a night in Hamilton and going to the Swiss Market on the 5th of May. Following the market we will return to Taranaki. Would anyone

interested in coming on this bus trip, please ring Othmar and Marlies on 06 278 6878 or 027 677 8915? Thanks for booking your seat early so that we can organise accommodation.

12 The famous Taranaki Fondue / Sausages and salads meal will be served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm ... come along and try these Swiss favourites ... try one or both meals ... it's up to you!!! This is a wonderful social evening with plenty of chatter and music. Bookings are essential with Marianne on 06 762 8757, Heidi on 06 273 4286, Marlies on 06 278 6878 or Erna on 06 278 8476.

There will be no sausage order prior to the Fondue Evening as we are organising an order for Queens' Birthday Weekend.

20 The Swiss Society Competitions will be held from 11.00am with the sporting disciplines contested being shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen. Participate in one or more ... the more participants the more prizes we win ... so come along and try everything out!!! A separate competition is held for the juniors, so come along kids and try out these "Swiss" sports!!!

This is also the last day for ordering sausages which will arrive prior to Queens' Birthday Weekend. Please ring Marianne on 06 7628757 or Lisette on 06 7628718 with your orders. Your timeliness is appreciated!!!

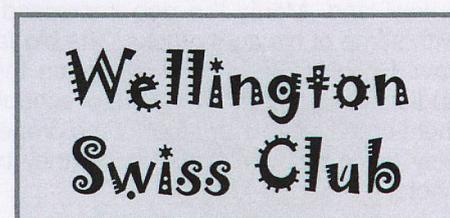
June

2 - 3 Taranaki will be hosting the Swiss Society AGM and final of the Cowbell Competition. Club house doors will open at 4.30pm on Saturday 2nd of June, with a light dinner at 6.00pm. Drinks will be available through a cash bar. On the 3rd of June the final of the Cowbell Competition will be held at 10.00am, a lunch provided by our club, the AGM of the Swiss Society at 2.00pm, happy hour from 5.30pm and a dinner prepared by our Club will be served at 6.30pm. We will provide entertainment, a tombola will be held and everyone is invited to have a good catch up, a dance or two, and plenty of fun and laughter!!! Great to meet fellow Kiwi-Swiss from throughout the North Island, so come along and enjoy our splendid hospitality!!!

10&17 Jassen again at 1.15pm. Come along and enjoy!!! The more, the merrier!!!

17 The final Championship Shoot will be held from 1.00pm. Bring a plate for afternoon tea, and then play a few games of cards before a pot-luck dinner is held with the meal at 6.00pm. This is a fun day amidst friends, and perhaps you'll make some new acquaintances ... come along and find out!!! All our members are cordially invited to participate in part or all of this social day.

MD



Past Events

Sunday 28 January

Barbecue and friendly competition

This was a relaxing low-key event as usual. There was some confusion as to when the day started, so some guests arrived before the organiser, but this was sorted within a few minutes. Everybody enjoyed playing cards and some bowling while Peter took charge of the barbecue. The Scherrer- Jordan family even brought some guests. Thanks Peter for maintaining this staple event!

Jassen

Did you wonder what happened to our Cards Group in December? The report got lost, but here it is. Yes, we were scared of Samichlaus and therefore played at Trudi's. We had one table in the cave, where they played slalom and got gently powdered with sand from the cave roof. The second team played up in the greenery, with a Chnächt - plenty of laughs, plenty of surprises! We had a sumptuous afternoon coffee, with rich contributions from Gabrielle, Lisabeth and Lotti - thank you very much! And then our eager players had another go...

7 January: Jassen

Our next game was only one day after Dreikönigstag, Epiphany. Whoever grew up in Switzerland has fond memories of the Königskuchen and the joy of finding the little king. Honouring this tradition, we had a Königskuchen - though one with a democratic twist: all the pieces contained an almond; everybody was King/Queen of the day. We had two full tables, with nine royal players.

Club News

4 February: Jassen

Again a good Cards afternoon, in glorious Wellington weather – three tables! We welcomed a new player: Liam Pledger – unfortunately for us, he moved to Christchurch University the next day. We hope to see him again in his holidays.

Sunday 18 February: Family Day at the Jaggis'

It was another beautiful day. A relief after last year, when Heinz was forced to cancel the event because of the weather! The children played around with the multiple toys, the tree house and the flying fox, while the parents chilled out under the canopy. We had the surprise visit of beloved Sandy and our former club president Murray (beloved too!) who are back in kiwi-land. Monty the dog impressed the kids and adults with some of his agility tricks. The big favourite was the see-saw. He did a very good job, given the distracting giggling audience! As most children are of school age now, Heinz took them on an exploratory tour of the property on their own, and they came back with a surprise (they tried to scare us, see photo).

Trix organised the bean-counting competition again, with gummy bears replacing the jelly beans in the jar this year. We knew that Nathalie was a bean-counting champ, unbeaten as far back as I can remember; and she seems to be the bear-counting champion as well! But where is the competition??!! Thank you Heinz and Trix, for this delightful day, a definite favourite in our family yearly calendars!

4 March: Jassen

Twelve players, a great number! Some of our youngsters (definition of youngster: anything between 28 and 80) played up in the greenery, the others played indoors on two tables. We could welcome two new players, Maurus Räss from the Embassy, and Christine Hughes, a hidden talent that came to the fore. We hope you make a habit of playing cards the first Sunday in the month! Thank you to Gabrielle, Lotti and Christine Flühler for the delicious afternoon coffee contributions! Alas, no Zwetschgenwähen anymore, but we like Apfelwähen, too! With new energies we played on – till Fred suddenly remembered that he said he'd be home by 6.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 1st April, Sunday 6 May : Jassen

We play Jassen on the first Sunday of each month, unless there is a change of plan. The hard core players will be contacted. If you are a keen player and would like to join us, please ring Trudi on 562 8019.

Sunday 15 April: AGM

Please come and join us to discuss the direction we take with our club. We will elect committee members (let us know if you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members!) discuss the usual matters, including the membership fees, and suggest events for the year.

Saturday 19 May: Fondue

This is our biggest event of the year. We'll meet at the club house from 6:30 for sangria and nibbles and follow with fondue. We'll have some great cheese, dessert and sangria (not in this order).

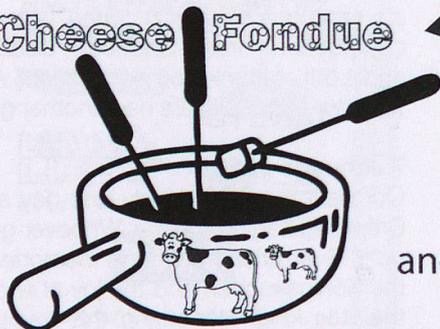
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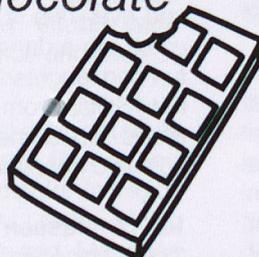
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