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## Swiss Club News

# Wellington Swiss Club

### Past Events

#### 27 January – Barbecue, Steinstossen and Kegeln

We met for our annual barbecue to catch up after the summer holiday. We tried our hand at Steinstossen and Kegeln. The Jass players soon disappeared into the house to play cards and tolerated our noisy families running around. Shooting has been postponed to March (will be reported in the next edition of the *Helvetia*).

#### 27th January- Jassen

We played a second time in January, as Cards had been integrated into the Barbecue/Medal Competition on 27th January - so no Cards on the first Sunday in February!

The card players who came to the Cowbell Semifinal in Taranaki didn't have to compete, as Taranaki won shotput, shooting and bowling. We did our best, but Taranaki was just too strong. Our card players still got some friendly (and fierce!) games of cards in Taranaki - not quite sure how late it was when they called it a day, or rather a night...

#### Saturday 9 February – Cowbell semifinal in Taranaki

This February event in the Taranaki Swiss Club calendar proved very popular with the WSC contingent numbering 25 adults and children. A tent city was set up after the shooting was completed on the TSC grounds in Kaponga. On the cowbell competition, it may be said there is room for improvement on our side, although we missed out on the Kegeln title by only four points. We look forward to the outcome of the Auckland-Hamilton competition ahead of WSC hosting the Swiss Society AGM at our clubhouse in Wainuiomata on Queen's birthday Weekend.

TSC's hospitality was exceptional as always. Singing "La-haut sure la montagne" with our friends from Taranaki was one of the highlights of the weekend. e. The free swimming pool next door is icy cold but the children were not deterred. The fun little hand-propelled boats were a good incentive.

A group of us enjoyed a visit to Dawson Falls on the slopes of Mt Taranaki, a short drive from Kaponga, and then a rather longer drive back to Wellington.

#### Sunday 17 February – Picnic

This year the annual picnic was at Mark and Rahel's beautiful property in Johnsonville. The children made good use of the swimming pool and flying fox while the adults could relax and enjoy coffee from a top-of-the-line espresso machine, and the many salads and other food provided.

### Forthcoming Events

#### Jassen

The cards dates in April and May might have to be changed; the usual card players will be informed. If you are a keen jasser, but not on our list, please contact Trudi on 56 28 019.

#### Sunday 14 April - Club AGM

We will meet on Sunday 14 April at 2:00pm for our annual AGM. We will discuss important matters of the club, including the election of committee members.

#### Saturday 4 May- Garage sale

Any clothes, books, furniture that you do not need but is still of good value? Please bring it to the club before Saturday 4 May. So we can sell it at the garage sale. For bulky items, good quality only, please call Heinz on 526 3551.

#### Saturday 18 May – Fondue

Come and join us for our first fondue of the year!

#### Queen's Birthday Weekend – Swiss Society AGM in Wellington

Come join us; there will be a cowbell finale, there will be food, there will be singing, there will be a quiz!

## Obituaries



**Marc Schleiniger**

1964 – 2018

Marc was a much-loved member of Wellington Swiss Club, and during his time as a member, including on the committee as Treasurer, he made a lasting impact. The electronic cashbook we use today for book-keeping was his creation, and the new family events the Club now organises, largely his instigation. His presence was felt by all who came near him, whether it was decorating the Christmas tree at Samichlaus, water-blasting the clubhouse at the working bee, washing dishes and cleaning up, or chatting over a glass of wine at the end of an evening meal at the clubhouse.

Born in Zürich and raised by his parents, Rose-marie and Jürg, in Hombrechtikon, in the canton of Zürich, Marc was the oldest of two brothers, Remy and Guy, and one sister, the youngest, Babette. The boys helped to build the family home, a two-story, standalone house in a section with a beautiful garden and trees. The family were close and they often travelled together.

Marc was always talkative; he was used to walk home every day from school, and was always late home, talking to his friend Peter. As a teenager he would put on a disco-tech for his friends - he as the DJ - playing the latest tracks of that time. Music was one of his passions, throughout his life, and reading, and gardening.

Learning a trade in electronics, led to working for security firms, then physical security in banks, and this path led to him specialising in banking cybersecurity. Marc travelled extensively around South America and through Asia, backpacking. Arriving in New Zealand in the early 1990s Marc gained employment at the

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National Bank, later the Bank of New Zealand. Swiss Marc he was called by his team, and his attention to detail was legendary.

Shortly after arriving in Wellington, Marc made contact with the Swiss Club and was told he was too young to join. Wait several years, was the advice of the Treasurer of the time. Undaunted, Marc did join, thinking to acquaint his and Jayne's children with his heritage, on the other side of the world. Emil, Alice and Oliver did join with Marc in club events, where there were, and are several families with children of a similar age.

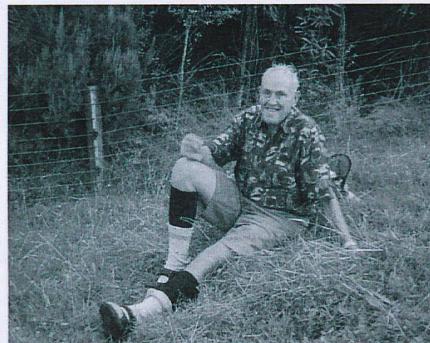
Marc spoke English extra-ordinarily well, and went to a lot of effort to fit into the society into which he was surrounded. Wellington was his home, and he developed an acute understanding of New Zealand culture. His sense of humour was all his own.

Marc gained his scuba diver's licence, and he enjoyed sailing. One of his loves was the South Coast of Wellington; he loved taking his kids to the beach, regularly, an involved dad with his children, remembered for giving them the best hugs. He loved his children dearly, and Heather was also the love of his life. Heather was Marc's soulmate, and they had made plans. Wellington Swiss Club members have had the pleasure of meeting Heather at a number of events during the last year. Heather and Marc travelled to Switzerland in June and July last year, and spent five weeks there.

Remembering his father, Oliver says: "There is one star in my life who glimmers brighter than all the others; his name is Marc but I call him Papi. My dad has curly, brown, spring-like hair that bounces off the top of his head. He has a sunshiny smile that is filled with glistening white teeth, he normally wears a striped teeshirt that is coloured with shades of blue; his gushing aqua eyes twinkle like diamonds in the sky. My dad's voice is kind and friendly; it's happy, loud, large, heavy and sober all at the same time. When he laughs, his voice turns gleeful, and his eyes glow with joy."

Compiled by Heather Guard and Bernie Napp

Members of the Wellington Swiss Club and the Swiss Society extend their sincere sympathy to Heather and family.



## Herbert John Schuler "Herb"

11 March 1929 – 16 August 2018

Herb was born on 11th March 1929, the eldest son, of Heribert (Harry) and Margaret (Maggie) Schuler (néé Stirling). Herb was immensely proud of his Swiss ancestry, as well as the Scottish/Celtic connection he inherited from his mother's side. He was one of eight children.

Herb's Swiss roots go back to Blikendorf, Baar, Canton Zug, Schweiz. His father Harry, then a young boy, and his older sister Josefina, who was newly married to Johan (Jack) Steiner emigrated to New Zealand on the German ship the Seydlitz, (embarking from Bremen, Germany, on 9th July 1909). Harry, aged 12, was not to return to his homeland until some fifty years later. Herb visited his ancestral homeland several times and his photographic memory for maps meant he could talk about his travels as if he had lived there. Two other members of the family Franz and Alouis Schuler later also emigrated to New Zealand. The Schuler family flourished there, with most keeping the Swiss culture and traditions alive through music, Jass (Swiss cards), language and food. Herb was an active member of the Hamilton Swiss Club.

Born in Te Aroha, Herb was raised on the family farm in Te Aroha West. Educated in Te Aroha, Herb had an enquiring mind and excelled at English, Maths and Science. His hopes of continuing his education at university did not eventuate as he was needed at home on the farm and left school at age 14, thus began his farming career. Married on 8th February 1958, Herb and Margaret purchased the dairy farm on McKinley Road from Herb's parents in 1964. Herb's parents, had purchased this original 100-acre block in Te Aroha West in 1937, settling

there because (as the story goes) the view of the Kaimai Range reminded Harry of his home in Switzerland. The 100 acres was a chunk of a larger holding which had been sub-divided into 100-acre blocks and sold off post-WW2. One of Herb's dreams was to purchase the other 100-acre blocks of land and reinstate these back to the original holding. His sons eventually helped realise Herb's dream, enabling sufficient holding for family succession.

Herb was truly a man of the land and had a passion for developing it. He continued to work well into his 70's, assisting his sons with the development of the McKinley Road farm. In the mid-1980's Herb and Margaret purchased a holiday house at Waihi Beach, where, for the next 35 years the family enjoyed many happy times. Herb was an avid handyman and gardener and right up until his death spent countless and hours happily tending the veggie patch, fruit trees, and kept the lawns, tanker tracks and roadsides manicured.

He and Margaret remained living on the McKinley Road farm, and this is where he passed away, suddenly (as was his wish). Herb is survived by his wife Margaret (néé Slattery) and six children, 22 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren. Herb was immensely proud of his children and their children, and made every effort to travel to watch their sports and other activities, right up until his death on 16th August 2018. The day before his passing Herb had driven himself and Margaret to visit their two little great-grandsons in Auckland. He was an active Grandad, keeping up with his grand-children's achievements, schooling and interests, and had a wonderful relationship with them.

Herb was known for ability to connect with people of all ages, was a man of great faith and exemplary values and never one to waste time on worrying. He was content and very much at peace with life, especially in his latter years.

Ruhe in Frieden

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis  
(Irish Gaelic).

(May his gentle soul be on God's right hand.)

Members of the Hamilton Swiss Club and the Swiss Society extend their sincere sympathy to Herbert's family.