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Swiss Club News

Auckland Swiss Club

Past Events

Since late last year the Auckland Club has had a little bit of a quiet time. Our first significant event of the year occurred just after deadline for this issue. However there are a number of future events due to occur before the next issue. Despite this, the last few months have proven busy and full, especially for those who have been involved in managing the Swiss Farm.

The Swiss Farm has been a hive of activity with a number of working bees through February, which will continue through March. These have mainly focused on preparing fences and preparing the Chalet for the coming years events. I'm sure that Henry and the team have appreciated the significant numbers of Club Members that have continued to turn up to what has been a steady stream of weekend work.

Our 300m shooting section has begun, with our first weekend in February. On that weekend we had training ranges for those that are travelling to Switzerland for this years Shooting Festival in June/July, and the club looks forward to hearing about there exploits when they return.

Jass started again on the 14th of February with a good turn out. First one for the year and all the usual suspects started chasing the Jass Cup again. The next card days will be the 13th March and 3rd May. I'm sure Adrian and the rest of the team would enjoy seeing new people at those dates. Normal Danish House Venue and typical start times apply.

February Jass

1st	Verena Ruedi	4227
2nd	Berta Good	4083
3rd	Erwin Steiner	4068
4th	Emil Tellenbach	3889
5th	Edith Hess	3839
6th	Annagret Wolf	3812
7th	Franz Krieger	3811
8th	Brigitta Rohr	3809
9th	Louis Wallimann	3779
10th	Henry Werffeli	3773
11th	Hans Iten	3763
12th	Lynne Dunphy	3683

13th	Fidel Good	3681
14th	Renat Nussbaumer	3645
15th	Heidi Wilson	3586
16th	Andrew Iten	3507
17th	Hilde Iten	3468
18th	Nelly Steinemann	3401

Our revised picnic format, ChillBe, was held on Saturday 7th March and we are hoping for a great turn out for the new event time in the afternoon/evening. By the time you read this it will be all done and dusted, so look to the next issue for a full report.

Going forward, the Club notes the following events that will occur before the next Helvetia, and possibly just after it's issue.

March/April 300m shooting: There are two weekends being planed across these two months to give Club members an opportunity to win some medals in this years competition. Please make contact with Henry Werfelli or Neil Kaiser via the website to get a list of actual dates.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 5th April - Bonfire Working Bee: This is an important day for us as we plan forward to a very special 1st August celebration this year. Come join the team and build a big bonfire before the winter sets in and it gets too hard to move all the wood around.

Sunday 3rd May: Auckland host Hamilton Swiss Club in the Cowbell Semi final at the Swiss farm. Ernst and Henry have made the Kegelbahn nice and smooth, so all we need are those big strong lads for the Steintossen. Come along and support your club, and maybe win some Jass. We need those cheering us on as well as those playing, so all will be welcome. More details closer to the day, but let your committeee know if you intend to come early, so we can start putting our teams together.

Auckland Club AGM 12th May: A quick note regarding our AGM this year. As noted in the last Helvetia, the Committee has a number of gaps and a shrinking overall number of members to address at the next AGM. Whilst it is true that we have fantastic, and more than dedicated Club and Farm Committee members, the physical organisation work is becoming an increasing burden as numbers reduce over the years. Below is a list of who is currently involved in the committee and the vacancies we have.

It is important that the same members who attend the AGM each year are not the only ones attending again. We need new Committee members. We must have a new Treasurer as the Club Constitution requires this role to be filled. The ability of anyone still in the committee to provide the normal yearly events when the number are at a currently all time low, is becoming increasing difficult. We will continue to ask those we see and encourage anyone who can to be involved. Please make a priority to come to the AGM on Tuesday the 12th. More details will be sent out in March, as well as a call for nominations for the various.

President - Neil Kaiser
Vice President - Vacant
Secretary - Daniela Bossard
Treasurer - Vacant
Committee - Pia Knarston
Committee - Elisabeth Tobler
4 Committee members - Vacant

Isabelle Cacciamani, Sandra Hess, Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg, and Tobias Elias leave the Committee this year after serving the club as part of the general Committee, and as Treasurer respectively. We wish them well in the future and feel sure they will continue to invest in the Club in other ways, given the passion they have exhibited whilst working at the governance level.

Society AGM Queens Birthday weekend, May 30th - June 1

Auckland Swiss Club invite the wider Swiss community to enjoy a weekend away in Auckland to attend the Swiss Society AGM this year. We have an

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outline program for event and locations listed on page 4. Final programs and costs will be sent in early March to the various Clubs.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Past Events

Committee dinner with Ambassador.

On Waitangi Day some of our committee were very fortunate to spend an evening with our new Ambassador Michael Winzap and his wife Marina who were on their way back from Waitangi celebrations. A very enjoyable evening was had with some interesting topics of conversation as well as a lovely meal and drinks. Many thanks to Michael and Marina for their hospitality and we hope you enjoyed your brief stay in the Waikato. We look forward to hosting you at one of our club functions this year.

Shooting Medal Competition was held on Saturday 22nd February at Elmiger's property in Karapiro. It might have been the first day this year with wet weather forecast for the competition day which might be a reason for the lower turn out. Anyway, it never rained and the event ran smoothly. All up we had 15 shooters with 4 ladies taking part. Top score was achieved by a new-comer, Jasmine Evans. Congratulations to Jasmine for scoring 74 out of a possible 80 points.

The boys followed not too far behind with 72pts by Shaune Bollinger and Hans Vetsch and 71 pts by Paul Cooper. Looking at the results, this should give us one medal for the ladies and two for the men. It was great to see the ladies and a quite a few younger men participating in the event. My thanks go to Erika and Ueli Elmiger who are always so willing to help us make it a successful outing and of course thank you to all the participants without them we wouldn't have a competition. Thank you to the club for their support too.

Reminder: don't forget the 300 metre event to be held at Kaukapakapa 23rd and 24th May this year. See details below under Forthcoming Events.

Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 23rd February at the Newstead School. We were greeted to a lovely morning after a bit of rain the previous day and all the activities were set up for a busy day. The bowling alley started off slowly but got busier as the day went. Soon the freshly cooked sausages were ready and the ladies at the food stand were busy. Coffee was also popular as it was quite cool and windy under the trees. At 1pm the massive selection of cakes were ready and the queues got even bigger. After lunch Heidi and Manuela (our two younger committee members) set up games for the little ones and some not so little. We had some great participation and sportsmanship – many thanks to the organisers and participants alike. During this time Hans, our riflemaster, was busy getting people to do the shotput. This always creates a bit of entertainment and friendly rivalry - the bonus being a few lucky medal winners. We also had a bit of live entertainment by Othmar

Hebler, Taranaki President who travelled all the way to spend the day with us. After 2pm there was once again a queue for sausage orders – thanks to Beatrice and Richi for sorting this all out on Friday and stacking into the chiller trailer ready for collection. At 3pm we had a quick downpour so most things got packed away promptly apart from the bowling alley which kept going for another hour trying to catch up on a backlog of people who had already paid.

A big thank you to all the helpers on the day. It's always very hectic on the food stand so your help is much appreciated by the committee. Also many thanks to those who brought baking along – always such a great selection.

Congratulations to all the winners over the weekend:

Bowling: Adult Trophy - Lou Camenzind and Charlie Leuenberger, 21 points

Ladies' Teapot: - Belinda Cooper, 20 points

Shooting: Men's Trophy - Hans Vetsch, 72 points

Ladies' Trophy: - Jasmine Evan's, 74 points

Shot Put: Men's Trophy - Garth Studer, 25.35 m

Ladies' Trophy: - Manuela Epp, 25.35 m (Yes, both distances are the same, but with different stones). AZ

Forthcoming Events

3rd to 5th April – Hiking weekend at the All Seasons Lodge at Hannahs Bay for a weekend of walks in the Rotorua vicinity – particularly suitable for families

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and varied abilities. Accommodation at \$35 per person / per night, with heated swimming pool on site and communal meals (as at previous hiking events) at minimal cost. If you haven't already booked there might still be some spaces so please ring Herbert 021 962 708 promptly. The Auckland Club has been asked to join us for this weekend and we look forward to meeting some new people.

Friday 1st May – Hamilton Club AGM to be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge. 7pm for a card practice with general tuition available – particularly for novice players. The meeting will commence at 8pm followed by a light supper. A plate would be appreciated.

Sunday 3rd May – Cowbell semi-final to be hosted by the Auckland Club. Participants are needed to compete in bowling, cards and shot-put (where we will need some really strong men!) – so please contact Herbert 021 962 708 for transport and your offer of supporting the club.

Card Evenings – all five card evenings will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge commencing promptly at 7.30pm. Players four top scores will count towards the overall prize. Society Medal Jass Competition (\$5 per person) – scores will consist of the total points from the first three rounds at the first card evening:

Friday 8th May – First Card Evening and medal jass

Friday 22nd May – Second Card Evening

Friday 5th June – Third Card Evening

Friday 19th June – Fourth Card Evening

Friday 3rd July – Fifth and Final Card Evening.

23rd and 24th May – 300 Metre Shooting Weekend. This weekend is specifically for Hamilton members to complete the annual shooting programme at the Auckland Swiss Farm Clubhouse, so keep these days free for a relaxed weekend away. It's also a great opportunity for novice or new shooters (male and female; minimum age 16) to come along and have a go. For further information contact Hans Vetsch 021 658 733.

30th – 31st May – Swiss Society AGM to be hosted by the Auckland Club this year. Further details elsewhere in this issue. Please contact Anita if you would like to book for the dinners as the club will do a group booking.

For further club queries please contact Anita 027 498 5170 or email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or Beatrice 07 8437971 or email bea.leun@xtra.co.nz AZ



Past Events

New Years' Eve was, once again, held at the Swiss Club with the Campervanners. The gates opened at 12 noon, and by 4pm 35 campervans had called in. Mum and Dad had met a fellow Kiwi-Swiss in Stratford earlier in the day, and told him about our New Years' Eve ... they duly came along and were amazed at the beautiful hall and the facilities we have. Many thanks to Johnny for making the grounds look pristine, and to Arni for making the hay so that we had increased room for parking ... we appreciated it!!! Happy Hour was held at 4pm under the shade of the trees with much chatting, fun and laughter. Everyone had their own dinner, and then the entertainment started at 8pm. What a great variety of music (thanks Lynley Wagner for your wonderful contribution!), songs alphorn (thank you so much for coming Othmar ... and of course Marlies!) and the telling of jokes. A raffle was held and then all too soon it was supper time and getting close to midnight. Everyone was on the dance floor to the sounds of auld lang syne! In the morning we were grateful for all the helpers who cleaned the tables and vacuum cleaned ... and then the first morning tea of 2020 was held outside. Some people won a 'lucky van' prize and then gradually everyone left for their next adventure ... be it home or touring around. Many thanks to Rudi and Lisette Benkert for organising this function, with everyone enjoying themselves immensely!!!

Many thanks to the members of the committee who cleaned the inside and outside of the club house during January. It certainly makes a huge difference, and looks spic and span for the picnic!!! Thanks also to Johnny Bishop and Mark Kiser for the mowing of the lawns and trimming of the hedge ... you guys do a terrific job and really

make the grounds look superb, and to Richard Wagner who helped water blast the club house. Also grateful thanks to everyone who helped clean the hall after the picnic ... many hands make light work!!!

On the 8th and 9th of February we were privileged to have the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group from Auckland venture south to the Naki. They arrived at varying hours on Friday, and had Saturday free to visit our beautiful province ... Edith, next time hire a motorised bike, not a push bike!!! We hope that your wound has healed and that you're back to full fitness!!! On Saturday evening we hosted the group at our Swiss Club providing them with dinner and drinks ... at Happy Hour we were surprised and fortunate to have some bottles of white and red wine donated by David and Veronika from Passage Rock Wines, Waiheke Island. Thank you so much for your generosity David and Veronika; we all really appreciated your absolutely beautiful wines ... so if you're ever on Waiheke Island, make a point of visiting Passage Rock Wines and Bistro!!! It was wonderful to see friends from the other Swiss Clubs attend our function too, and we thank you for making the effort to come. We all enjoyed a meal of cold cuts, potatoes, a salad bar and cheese platters, topped off with coffee and sweets. The Yodel Group provided some wonderful entertainment with songs and alphorn playing, as did our musicians. Thank you to everyone who helped / entertained to ensuring this was a memorable evening.

On the 9th of February we held our annual picnic in lovely weather; fortunately it wasn't as hot as the preceding week!!! Over three hundred people came along to the Swiss Club to listen to some stunning yodel songs under the great leadership of Judith Mouron and the amazing talents of the alphorn quartet ... on behalf of the members and friends of the Taranaki Swiss Club a **huge, big THANK YOU** for coming to our picnic and entertaining our most appreciative crowd!!! We were very privileged, and we hope that you will return again some time!!! We also had the delicious Swiss Deli cervelas and bratwurst on the barbeque and beverages and ice creams available. Many thanks to Mark Kiser for organising the bottle fishing and providing the prizes; the amazing face painter Helen who did some incredible art work; Lisa from Little Pony Parties who gave many children memorable

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rides on her ponies; the live music from Peter Canziani, Zeno von Hospenthal, Aaron Bosch and Berni Schmid, and of course the picnic wouldn't be the picnic without the Schwingen!!! Many thanks to Martin Hess our dedicated referee and the admin team of Silvia Luond, Thomas Werder and Sonja Werder. We really appreciate you giving up your time to ensure the smooth running of this event which so many people enjoy watching while have a chat to friends. Many thanks to Erwin and Vivien Hebler for donating a calf for the winner of the senior competition ... and it was Erwin who would take the lovely calf back home!!! Well done, Erwin on your win. Second was Zeno Hess with Toni Hess close behind. In the juniors Adam Frieslaar made it two wins in a row, taking out this competition again from Jacob Baylis and second cousins Richard and Ryan Drummond. In the midgets Nate Haisman was the winner, with Taylor Dettling second and Charlie Werder third. Many thanks to all the competitors, for without you we wouldn't be able to hold the wrestling!!! You help create an amazing atmosphere at our picnic!! Many thanks to Marcus for scoring the shot put, with the men's winner Thomas Werder (a mammoth 8.75m ... and I believe he's really proud that he bet the record set by a previous schwingen-koenig!!! Well done, Thomas!!) and the ladies winner Lisa Appert (7.0m ... also an amazing throw!) with Sonja Werder close behind with 6.85m. One more weetbix before the competition next year, and you

might get there Sonja!!! The tombola (Swiss raffle) tickets sold quickly and winners gratefully picked up their prizes. Another privilege was having our new Ambassador Mr Michael Winzap and his wife Marina attend our picnic ... thank you very much for making the effort to come and we also enjoyed your interesting speech. Welcome to New Zealand and we hope that you enjoy our country and its people!

Many people stayed for the traditional spaghetti bolognese (many thanks Heidi Werder and Erna Zimmermann) with lettuce, and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Once again we were lucky to have so many musicians who played throughout the day and then in the evening ... your talent is enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Heidi's brother from Switzerland who showed he was a 'real entertainer' ... must run in the family, eh Heidi?? ... it's always great to have new people come and join us!!! Many thanks to everyone who did dishes and cleaned up over the weekend ... our club is so very fortunate to have so many willing workers!!!

A wonderful weekend and thanks to EVERYONE who helped in any way to ensure its success!!!

On the **29th of February** seventeen members from the Taranaki Swiss Club headed south to compete against Wellington in the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition. A lunch of sausages and potato salad was thoroughly enjoyed. Then despite the valiant efforts of our members we lost all four disciplines, some by a small margin. We were then treated to a delicious three-course dinner, followed by a tombola and quiz!! We were all very competitive!!! We all enjoyed the musical entertainment of accordion music with singing and yodelling ... a very social evening appreciated by us all. Many thanks to the Wellington Swiss Club for their terrific hospitality, and we hope that they will have a good muster of people competing in Auckland in the final of the Cowbell Competition. Our grateful thanks to Othmar for organising the trip and driving the bus ... you are so talented, and we appreciate your efforts.

On the **2nd of March** we held our AGM with a good attendance. We farewell Silvia Luond from our committee, as her and Martin return to Switzerland in the near future; many thanks Silvia for

your contribution to our club and the Singing Group, and we wish you both all the best for your future endeavours. Othmar thanked our loyal and dedicated committee members for their sterling effort throughout the year, and looks forward to the year ahead. All remaining committee members were re-elected, as were the sub-committee chairs. We are very grateful to all those who have put their hand up to help with the running of the Swiss Society and, in particular, with the Helvetia magazine. With no great deal of general business, we were soon enjoying a lovely supper and a chat.

Forthcoming Events

April

2 & 16: Keglen from 7.30pm. Come along and enjoy the fun and participate in a great sport!!!

5 & 19: Jassen at 1.15pm. This 'sport' is a Swiss passion ... no two hands are the same!!

19: The Swiss Society / Championship Shoot commence at 1.00pm. Come along and give it a go ... if you come early enough you can shoot and play cards!!! Mark is quite happy to give coaching, so come on parents / grandparents and bring those kiddies along!!!

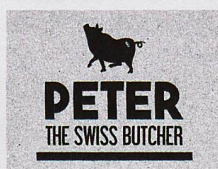
20: Anyone wishing to order sausages and fine meats, please ring Lisette on 06 7628718 or Marianne on 06 7628757 (littleacres@xtra.co.nz) by today for delivery at the beginning of May. We really appreciate your timely orders!!!

May

7 & 21: Keglen again from 7.30pm ... Heidi looks forward to greeting you!!! Give it a go, enjoy the friendship and fun and then another chat over supper!

9: Our Fondue evening will be held tonight, with the additional bonus of cervelas and salads to tempt your taste buds. The meal is served from 6pm to 8pm, and is followed by a social evening with musical entertainment. This is a great family event, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. **Please remember to make a reservation to Marianne, Heidi, Erna or Marlies by the 2nd of May ...** we don't want to run out of food or chairs!!!

17: The Swiss Society competitions are on from 11.00am. Shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen ... surly something to



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tempt you!!! Competitors taking part in at least three disciplines go into the draw for a meal at our Club ... so give them all a try!! Juniors 15 years and under compete in their own competition with the top 20% in each discipline receiving a medal. This is a wonderful, social, family day. Please bring your own lunch and drinks (we don't have a bar licence today). The Championship Shoot starts at 1.00pm.

24: Jassen at 1.15pm ... Walter awaits you with open arms ... the more players, the better the competition!!!

30: Othmar is organising a bus for the Swiss Society AGM (where we take over the reins of the Swiss Society from an amazing Hamilton team) and either compete or watch the final of the Cowbell Competition. This is always a fun weekend, mingling with Kiwi-Swiss from around New Zealand. We look forward to you joining us!!! Please confirm your reservation with Othmar as soon as possible!!!

Wellington Swiss Club

Past Events

We had a bit of a sporty time at the Wellington Swiss club. Bernie reports:

On a hot Waunuiomata day in late January we christened the newly-painted bowling alley at the annual WSC sports day and barbecue, with Cervelats and Bratwurst kindly donated by Michael Winzap, the Ambassador. He made the top Kegeln score with 49 from eight shots, followed by George Westermayer (46), and Nathalie Leamy and Bernie Napp sharing third place on 45. In the children's bowling event, Penny Bowker-Napp led the field with 40 points, with Zoe Gerstenberger next on 31, and Michelle Leamy, 29. George Westermayer and Lotti Napp were the highest-scoring pair in Jassen. Steinstossen was run as an open competition with the ladies throwing a brick, and the men, the traditional concrete block. The winner was Nathalie Leamy scoring 23.14 metres as the best four of five throws, followed by

Odile Stotzer (22.98m), and Tim Leamy on 22.43m. A great day with several families joining in the fun.

The semi final of the cowbell competition held on 29 February offered an absolute cracker of a coup d'Etat to the Wellington team – we won outright: 4 games to 0. To Taranaki. Sorry Taranaki, to harp on about it, but this is big!

It now means we need the same team to go up to Auckland and bring that Cowbell home. And who will be our opponent?

Thank you Taranaki, for coming down to our club, for a good competition and a lovely evening. Thanks for the yodelling presented by Othmar Hebler's brother and his wife, to Othmar for his Alphorn and harmonica playing, and to Peter Canziani and Zeno for the Harmonica and yodelling. It was nice to see some people even having a dance. To Trudi Brühlmann for the interesting quiz and the appealing Tombola, and making the name tags. And for all the contributions of cakes, and kitchen help, from club members and outside, we are very grateful.

Jassreport from Trudi Brühlmann:
12th January

This was an additional Jass afternoon, as Nadine Marra, a former member of our Jass group, was back in New Zealand for a holiday. Some of our group were not available, as they had visitors from Switzerland themselves. We still had two tables – and we drank lots of coffee and ate a lot of delicious cakes and told lots of stories. Nice to see Nadine again and get to know her husband Giuseppe! We hope he can play cards next time, too!

26th January

This was our first regular Sunday afternoon Jass. Some of the usual players were still in holiday mode and couldn't attend. We still had two tables – and a delicious selection of cakes! Thank you all for coming – and for the cakes!

23rd February

As the Cowbell Semi-final against Taranaki was only a week later, I assumed there wouldn't be many of our little group who would be willing to play on this Sunday. Well – we had two tables of keen players – and three huge Aprikosen- and Oepfelwähen! Many of our players enjoy the fairly stress-free and fun games we are having – although with

Undenufe and Obenabe and even Slalom they are much more demanding than the standard game with the limiting rules of the Swiss Society Jass. Thank you all for coming, and for your contributions in cakes, muffins and Wähen!

Forthcoming Events

Our next Sunday Jass-afternoons will probably be on 26th April, 24th May. The members of our Sunday afternoon group will be contacted. New good players are always welcome; please contact Trudi on 56 28 019. If there is enough demand for an introduction to card playing, the club might organise such a course.

Saturday 4 April 2020
8am onward: Garage Sale

If you still have some stuff that you could donate please call Trudi on 021 565617. Or simply bring it along early on the day. As they say: one man's junk is another man's treasure.

Wellington Club AGM
Sunday 19 April 2pm

At the clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata
On this issue our president has a message for you:

My report today is not about everything we did as a Club in the last year, and they were many; it is about us. We, the members of this club, founded in 1957 by far-sighted individuals working together towards a common goal, some of whom are still with us.

This report is not about the 1 August celebration where Heinz Jäggi lit a bonfire in three old washing machine drums outside the clubhouse, Oliver Waldis leading the children's turnip light parade, the National Anthem sung off words on our cellphones in the pitch black.

It's not about the Swiss Society event in June where we did all NZ Swiss proud, or the Cowbell competition last weekend in which Wellington and Taranaki levelled the score at 4-0. Or Christmas where Carolyn Lane led us in song and Peter Hynes did the hams, or the Fondue in May where Paul Scherrer stirred the Fondue, or the Bündnerabig where Rahel Williams planned every last detail.

For me, it's about the smile on my daughter, Olivia's, face, as we talked

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about Wilhelm Tell at Trudi Fill's Swiss Nest, eating Hans Scherrer's Schenkeli; as we celebrated la Fête de l'Escalade, led by two Genèveises, Nathalie Leamy and Anne-Claire Küng; when Heinz, and Peter Hynes ran our garage sale; as the children scraped clean the bowling alley on a rainy day in late winter ready for painting, in green, in Peter's honour.

Our club is about people, and the energy and life we bring to living our Swiss Culture, and our Swiss heritage. This is not to be taken for granted; it is something special, something we create anew every day, in a gesture of love, towards the club, towards each other. Hard won, easily lost. And, of course, all that I have written so far speaks to this element of our club, our success, our joy.

All this is owed to those who take part in our events, at Samichlaus, at our club sports day, at Trudi Brühlmann's monthly Jass Sundays, and John and Theresa Jordan's and Paul's shooting days on their farm, Oscar and Sharon Gamper's cleaning the clubhouse after events - and most of all the WSC committee.

Yes, to our club committee and the friends of the committee - Gabrielle Saville, John and Christine Alderdice, Flemming and Monika Sorensen, Rob and Jeanine MacDonald, Trudi Brühlmann among them - I now turn. The hours and effort and thought put into our yearly events and activities may be imagined. I tell you now they are considerable.

For many of you, there is no need for any reminder. You were presidents and committee members of our club, for many years. To you all, a large debt is due, and this we endeavour to repay.

So, club members. The hour has struck. The committee needs new members. We are a strong committee, and our meetings are always a lot of fun, and we get things done. To those for whom the committee is too big a step, we invite you to consider leading an event in the 2020-2021 year.

We, the committee, are experienced event planners and organisers; we offer training and support. Running a WSC Club is a fantastic thing to do. The results speak for themselves, living and enjoying our Swiss culture, as Swiss abroad.

The challenge is now yours, if you wish our club to survive and thrive.

E liebe Gruess
Bernie Napp
WSC president

Sunday 26 April 2020 from 2pm

Jassen. For details please get in touch with Trudi Brühlmann on 04 562 8019.

The SwissNest will resume its activities on Saturday 9 May 2020, the day before Mother's Day.

This is a cultural exchange along the lines of the Maori Kohanga reo, where the Swiss culture and all that it's made up of, is thrown into a couple of hours at the clubhouse, in a loose and relaxed way. It usually consists of organising a cup of tea and something Swiss to

enjoy with it, then sitting together and share a story, a craft, or a song, or Jassen for beginners. From 2-5pm at 21 Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata. This gathering is well suited for the whole family, young and old.

Call Trudi on 021 565617 for more information, or just turn up.

Saturday 16 May 2020 - Fondue. Warm up for Winter.

Society AGM in Auckland

Queen's Birthday weekend. As mentioned above. Please book your seat on the bus by 30 April so we can plan accommodation. Call Trudi F. On 021 565617.

Your club secretary, Trudi Fill-Weidmann

Becoming Swiss: municipalities with high and low naturalisation rates

When it comes to gaining Swiss citizenship, where you live matters. Some municipalities have high rates of naturalisation while some have not granted citizenship to a single person since 1992. A recently published study by researchers at Geneva University (UNIGE) looks at naturalisation rates by municipality between 1992 and 2017.

The municipalities of Rueyres (VD), Kandergrund (BE) and Wintersingen (BL) have not granted citizenship to a single individual over this time period. 122 other municipalities are in the same boat. If the dates are narrowed to 2011 to 2017, the list extends to 261 municipalities.

One reason behind the low rates is size and distance from the urban centres where most foreigners find jobs. Rueyres (255), Kandergrund (805) and Wintersingen (620) all have small populations. In addition, they are all quite far from Switzerland's main urban centres. As a result, the number of foreigners living in Rueyres (7), Kandergrund (59) and Wintersingen (51) is low.

In addition to location and low foreign populations, fear of the stigma of failing the naturalisation process in small communes is another reason that might explain low naturalisation rates, according to one of the report's authors. Large populations confer greater anonymity.

At the same time there are small far flung communes with low foreign populations and high rates of naturalisation. For example Altbüron, with a population of 1,005, which includes 102 foreigners, naturalised 27 people between 2010 and 2017. Habs-

burg (433) and Eischoll (438) are two other examples of small communes with high naturalisation rates.

The municipalities of Zurich (3.48%), Lausanne (2.98%) and Geneva (2.71%) had high standardised naturalisation rates between 2011 and 2017. But Basel (1.66%) and Bern (1.42%) had rates below the Swiss average (1.91%).

The gross naturalisation rate is the number of naturalisations divided by the foreign population. The standardised rate is an attempt to calculate how easy it is to become Swiss in a municipality. It attempts to make rates comparable by adjusting for differences in age, country of birth and time in Switzerland, things correlated with application rates.

There are no great differences between French- and German-speaking Switzerland.

Standardised naturalisation rates between 2011 and 2017 in the cantons of Zurich (2.58%) and Geneva (2.83%) are not far apart. Philippe Wanner, one of the authors, points to small differences. In French-speaking Switzerland more is done to facilitate the naturalisation of young second generation foreigners. This bumps up rates a little west of the "röstigraben", a notional line dividing French and German speakers.

Gipf-Oberfick, a municipality that made headlines in 2017 over the rejection of the naturalisation of anti-cow bell campaigner Nancy Holten, has a standardised naturalisation rate of 1.23%, not too far below the Swiss average of 1.91%.

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