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Swiss Club News

Auckland Swiss Club

Past Events

Monthly Jass – 14 March 2020

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|
| 1st | Louis Wallimann | 4057 |
| 2nd | Franz Krieger | 4032 |
| 3rd | Ian Gordon | 3976 |
| 4th | Heidi Wilson | 3896 |
| 5th | Emil Tellenbach | 3872 |
| 6th | Erwin Steiner | 3859 |
| 7th | Adrian Blaser | 3846 |
| 8th | Henry Werffeli | 3827 |
| 9th | Nelly Steinemann | 3812 |
| 10th | Hilde Iten | 3784 |
| 11th | Edith Hess | 3758 |
| 12th | Hans Iten | 3560 |
| 13th | Annagret Wolf | 3551 |
| 14th | Marie-Theres Melville | 3445 |
| 15th | Carmen Gordon | 3245 |

ChillBe

A slight new approach to our annual Swiss Picnic and Society games (still including Shooting, Kegeln & Steinstossen) was taken this year. We are now calling it "ChillBe". Basically meaning To Chill & just Be. It came about to create a more relaxed atmosphere on a Saturday afternoon so we can hang out in the evenings and enjoy a beer instead of the busy Sundays when most need to rush home to prepare for work and school the next day. It was also in the hope to create more of an Alpe-Chilbi vibe.

We had some beautiful weather, which was also enjoyed by the kids that participated in sack races, egg & spoon & other funny races.

A good number of old faces turned up, and a couple of new ones and enjoyed the Swiss baking, sausages and not to forget the fabulous tombola which was kindly donated mostly by a number of generous committee members and the Swiss Embassy. Thank you to all the sponsors and the participating raffle ticket buyers. It was most enjoyed and appreciated.

Thank you to our charming yodellers and accordion players who made the atmosphere also so special and Swiss! After most people went home, a group of us enjoyed the quiet atmosphere of the evening & tranquillity of the farm,

some good laughs, good company and a full moon. Great memories.. What a special paradise we have to appreciate! Next year I am keen to bring my tent.

Who will join me?

We hope in future that we can continue with this event and bring it back to life with a more simple approach of bringing your own picnic dinners to create less work for the few committee members trying to keep these club events running. Thank you to all the volunteers and committee who worked non stop all day, without even getting a chance to sit down. We are so grateful. Thanks to you all, cheers, Isabelle.

The winners for the society games are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Male Shooters: | Henry Werffeli |
| Female Shooters: | Melissa Lanz |
| Junior Shooters: | Jennifer Kaiser |
| Adults Kegeln: | Neil Kaiser |
| Junior Kegeln: | Maxim Zurflueh |
| Men 13kg Shotput: | Caleb Rosenmond |
| Ladies 7kg Shotput: | Claudia Buehler |
| Girls 5kg Shotput: | Jennifer Kaiser |
| Boys 5kg Shotput: | Maxim Zurflueh |
| Society Jass: | Louis Wallimann |

Forthcoming Events

Weekly Virtual Jass

A dozen members of our club have been enjoying a few games of Jass on line via www.schieber.ch since early April. With a warning - it can be rather addictive. At this stage (early May) we have been playing every Friday night from 7pm – 9:30pm. That will of course change, definitely by the time we play in real life again, possibly earlier. If you are interested in joining, please contact Nelly : nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz or 021892727. We welcome players of other clubs too.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Past and Forthcoming Events

We hope our members are all well and keeping safe in their bubbles during the different levels of lockdown.



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Owner Liz Sinclair-Keiser would like to welcome you to this charming corner of Taranaki

Hiking weekend

Planned for 3-5 April in Rotorua has been postponed to 30th October. This will be a social outing together with the Auckland Club. Further details closer to the time.

Card evenings

All card evenings planned for June/July have been cancelled.

AGM

The Hamilton Club AGM has been postponed and members will be notified via committee or newsletter.

Cowbell Semi-Final

The Cowbell Semi-Final against Auckland has also been cancelled as well as the Final planned for Queen's Birthday Weekend. Swiss Society AGM details are on page 19 of this magazine.

We hope that things change in the forthcoming months so that we can once again meet for our Swiss National Day planned for Sunday 2nd August at the Matangi Hall. A newsletter will be sent to all members closer to the time and as usual, bookings will be required. This time we may have to limit numbers due to the restrictions, if any, in place at the time.

For further details please email Anita - anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone/text 0274 985 170.

Please continue to look after yourselves and try and stay in touch with other members via phone if possible. AZ

Swiss Club News

Taranaki Swiss Club

Past Events

In the last issue of the Helvetia I submitted a photo asking if anyone knew any of the gentlemen. Thank you very much to Bertha Kuriger and Maria Burch (nee Hardegger) who wrote back with information. The gentleman on the left is Charles Schuler (father of our late vice-president Charlie Schuler), the gentleman in the middle is Alexander Kalin (Bertha Kurigers' great uncle) and the gentleman sitting front left was N Hurlimann who lived in Mahoe, near Kapinga. The photo was taken in the late 1930s. Unfortunately no-one knew who the other two gentlemen were. Charlie Schuler and Alexander Kalin worked on farms owned by Lord Rutherford at Cape Egmont ... and yes, the Lord Rutherford who split the atom!!! My memory is obviously not very good, as Maria sent me a copy of the same photo with an article written by Bertha Kuriger which appeared in a Helvetia issue in 2008!!! Oops!!! Thanks Maria for sending me a copy of the article, and it's wonderful that you obviously still have issues of the Helvetia from years back ... you never know when we may need to use your personal archive of our magazine!!!

The Singing Group entertained in Stratford as a fundraiser for the St Johns' Building Fund. The audience enjoyed our varied entertainment, and it was a privilege to entertain them with the proceeds going to such a wonderful cause.

On the 7th of March members of the Taranaki Swiss Club attended the Multi-ethnic parade and extravaganza held annually in New Plymouth. We were very fortunate to have several Bernese Mountain Dogs with their owners, all dressed nicely in Swiss costumes, contribute to our float ... and, of course, they were the highlight of our group!!! The Bernese Mountain Dogs are such beautifully-natured dogs. Many thanks to all the members who came along to support our club ... especially Thomas and Courtney Werder and family and Helen Drummond and family ... it was fabulous having your families participate, all dressed in Swiss costumes with traditional Swiss artefacts. Many thanks to

Othmar with the alphorn and Aaron and Berni playing music in the parade ... it all added to the colour of our float. In the afternoon we were asked to participate in the extravaganza, which showcases music and dancing from various ethnic groups. Thank you very much to Lynley, Othmar and the singing group for providing wonderful musical entertainment which the huge audience really appreciated. It was an amazing experience, together with the food from various ethnic groups for sale, which we all enjoyed taking part in. It was fabulous watching the entertainment from other ethnic groups too ... so a great day all round!!!

Re-reading my report in the last issue of the Helvetia I wrote about the picnic and the wonderful entertainment we had, and I realised that I had forgotten to thank one of our very talented musicians, Lynley Wagner. I'm very sorry about missing your name Lynley. We do really appreciate your musical talents, and how you can play the accordion so well with the many musicians we have in Taranaki. We look forward to hearing you again, when we have a function?!!! Please accept my apologies!

Unfortunately, like all other clubs, the Taranaki Swiss Club has had to cancel our many functions / events for the months of April and May ... a decision we were totally happy to make under these trying and interesting circumstances. I know many of you, especially our members who live on their own, can't wait for functions to recommence. In the meantime, please keep in touch ... ring one another, send e-mails or texts ... just let people know that you care and are thinking of them. And for those who are feeling lonely and perhaps stressed by the current situation, please pick up the phone and ring someone for a chat; it is so important for our emotional well-being. Also remember to do some exercise for your physical well-being. And let's hope we can get together soon in safe circumstances!!! Take care, everyone ... from your Taranaki Swiss Club committee.

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club I would like to thank the members of the Hamilton Swiss Club for the sterling work they have done in holding office of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and compiling our great magazine, the Helvetia. Congratulations on presenting an amazing and interesting magazine every two months ... your work has been appreciated by our members, and your contribution to the Swiss Society has

been outstanding. Our team looks forward to the challenge of taking over the reins of the Swiss Society, and compiling the Helvetia magazine for the next four years, and we hope to maintain the high standards you, and previous teams, have set. Once again, our grateful thanks, and we hope that, should we need your help, you would be there for us!!!

A big welcome to the following new members to our Club and Swiss Society and we hope that you enjoy what our clubs have to offer. Martin Hebler, the son of our President Othmar and wife Marlies, who lives in Christchurch with his partner Jordan. Lisa Appert, daughter of Peter and Maree Appert, who is our current ladies 'steinstossen' (shot put) cup holder, a competition which is held at our annual picnic. Lisa has won this coveted trophy for the past two years; well done Lisa!!!

Forthcoming Events

June (hopefully this month we may be able to hold functions / events!). Please keep an eye on the website or the facebook page which we update if functions are cancelled.

1 As we were unable to do a sausage order at the beginning of May, we thought we would try and organise one for June. Anyone wishing to order delicious small goods from the Swiss Deli please ring or e-mail Marianne on 06 7628757 or littleacres@extra.co.nz or ring Lisette on 06 7628718. Orders will be ready to pick up on 11 June around 4pm at Rudi and Lisettes' place. Should there be any changes regarding this order, all people who placed an order will be contacted.

14 Jassen at 1.15pm ... for all those hanging out for a few games of cards! Let's keep our fingers crossed it can be held!

21 Jassen again at 1.15pm with the small bore shooting also hosting the Championship Shoot at 1pm. Why not give both sports a try?!!!!

July

4 The Anniversary Shoot with its terrific meal of Sauerkraut, Pickled Red Cabbage and Pork is awaiting you today. The Shooting competition is held from 1pm to 3pm, and for those wishing to participate in the Keglen instead this is held from 1pm to 5pm. Our delicious

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dinner is held at 5.30pm ... so come along and enjoy a wonderful social day and a lovely evening.

12 Jassen at 1.15pm ... we're into the swing of things now??!!!! Walter would love to see as many participants as possible, so make his day and show up!!!

19 The final Jassen competition starts at 1.15pm. Come along and enjoy yourself!!!

August

1 Wow, this will be the first time in many years that the 1st of August is held on the actual day ... come along and enjoy great music and entertainment, a wonderful tombola and a super delicious supper!!! All members will be contacted to see if they wish to purchase tickets, or alternatively ring one of our committee members who will organise the tickets for you! We have amazing people giving up their time to sell these tickets, so please make their job easier by committing straight away!!!

Wellington Swiss Club

As this paper reaches you all it is near Queen's Birthday weekend and we are all supposed to be gathering in Auckland for the Swiss Society Annual General Meeting; more importantly the final of the Cowbell competition in which Wellington was a serious contender. At the time of writing this there is no word on how the competition is going to be carried out without the meeting.

The 'Past Events' column is empty so I will reiterate what would have been... and go straight to 'future events' (which is also a bit empty).

Past Events

Events we missed due to the lockdown:

On the 19th April we were meant to hold the AGM, instead the committee is just carrying on as is and a new date will be set as soon as the situation allows. The Garage Sale that was meant to be held on the 11th April. Those new projects you embarked on during the time

of lockdown may have turned out to be more or less presentable/useable articles. There may be so many of them that we can make a special "Lockdown projects" table. For now hold on to all your contributions until further notice. Contact Heinz Jaeggi on 04 5263551 or 021 430759 if you have any queries. As soon as we can we will set a new date and we will let you know.

Jassen by Trudi Bruehlmann:

The Jass Sunday afternoons on 29th March and 26th April didn't happen. Well, the afternoons happened, of course, but we couldn't play cards as everybody was cooped up at home, in lock-down. Some computer savvy players manage to play cards on the computer, but even they look forward to having a real game of cards in the not-too-distant future.

Forthcoming Events

As soon as we are allowed to do so, we will meet again on a Sunday afternoon to have a game of cards. The usual card players will be contacted. New keen players can always ring Trudi Bruehlmann on 56 28 019 to find out more.

We are working on **this year's calendar, and Fondue** gatherings will most probably take a different format.

We will hold 1-2 **walks** this year. They offer a nice relaxed way to spend time together and allow some social distancing if necessary.

Hoping that sometime in the future we will be able to get together for a celebratory dinner, in whatever form, and whatever the occasion may be.

This is the story of Isabelle, Odile Stotzer's friend, who got caught in the global pandemic lockdown:

A big trip, all going the wrong way.

For my six kids, my boyfriend and me it was a long planned trip and was supposed to be a one-off experience for my kids to visit their Kiwi family and to show them their second home, New Zealand. Also it was going to be my big reward for completing my Masters' in special needs [teacher] training. I had applied for special leave at the kids' schools; it all got approved. Then along came coronavirus. Flying out from Zurich to Christchurch on March 5 we assumed we'd get around the whole virus thing by escaping to New Zealand which only had very few cases then.

One week later already things started to look differently and started to make me nervous. Soon thereafter, our airline, Singapore Airlines, cancelled all flights to Germany, Italy and France. Instead of enjoying relaxing days with family and friends and traveling the country, I was busy thinking about what best to do. First, it seemed fair to decide to stay in New Zealand as Switzerland had imposed lockdown rules and things were still all normal in New Zealand. However, as the EDA (*Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten* - Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) urged all Swiss citizens to return home, I made a big effort to get us seats on a flight back home asap. It wasn't easy to get through directly to Singapore Airlines, and our travel agent simply replied that all flights were fully booked.

With lots of luck we got seats to fly back on March 25. It didn't feel satisfying with things changing quickly. We had only just begun our trip to the North Island (to visit Odile [in Wellington]) when we felt it was safer to move back to the South Island just in case the Interislander was going to stop going. On March 22 Singapore announced a ban of all transit passengers. With no luck to get seats on any earlier flight, we were left stuck in New Zealand which was going into a very strict lockdown. It felt horrible! This is not what we had planned for at all: Being stuck in a foreign country in a rather small house with the kids' grandmother. It was very stressful; so many people in such a small space with not really much to do.

A week later we managed to move to our own accommodation which brought some relief. We registered both for the Swiss and the German repatriation flights (my boyfriend is German). Once the prime minister banned repatriation flights, things felt the worst for us: Not knowing how long we were stuck there for! We were so relieved when that ban was lifted and when, a couple of days later, we learned we were on the one and only Swiss repatriation flight from New Zealand! It was going to be a very long flight with everyone having to stay onboard the plane for the entire 26 hours. The Swiss embassy and consulate made a big effort to keep things as organised and welcoming as possible at Auckland Airport. It was such a special feeling to encounter all Swiss flags and people in the early morning hours of April 8. 3 hours later were checked in (all manually) and soon the plane was ready to leave. We were so happy to have got

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back home where lockdown isn't all that strict. We are still very sad, and it feels so surreal, that the trip we had been looking forward to for so long never really happened the way we pictured it. But one thing is for sure: We'll never forget it! The trip is not quite over yet though: We'll still have to pay the flight tickets for the repatriation flights. Not really looking forward to that bill and don't know yet how we are going to pay for it.

Cheers, Isabelle and Axel with Jamie, Saskia, Elina, Anakin, Avery and Timon

Thank you, Isabelle, for sharing your story, and we wish you all the best for the future.

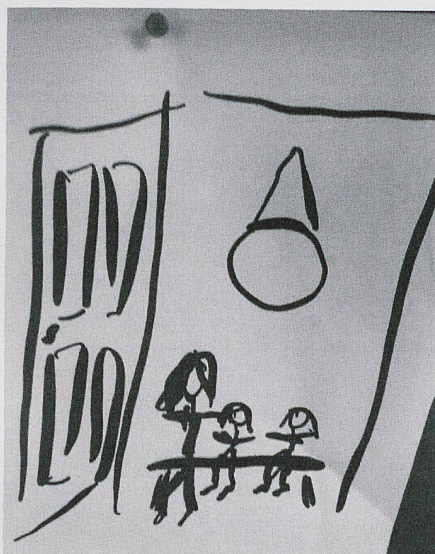
A little snippet from my bubble:

The Bench

The attached sketch done by my son-in-law Mark. He started the lockdown in self isolation for 2 weeks in his room, working on phone and computer, while the family was carrying on around the house and serving him his meals via "the bench". What you see is his view of his two girls and his wife having dinner with him and chatting. The bench served as the physical barrier at the door, and was soon called the chitchat bench. Whenever the girls felt like hanging out with their dad they would knock on the door and if he wasn't busy, he would open the door and they could chit chat. They would have dinner with him and play the guessing game, or he would do a quiz with them, read them a goodnight story, or just listen to their story. Special times to have dad home.

My Penny's worth:

While it appears that the measures put



in place by this government have had the desired effect of reducing infection and worse, deaths, by this very threatening pandemic, I believe that an unintentional added effect of the lockdown, once we got used to the idea, contributed to some degree alongside keeping distance: that of reduced stress. Not running from 'Pontius to Pilatus' to chase our goals and the latest bargain and find our latest adventure in the furthest possible corner of the world... (speak for myself haha). Stress is where a virus comes alive. This and looking after our gut with old-fashioned home cuisine, with products grown from our own soil, will go a long way to strengthen our immunity, and going forth, it may be our strongest weapon in the face of such a threat. But please, please, bring back the hugs! That is all I'm going to say.

Bis bald,

Trudi Fill-Weidmann, Wellington.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

AGM to be held 11th July 2020

The Swiss Society of New Zealand advises that an Annual AGM will be held Saturday 11th July 2020 in Hamilton. Time 1-3PM. Covid 19 rules no socialising or catering at this meeting, social distancing may still be in practise. So, forget the Swiss Handshake!!! Due to Covid 19 issues at time of writing this may take the form of a Zoom meeting, email meeting, physical meeting, or combination of all 3. E.G. Taranaki and Hamilton may meet in person adhering to Covid19 rules (if any) and Auckland and Wellington can join by Zoom so that all Clubs are represented or we may all go for the zoom option.

We need a quorum of 10 and we wish for all Clubs to be represented.

Annual reports, agenda etc will be circulated to Club Presidents by Hans Vetsch Swiss Society President ensuring plenty of time for Clubs to discuss Reports.

We are aware this may not suit everyone due to school holidays, farming duties etc but gives Clubs time to organise and familiarise themselves with Zoom so you can attend without travelling. Swiss Society may use conference room set up for zoom meetings at a local venue such as motel, conference centre.

It also gives The Swiss Society time to send reports and get feedback. Remember the Swiss Society is trying to find the best avenue to make this meeting happen in a Covid 19 setting.

This written notification adheres to Constitution's need for notification of at least 21 days via Helvetia. Hans Vetsch, President

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