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The history of Taranaki's Swiss Club

In the early or mid-1900s a Swiss Club was formed which went into recess before one of the World Wars. Unfortunately we don't have much information about this, but we would love to hear from anyone who does as we don't appear to have anything in our club archives. However, we do have history about our current club.

On November 6, 1951 the first meeting of Foundation Members was held at Mr F Gwerder's place with 17 Swiss present. At this meeting it was decided to form a Swiss Social Club for the benefit and welfare of Swiss people in Taranaki. A temporary committee was elected to get the ball rolling with the following office holders:

Chairman: Mr W Risi

Secretary: Mr L M Nolly

Committee members: Mr F Gwerder, Mr F Imhof, Mr J Kaiser,

Mr W Fluehler and Mr J Steiner.

Also present: Mr E Chamberlain, Mr JA Kaiser (sen), Mr T Napflin,

Mr F Suter, Mr A Schuler, Mr J Dettling, Mr A Romer, Mr W Nolly,

Mr T Schelbert, Mr A Risi.

Five shillings were collected from each of the 17 members present to get some starting capital. The secretary was instructed to get rules drafted to have the club registered under the name Swiss Social Club Incorporated.

On December 5, 1951, the rules were discussed at length, and with a few minor amendments, were ready for adoption at an Annual General Meeting. The Solicitor for the new club was Stratford's Mr Hugh Thomson.

New editor Terese asked our Swiss Clubs to tell us more about how they came to be. In this issue, we start with Taranaki.

The inaugural AGM was held on March 29, 1952 in the Mangatoki Hall, between Eltham and Kaponga. The following office holders and committee were moved and seconded:

Patron: Father Butler

President: Mr W Risi and Vice President: Mr J Steiner

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr L M Nolly

Executive: Mr F Imhof, Mr J Steiner, Mr H Helbling, Mr Schupfer,

Mr F Gwerder, Miss I Bernold, Mr W Fluehler, Mr P Zimmerman,

Mr C Chamberlain, Mr D Luond, Mr H Schicker.

Card evenings were held and the first picnic was held on February 28, 1953 from 10am at Kaupokonui Beach.

Some years later, the Swiss Club purchased some land from Mr Len Chamberlain, and eventually, after much hard work and planning by many club members, the Taranaki Clubhouse was officially opened in 1981. Today we are so grateful for the foresight to build, and determination to complete such a big project culminating in the beautiful clubhouse and landscaped grounds we have today. Our club has a membership of 325.

With only a few minor rule changes over the years, the committee decided in 2017 to change our name to Taranaki Swiss Social Club Incorporated to identify where we are from. Our Swiss Club has, over the years, been very fortunate in having wonderful, dedicated committees led by committed and loyal presidents. We currently have a strong committee of 14, who are passionate about keeping our club thriving, and continuing to foster and promote the Swiss culture and traditions set by our forebears.

Taranaki Swiss Club

PAST EVENTS

We held a committee meeting on June 4, the first meeting since our AGM, so there were many issues to discuss. What a pleasure it was to just be together again and so wonderful to be able to organise future functions! I think everyone is really looking forward to playing cards, attending functions and just being able to chat together again. Many thanks to all our members who kept in touch with other members during the lockdown period; it's fantastic belonging to such a wonderful, caring club. We hope to have a good attendance at our events and look forward to catching up with you all.

On behalf of our Club I would like to thank all those members who have put their hand up to help run the Swiss Society affairs and compile, print and send out the *Helvetica* magazine. Without your fabulous support and treasured contributions we would not be able to do this valuable job, which keeps Swiss people throughout New Zealand connected. A HUGE thanks to everyone.

The first BIG function since the lockdown was the Anniversary Shoot which was held on July 4. Participants could either shoot or skittle with everyone winning a small bag of cervelats.

Top shooter of the day was Othmar Hebler with 47 points, closely followed by Emmi Kiser and Mark Kiser with 46 points.

The keglers were Aaron Bosch and Ruedi Kull with 35 points, Nita Kaiser 34 points, and Berta Buhler and Helen Werder with 33 points. Thank you to everyone who participated in the sports; our smallbore riflemaster, Mark Kiser, was very pleased with the turnout!

In all, 87 adults and several children enjoyed the delicious meal of sauerkraut, potatoes, peas, pork and wienerli and Margie Bishop's divine pickled red cabbage.

The spinning wheel was put into action, the tickets sold very quickly and lucky winners enjoyed some great prizes. Many thanks to our multitude of musicians who provided wonderful entertainment: Peter, Zeno, Berni, Aaron, Lynley and Othmar... you're such a talented bunch!

After supper everyone slowly dispersed, content with having had a fine meal, a good chat and listening to the music... some even danced, which was a treat! A special mention goes to our little children Madison Preston

and Kaleb Stone who danced so beautifully – maybe they'll start up the trachtentanz gruppe again!

A huge thanks to the ladies who prepared the meal, the wonderful dishwashers and to those who cleaned the hall afterwards, without your terrific help functions like this would not happen.

Card afternoon results

June 14

1st Edi Fuglistaller

2nd Anne Dombroski

3rd Heidi Seifert

Booby Zeno von Hospenthal

The lucky raffle winners were Jean Fuglistaller, Mathias Seifert (twice) and Robert Buhler.

June 21

1st Heidi Seifert

2nd Joe Buhler

3rd Ruedi Benkert

Booby Mathias Seifert

Raffles were won by Richard Drummond, Daniel Drummond, Erna Zimmermann and Walter Seifert. It was so very pleasing to have 23 people play in the competition, and our grateful thanks to Marlies Hebler for helping Richard and Lynley Wagner and Aaron Bosch to become more proficient at this great Swiss sport. It was wonderful having so many participants.

Club News | Clubnachrichten



Taranaki |

Our hard-working kitchen team.

Madison and Kaleb, our junior dancers, enjoy music by Bernie, Zeno and Peter.



Taranaki | Markus Kiser viewing the smallbore shooting results.



Taranaki | Marianne, Aaron, Bernie, Lynley entertain.



Taranaki | Erna Zimmermann smallbore shooting.

Welcome

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: Adrian Cleary, son of club members Paul and Heidi Cleary, has returned to Taranaki, and has become a member of our Club.

Carl Freimann introduced two friends of Swiss descent at our Anniversary Shoot, and they too became members.

Welcome also to Chris Meier and Edi Scherrer. We look forward to seeing you at future functions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 you wish to purchase tickets, or alternatively ring one of our committee members. We have amazing people giving up their time to sell these tickets, so please make their job easier by committing straight away.

9: Jassen at the Swiss Club at 1.15pm. We're having three more card afternoons to catch up on the ones we missed in April and May

due to Covid-19. Do come along and have some fun!!

16: Jassen again at 1.15pm.

23: Jassen at 1.15pm; this is the last round of competition games for the coveted Cup, come and enjoy some games of jassen, a delicious afternoon tea and then perhaps a few more games of social cards.

October

1 & 15: Keglen recommences after a big hiatus. Come along and enjoy great camaraderie, fun and laughter, a chat, some keglen and supper. A great time to be had, and Heidi looks forward to seeing you.

11: Our smallbore riflemaster, Mark, with the help of club president, Othmar, is organising a gun safety course at 1pm for anyone over 8 years of age. This would also serve as a refresher opportunity for those who attended this course two years ago. It will be subsidised by the Taranaki Swiss Club. The second day of this course will be held on November 8. Mark these two days on your calendar, especially our junior shooters and come and learn the importance of firearm safety.

18: The Trudi Ott Belt will be contested today, together with the Championship Shoot from 1pm. Juniors are most welcome to participate too...so come along and give shooting a go! Mark is happy to give coaching too.

November

5 & 19: Keglen again... Heidi awaits you with open arms and a big smile! Come along and give 10-pin bowling a go; you'll enjoy the friendship and banter.

8: At 1pm the second session of the firearm safety course will be conducted by Mark and Othmar. Please make every effort to attend, especially our junior shooters.

15: The Ted Napfin Memorial Shield will be contested today, as well as the Championship Shoot from 1pm. See how accurate you are, and give this Swiss sport a go.

This is the last day to order your Christmas fine meats; please ring Marianne on 06 762 8757 (or email littleacres@xtra.co.nz) or Lisette on 06 762 8718.

29: The Christmas Shoot/Keglen is a great, social day. Parents/grandparents please bring a wrapped, named present for your child(ren); Christmas activities will be organised and Father Christmas will make an appearance. For the adults, please all bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10 and a \$5 entry fee will go towards the mystery prizes up for grabs. The potluck lunch is always a treat with an amazing selection of food on offer, so come and join us for this terrific social day with friends and make some new Kiwi-Swiss acquaintances.

Wellington Swiss Club

PAST EVENTS

As Covid-19 so rudely interrupted our lives, no events took place. Our committee gathered a vote of confidence to stay in office until a proper AGM could be held so thank you to all our members for that vote. So halfway through the year, our schedule has now resumed.

Jassen

May 24: At long last we met again for a Jass on Sunday afternoon! Some of us had practiced by computer, but all agreed that the 'real thing' was more enjoyable. Apart from the delicious baking and newsy stories we were happy to be back and enjoying each other's company. We hope to see the other members of our group in the next months.

June 28: Well, playing in the garden wasn't an option, to put it politely. We enjoyed each other's company and first had a game with a Chnaecht and then a few games of three against three; they were fast games, with lots of laughs and unexpected endings, a few cups of coffee and even an almost-birthday cake. What a nice way to spend a dismal afternoon!

We will play cards again on July 26 and August 30. The usual players will be contacted. If you would like to join us, please ring Trudi Brühlmann. Card playing takes place every last Sunday of the month.

SwissNest | June 13

This was a very quiet affair – a cup of tea with Öpfeltüne (or -wähé, depending on where you grew up) with me and Anne-Claire, exchanging our knitting skills. I suppose you all know that the French speaking region knits a different way to the German speaking region.

Anne-Claire, I learned, can make a garment simply by copying a picture that she saw, all without the use of pattern language. And she showed me how she makes really thick cosy bed socks or slippers. I in turn will show Anne-Claire how to make the heel in a sock.

You too can learn it. Next time. This winter is the time to do it, and with the cold weather it even makes sense. Wool is without a doubt the best fibre for the Wellington climate.

Look out for the next SwissNest on August 8. Call Trudi 021 565 617 for more information and/or if you have more exciting ideas than knitting. We would love to hear from you. Remember it is every second Saturday of the month.



Wellington | Our garage sale display.

Garage Sale | June 20

My inner hoarder comes to life when I am faced with a hall full of stuff that other people once treasured, now up for grabs for a coin! "Oh let me, let me! That, ooh no that. I could really use one of..." And it seems in this I was not alone, as the first event held at the clubhouse since the lifting of lockdown proved.

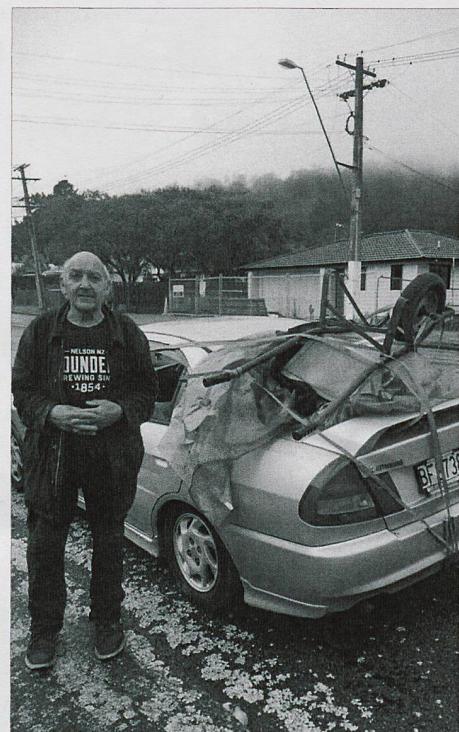
Many people meandered in, started to chat, lifted up, turned and inspected the items put on display by Heinz Jaeggi (rest assured, hand sanitiser was within reach). A bargain was struck, accepted or quietly declined with a sly walk away to another stall or out of the house altogether.

The atmosphere was convivial and members from the club were glad to see each other in person after such a long time. Even hugs were had!

People from the Wainuiomata community (which the Swiss Club is a familiar member), checked to find a new title for their bookshelf, garden supplies, a rare piece of clothing or a toy for the grandchildren.

A cup of coffee with a piece of Zopf or Haefechranz made by Trudi Brühlmann was the cherry on top for this very casual and friendly gathering. Thank you, Heinz, for organising this, to Trudi for the lovely baking and to everyone for turning up.

P.S. To the lucky person who scored the little booklet on 'Wellington Weeds': congratulations, I had my eye on that.



Wellington | One of the regular punters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

1: A double event including the club AGM and the National Day Celebration may have come and gone by the time you read this, but if not and you still want to take part, call Trudi on 021 565 617.

8: SwissNest. Maybe learn how to plait a real Zopf? Learn how to play cards? Held at the Wainuiomata Clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Road at 2pm.

September

19: Raclette evening. In the current social climate we felt it inappropriate to have a meal with people double-dipping in a pot of melted cheese, so the fondue evenings will have to wait until things have normalised a little more. I hope you have plenty of fondues around your family table.

October

17: Canton Evening. Combining Aargau and Thurgau. Please put your hand up if you come from one of those cantons. We have some very original menu ideas. Be surprised.

November

14: Spring working bee at the clubhouse. The greenery around the house needs a bit of a trim, and the usual all round sprucing up of things before the Christmas events.

28: Christmas dinner.

December

6: Samichlaus: The Children's Christmas party.

Thanks to everyone who takes part!

Auckland Swiss Club

PAST EVENTS

Jass results

From June 12, 2020.

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	- 4036
2nd	Carmen Gordon	- 3963
3rd	Fidel Good	- 3934
4th	Andrew Iten	- 3916
5th	Nelly Steinemann	- 3863
6th	Pia Knarston	- 3857
7th	Annagret Wolf	- 3847
8th	Heidi Wilson	- 3825
9th	Berta Good	- 3809
10th	Erwin Steiner	- 3805
11th	Henry Werffeli	- 3788
12th	Louis Wallimann	- 3759
13th	Edith Hess	- 3748
14th	Adrian Blaser	- 3647
15th	Ian Gordon	- 3618
16th	Emil Tellenbach	- 3599
17th	Hans Iten	- 3531
18th	Hilde Iten	- 3279

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

1: Swiss Farm Kaukapakapa - Combined AGM and Swiss Fondue night. Join us for a great event at the Swiss Farm. Traditional Swiss Fondue to celebrate Switzerland's birthday with a bonfire for the kids to enjoy.

14: Monthly Jass, Danish Hall – join us for a game. New members welcome.

September

5: Candlelight Dinner. Enjoy a delicious Swiss meal. Further details will be sent to your inbox or will be on our Facebook page.

10: Monthly Jass at Danish Hall. Who will take the glory tonight? We look forward to catching up over a game.

19: Danish Hall. Mark this day in your diary for a Swiss movie for both old and young to enjoy. More details to come in your inbox and on our Facebook page.

Swiss-Kiwi Jodel Group

Did you know that this choir has been in existence since 1967?

It's still going strong and the group love singing the traditional Swiss jodel songs and the bond of long lasting camaraderie.

As our members of the group are getting older, but still young at heart, we realise that the choir needs some young Swiss or young friends of Switzerland to join us, to rejuvenate and foster this wonderful tradition for future generations.

We are looking for new voices! We also need an accordion or keyboard player! So give it a go, give it a try. You will be surprised at how easy you fit in with our happy bunch of Jodlers.

For more information contact Kurt Hirzel: email bhirzel@orcon.net.nz or phone 09 444 8709.

Also visit our website:

<https://yodelgroup.wixsite.com/swiss-kiwi-yodlers>

Or follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Swiss-Kiwi-Yodel-Group-146962265371734/

Hamilton's first committee meeting

Mr Risi opened Hamilton's first committee meeting at 8.30pm on Sunday December 2, 1956. Firstly he welcomed the President Mr Biland who had just returned from a trip to Switzerland and he asked if he would give us a talk about his trip. Mr Biland excused himself for not being prepared for a speech but he said in a few words his impression from Switzerland: "There is only one Switzerland and even if you have not seen it for many years there is something there that will never change and that is the Alps. I felt very much at home and I am very proud to be a Swiss citizen."

Minutes: Mrs Amman and the secretary were excused for the minutes because she was unable to attend.

The Treasurer was asked to read his report and balance sheet, it was carried.

The next point to be settled was the cheque account, and it was agreed that the cheque must be signed either by the treasurer and president or treasurer and secretary.

Third point was in connection about the picnic, the arrangement of which was offered by the Auckland branch. After a rather long discussion it was agreed either January 20 or 29 would be most suitable for our branch and to leave the decision to them.

Mr Risi raised the question about the charges for the committee members on the social evenings. The treasurer proposed that no entrance fee should be charged to members of the committee in return of their duties and functions. After a long discussion, the majority disagreed to the proposal and Joe Arnett moved that the committee pays for this year and Mr Binzegger seconded it. It was further moved that the president is only

Editor Terese asked our Swiss Clubs to tell us more about how they came to be. We continue with Hamilton...

entitled to reward members or guests for their items contributed to a social evening.

Arising out of an incident where an outside party brought liquor on to the place, it was unanimously decided that no liquor of any kind can be sold or delivered on our social functions. The vice-president was instructed to inform the offending party accordingly.

General:

Mr O Fitzi informed the committee about the possibility of a Swiss ball to be held at the Riverlea. It was resolved arrangements to be made for a ball on the occasion of the 1st of August celebration and Mr O Fitzi to be in charge of the social functions.

Mr Joe Arnett addressed the committee that he was able to provide a Christmas cake without charge for a raffle on the coming social evening. It was agreed the raffle to be sixpence a ticket and sell as many as possible. Mr J Loetscher moved, seconded by Mr W Risi and it was carried.

Mr Binzegger was put in charge to provide beer, soft drinks and cigarettes for the next function. The committee fully decided to have a buffet supper, and the secretary was left in charge of it.

The meeting closed at 12 o'clock followed by a lovely supper offered by Mrs W Risi.

Signed by Mrs A Fitzi.

This made for some very interesting reading! If anyone is interested in reading through these historic minute books then please get in touch with Anita Zuber via email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone/text 027 498 5170.

Hamilton Swiss Club

PAST EVENTS

The 300 metre shooting competition was held on June 6/7, two weeks later than planned due to Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time. Organising the event is always a bit of a challenge but we ended up with 12 competitors on the day, some of us did quite well but I don't have the results yet. The evening always has a relaxed atmosphere and everybody pitched in with food and we had a delightful dinner.

There is a bit of a dark cloud on the horizon for this event. Switzerland is reviewing whether the support for these Swiss Abroad

shooting events should be continued. The Auckland Club may also have to renew their permit for the shooting range. No decisions have been made on either topic but if one of them goes against us it could jeopardize this competition. Let's support it while we can.

Thank-you Henry for running the event for us and thank you to the Hamilton club for their support.

Farewell

We farewell two long-standing committee members: Hanspeter Burch has handed in his resignation from the committee after many years of loyal service to the club. Hanspeter joined the committee in 1996 and served as vice-president for three years. At most functions you could find Hanspeter behind the bar serving drinks and at the picnic he would be behind the barbecue. Many thanks for all your hard work and input throughout the years.

Vitus Achermann has now left Hamilton for their new residence in Tauranga. Vitus joined the committee in 1998 and took over the vice-president's role in 2002 and has continued in this role ever since. Vitus did a lot of work behind the scenes: grating cabbage for the sauerkraut and cheese for the fondue. He always said it was easy due to receiving an electric grater donated to the club by the

late Bert Fluhler. Vitus also organised many hiking and tramping events for the club and his input was also much appreciated. Vitus' very interesting life-story was in the last issue of the *Helvetia*.

We wish both members and their families all the best and hope to still see them at some of our forthcoming functions.

Now we need some younger guys to replace these two stalwarts!

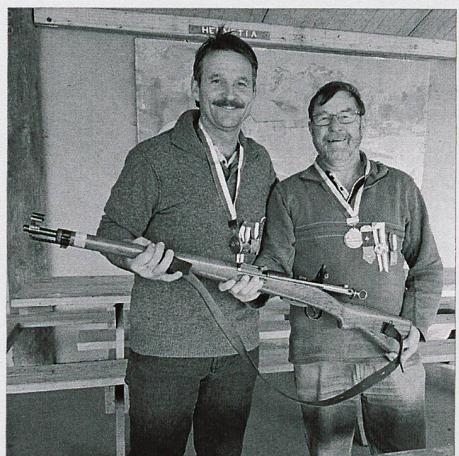
UPCOMING EVENTS

August

2: The planned National Day Celebration has been cancelled. There was quite a bit of discussion at our recent committee meeting and, after feedback from some of our elderly members, it was decided not to go ahead with this function during this uncertain time with ongoing Covid-19 cases.

September

26: This is the planned date for our fondue evening. We will make a decision a month before-hand whether it is a good idea to go ahead with our usual sharing of forks in pots or whether we come up with a different meal for this function. The focus is usually the handing out of medals and trophies which I'm sure will take place. A newsletter will be sent closer to the time and members will be asked to book ahead for this function.



Hamilton | Top: Peter Gretener and Walter Zuber. Above: Hamilton guys concentrating on shooting.