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## Taranaki

### Past Events:

On the 28th March the Taranaki Swiss Club participated in the **Multi-Ethnic Parade** in New Plymouth. Many thanks to Zeno for making the float and doing a great job of it, and a HUGE thank you to everyone who turned up to participate in the parade ... it was truly wonderful to have so many of you there ... Barbara looked lovely wearing her full tracht ... there were many children waving Swiss



flags, carrying bells or riding their tractors ... Marlies had brought along lollies which were distributed to happy children watching the parade (thanks Marlies, that was a neat idea!!) ...



Othmar blew his alphorn from time to time, and then rushed to catch up with us ... many of the men, and Toni and Zeno Hess, carried bells and sounded them proudly ... so all in all we were a colourful bunch making a terrific noise!!! We walked up Devon Street which had a huge crowd lined along it, and then everyone was welcome to go to "Yarrows' Stadium" where various ethnic groups sold their traditional cooking to the hungry crowd.

And was there a big crowd??? The crowd was HUGE!!! Entertainment was provided by many different ethnic groups, and enjoyed by the attentive audience happily seated on the grass or in the stands. THANK YOU to everyone who participated on this day to ensure that Switzerland was well represented ... we truly appreciated your support.

### Future Events:

**May 3 - Cards** will be on again ... either Jassen or Euchre whichever you prefer. Please be there before 1.15pm so that the competition can start on time.

**May 7 & 21 - Keglen** will be on again, from 8.00pm ... Johnny is sure to have the alley polished up and ready for use (like it always is) and looks forward to seeing you.

**17 May - The Swiss Society competitions** are here again. The top 20% of participants in each discipline will receive a medal, so come along and give it a go. The sports played are: Keglen (9 pin bowling), Jassen, Shot put, and Shooting. There is a separate division for under 16s so please bring your children or grandchildren to give these 'Swiss' sports a go. This year every person who competes in at least three of the four disciplines goes in the draw to win two meals at the Swiss Club ... you may choose the Fondue and/or the Anniversary Shoot. So come along and give these competitions a go ... plenty of fun, with a wee bit of rivalry!!! What a good tonic!!! Bring along your lunch and a plate for afternoon tea ... the bar will be open ... we're just waiting for you to come!!! See you there!!!

**23 May - Preiskeglen** from 1.00pm ... here a few people get together to skittle, with the winner receiving a sausage ... a fun day ... plenty of rivalry amid much laughter ... come along and give it a go ... some pay a hefty price for their sausage (if they

win one at all!!!) while others, with a bit of luck or skill on their side, can have a barbeque with many friends the next day!!! Johnny would love to see a few more people participate, so come along and support him!!! From 6.00pm to 8.00pm the fondue / sausages and salads are served. Please ring Marianne on 06 7628757, Lisette on 06 7628718 or Othmar on 06 2722878 with numbers attending, as this makes organising the event much easier. If you have a fondue set and forks, please bring them along. We look forward to seeing you at this very popular event.

**30 May to 1 June - A big contingent** from the Taranaki Swiss Club will be descending on Hamilton to attend the **Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society**, and also to compete in the final of the **Cowbell Competition** against either Auckland or Hamilton. We will be organising a bus again, so please contact Othmar or Marianne with your booking ... we will be away two nights and we need to confirm accommodation ... so your early booking will make our job easier. We do need strong men for the shot put, accurate people for the keglen (ninepin bowling) and skilful card players ... if one of these is you, please ring us NOW!!!

**June 7, 14, 21 - Jassen/Euchre** at 1.15pm ... come along and have some fun ... Erna and Heidi would love to see you!!! On the 21st Mark will also be holding the final Championship Shoot from 1.00pm ... why not come along and support him too????!! We will be having a potluck tea on this evening after a Happy Hour ... a time to have a little drink and a chat with fellow Kiwi-Swiss ... come along and enjoy some fellowship!!! MD

*Age doesn't always bring wisdom.  
Sometimes age comes alone.*





## Profile of Joe (*known as Sepp to us*) Kiser, Patron of the Taranaki Swiss Club

Sepp Kiser was the third child of seven born and raised in Ramersberg, near Sarnen, Obwalden. His parents were farmers, but sadly Sepp's father died when he was nine and a half, and continuing the farming operation was left to his mother and the children. Sepp went to school in Sarnen, but milked and fed the cows for a neighbour before and after school. Sepp left school at the age of fourteen, and worked on a neighbour's farm. Before he was 19, Sepp had completed his military training, and during the war years he worked on various farms as requested by the government. Shortly after the war ended Sepp worked with the railways, digging a second tunnel between Brunnen and Sisikon - his wage was 1fr 65 per hour!!! He then worked up the Alps for three consecutive summers milking thirty cows morning and night by HAND!!! ... and making butter and cheese!!! ... and feeding the many pigs!!! A very busy life indeed!!! During the winter months he worked in a textile factory operating machines, making shoe laces, handbags etc, in Sarnen. After this he worked on a farm for an elderly gentleman for five and a half years - in between milking he worked in a forest - cutting, with an axe, the branches off trees that had been chopped down (no chain saws in those days!!!) - for no pay ... he was to get something when the man passed away ... however, all the distant relatives wanted their bit, and left the land with a hefty mortgage for Sepp!

In 1954 Sepp married Emmi Kiser, also from Ramersberg (they were neighbours) and they were blessed with four children - Erwin, Edith and Mark (all born in Switzerland) and Susie in New Zealand. Eventually Sepp and Emmi sold the farm and moved to Oberrüti (AG) to lease a farm for six years. Here they lived near Sepp and Anni Riebli. In May 1962 they left Switzerland, following Emmi's sister and brother-in-law Agnes and Adolf Hardegger to New Zealand. They were on the same boat, leaving Genoa, as Ruedi and Margrit Dudli on their six week journey to the other side of the world. They were greeted in Wellington by Adolf and Agnes, and Max and Rosina Fuhrer. They enjoyed a delicious lunch at Max and Rosina's place, and then made their way to Taranaki. Sepp made the comment: "We had to work on steep, steep hills in Switzerland, and here in the flattest of paddocks they graze sheep!!!" ... and it was true!!!

After two weeks in Taranaki, Sepp and Emmi



started as farm workers in Hawera for two years, moving on to sharemilk for Arnold Engelberger for four years and then three years in Mokoia. Sepp and Emmi then progressed to leasing a farm on Maata Road, Eltham, for one year, before purchasing it. In 1973 they made improvements to the woolshed on the farm, and built a nine-pin bowling alley with keglen balls and skittles coming from Switzerland. In 1975 further keglen balls were brought back after a trip to Switzerland ... they were taken as hand luggage ... and upon crossing over a very busy highway in Los Angeles, the handle of one bag broke ... the ball rolled straight across the highway without hitting a car!!! I'm sure that the ball was never the same after that incident!!! There were many memorable fun-filled evenings held in the woolshed, with many staying to the wee hours of the morning drinking coffee schnaps!!! Getting home in time for milking was a regular occurrence!!! Three 'Schwingfests' were held on the property, with several competitors coming down from the Waikato to enjoy the day ... and night!!! They farmed the Maata Road property for fifteen years before son Erwin sharemilked and then purchased the farm. They subsequently purchased a farm on Rawhitiroa Road, Eltham, and in time put a sharemilker on this farm, and moved to live on their run-off, where they still reside.

Sepp has always been an avid shooter ... regularly competing in the small bore and karabiner programmes held by the Taranaki Swiss Club. He has spent many hours signalling scores at the karabiner rifle range, and still actively participates in both shooting sections. Sepp has always enjoyed 'keglen', and consistently scores very well, winning the trophy several times. The litres of schnaps that Sepp provided to the Club have never been counted ... but it would run into the hundreds!!! Thank you, Sepp for being so generous with your 'Nectar of the Gods' as the late Charlie Schuler would have called it!!! The Kisers seldom miss a Club function or event, join all our bus trips away, and took part in the 'Trachtentanz' group while it was active. Sepp and Emmi have both always been very loyal, dedicated, generous and supportive members of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and we thank you very much for your very valuable contribution to our Club. Recently Sepp was honoured to become the Patron of our Club. Congratulations Sepp, you thoroughly deserve this accolade!





## Auckland

This seems to be the season for competitions, like the Cowbell Semi-final in Hamilton, and of AGMs, like our own club's one in Torbay and the Swiss Society's one, also in Hamilton this year.

If you are interested in taking part in shot-put (Steinstossen), bowling (Kegeln) or if you are a good Jasser (Swiss card player), please contact our President, Marcel Ruedi on 413-5338 or email him on [marcel@igrin.co.nz](mailto:marcel@igrin.co.nz). We can carpool to Hamilton. It is always good fun and great company. AGMs are also great. There is food, entertainment and it is great to make new and meet old friends.

### Auckland Swiss Club goes Rockhopping – Geological Walk 10 May 2009

#### When and where?

On Sunday 10 May at 09.30, for departure at 09.45, meet at Army Bay, near the end of Whangaparaoa Rd in the car park immediately west of (i.e. before) the toilets. This is the first car park on the left as you drive down the hill into Army Bay. We will walk from Army Bay, up to a vantage point in Shakespeare Park. Then we wander down to the coast facing Tiritiri Channel, and around the North-Eastern end of the Peninsula, back to Army Bay.

*How do I get there?* If you are lucky, you get a ride. Otherwise you drive. When you register, please let us know whether you have spare seats in your car, or whether you need transport. We will endeavour to arrange carpooling and suggest you pay \$10 per person to the driver if you get a ride.

*Why?* Have a good time, do something for your health, and find out about the history of the rocks. We are lucky to have **Bernhard Spörli**, a geologist and

Swiss Club member, who will give us insight into the geological features of the area. Bernhard will also give us some written information.

*Who?* Swiss, Kiwis, anyone else interested, members or not. Small children can be carried. The walk is not suitable for prams, strollers, toddlers and young school age children; should be fine from about 10 years on.

*What do I wear and take?* It is important that you have suitable footwear. Tramping boots or strong sneakers are ideal. The coastline is a bit rocky in parts. Sun hat essential, as most of the walk will be in the sun – we hope. Other essentials to bring: All your food and drink for the day. Raincoat, sunscreen. And if you like: Take your binoculars and camera.

*How long?* The actual distance is about 8km, some 3 hours. We will stop on the way, to find out about the area, enjoy the scenery, and to have our picnic. We will be back at the carpark at around 4pm or a bit later.

*Weather?* In case of doubtful weather the trip may be canceled. The decision whether or not to go will be made at 7am on the day and will be sent out to you by e-mail at 7.15am. If your computer is playing up, you may also phone one of the following committee members: Heidi Wilson 4789751, Marcel Ruedi 4135338 or 0274901836, Nelly Steinemann 4794038 or 021892727

*How much?* The best part – no cost. Where else would you get so much for free?

*Hurry and register:* We do need to know whether you are coming! Please contact Nelly Steinemann 4794038 (leave message), or [nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz) with the following information: Name(s), how many people are coming, where from (for carpool-

ing), spare seats in car or wanting to hitch a ride, phone number, mobile phone, email address.

We look forward to seeing you on this interesting day!

For map please go to *Auckland Swiss Club website*, [www.swiss.org.nz](http://www.swiss.org.nz), follow links to *Auckland Swiss Club*.

### Future Events:

Sun 3 May - Cowbell Semi-final in Hamilton.

Mon 4 May - Auckland Club AGM in Torbay.

Fri 9 May - Jassen at Danish House in Penrose at 7.30 p.m.

Sun 10 May - Coastal geological walk with Bernhard Spörli at Whangaparaoa.

Sat/Sun 30/31 May - Society AGM in Hamilton

Read about it in the Hamilton Section of April & May Helvetia. Book with Marcel or Heidi by 21 May at the latest! Hamilton need to know! Carpooling possible, map to venue available when you register.

Fri 5 June - Film & Fondue at Danish House, Penrose. Book with Marcel (413 5338)

Fri 12 June - Jassen at 7.30pm at Danish House, Penrose.

We hope to see many of you at these events. *Heidi Wilson*

### April Jass Results 2009

1st	Emil Tellenbach	3977
2nd	Andrew Iten	3973
3rd	Nelly Steinemann	3926
4th	Hansruedi Wolf	3890
5th	Annagret Wolf	3876
6th	Adrian Blaser	3864
7th	Sid Melville	3858
8th	Fidel Good	3827
9th	Hans Iten	3818
10th	M. T. Melville	3776
11th	Marcel Ruedi	3761
12th	Edith Hess	3758
13th	Anton Good	3747
14th	Verena Ruedi	3738
15th	Ernst Menet	3735
16th	Paul Steinemann	3652
17th	Hilda Iten	3642
18th	Louis Wallimann	3630
19th	Trudi Fill	3629
20th	Ernst Lanz	3610
21st	Lynne Dunphy	3441





## Wellington

### Future Events:

#### 17 May - Eurofest

The Eurofest is taking place on Sunday 17 May at the TSB Arena/Eventcentre. There will be a cultural entertainment programme with performances such as cultural dances. Come along to participate in craft activities and to taste cultural foods. The little ones get to enjoy a corner specially dedicated to them.

#### 23 May Fondue evening

The first Fondue of this year will be served on Saturday 23 May at the clubhouse in Wainuiomata. The committee hasn't met yet to discuss further details though, so that further information will become available closer to the Fondue. IR

## Hamilton

### Past Events:

**Ruapehu Weekend - 27-29<sup>th</sup> March:** A smaller group than in previous years traveled down to Mt Ruapehu - Tokoroa Alpine Club for the annual Hamilton Swiss Club walking weekend. Friday evening all sat down to chat-



Group photo on the balcony of the Waikato Tramping Hut - Herbert, Willetta, Rae, Vitus, Roslie, Hans and Vreni

ting and much wine and cards/games etc. The next morning the weather did not oblige, so we had

to play cards/games that morning (yes, everywhere else it seemed to be fine) but it fined up by lunchtime. So off we set in two groups, one group to Silica Rapid walk and the other group to Tama Lakes, both lower and upper lakes. That evening we had Speck/Swiss sausages and sauerkraut for dinner, yummy as usual and finished with Swiss home-baking. On Sunday after tidying up, some walked the Taranaki Falls walk, while others walked up around the ski lodges-



Lower Tama Lake, Willetta, Vitus, John, Carmen and Hans

old haunt of the Waikato Tramping Club for some, where photos were taken/first lift/meads wall (where Lord of the Rings was filmed) - so different in summer time with no snow around. A weekend enjoyed by all who



Typically where would you see Vitus but on top of the hill by Meads Wall

attended with more/different walks planned for next year.

### Future Events:

**Annual General Meeting** will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at Swisscraft premises in Colombo Street, Frankton, commencing at 7pm for those who wish to have a bowling practice and a few drinks. The meeting will start at 8pm sharp. I think we have a great hard-working committee but we could always do with one or two more helpers so please

come along and give your support to the club. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Cowbell Semi-final Competition,** Hamilton versus Auckland will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10am at the Swisscraft premises in Colombo Street, Frankton. If you would like to represent the Hamilton Club in bowling, cards or shot-put please contact Herbert Staheli (07) 847-7220 daytime or 021 962708.

**Card Evenings** - Please note we have this year reduced the card evenings to five, all of which will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge, commencing at 7.30pm sharp. The four top scores will count towards the overall prize.

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May - First Card Evening and Medal Jass.** (to avoid delays, please save your sub payments for subsequent card evenings.)

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Second Card Evening.** Whilst all card evenings are held in Cambridge, we would appreciate if everyone tried to do the Medal Jass on the first evening, so that the second evenings round can start promptly.

**Swiss Society AGM : 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May :** This is a special invitation to the Hamilton Club members as there will not be a separate newsletter. If you would like to attend either or both of these functions, please read the separate article in this magazine and send in your names and cheque to : Hamilton Swiss Club, P O Box 24-061, Hamilton, at least a week beforehand. If any of our members are able to provide some baking or help in the kitchen for a couple of hours, please call Vreni Ph (07) 855-3294. We are also looking for a few donated raffle prizes to put on our raffle table at the Fondue Evening so again, if you are in a position to donate something, please let Vreni know.