

Swiss National Day at Auckland

Autor(en): **D.P. / L.H.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **20 (1957)**

Heft [5]

PDF erstellt am: **14.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942450>

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read a message from M. P-H. Aubaret, Consul-General in New Zealand, who is at present representing his country in Korea. Other distinguished guests, all of whom spoke, were Mr. E. L. Abbott, Chairman of the Kaponga Town Council, and Mrs. Abbott, Mr. Walter Risi, of Ngaruawahia, Patron of the Club, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. A. Biland, of Hamilton, President of the Waikato's newly-formed Swiss Club, Dr. A. Russell, of Napier, and Mrs. Russell, Mr. E. Zinsli, of Waitara, who has celebrated his 103rd birthday, Mr. Ben Zurcher, of Palmerston North, Mr. Len Chamberlain, of Kaponga.

After the speeches the tables were cleared and the hall prepared for dancing, while non-dancers were able to play Swiss cards.

The ballroom was a colourful scene, a number being in Swiss national costume while nearly everyone wore some national emblem or token such as richly embroidered caps or just red and white ribbons. The music was exclusively Swiss in flavour, ably rendered by dexterous accordionists and interspersed with yodelling items. Dancing continued to a late hour.

During the evening the opportunity was taken of presenting prizes for card winners for the series just concluded. They were:—

ZURCHER CUP: Mr. Edwin Fuglistaller.

Men: Mr. E. Fuglistaller 1st, Mr. M. Steiner Jnr. 2nd, Mr. P. Amstalden 3rd.

Ladies: Mrs. A. Schuler 1st, Mrs. L. Chamberlain 2nd, Mrs F. Suter 3rd.

ROMER CUP: Equal, Mr. M. Steiner Snr. and Mr. E. Kaumann.

The Committee of the Taranaki Swiss Club includes:—Mr. John Steiner, President; Mr. J. Kaiser, Vice-President, Messrs. L. Chamberlain Jnr., A. Kalin, D. Luond, M. Steiner, J. Dettling, J. Fohn, T. Napflin, W. Waldvogel, and Mesdames J. Fohn, C. Schuler Snr., and M. Steiner. The Secretary is Mr. Bruno P. Frank.

For the Swiss Social Club,

JOHN STEINER,
President.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED AT BALL

Swiss National Day in Hamilton was celebrated with a ball at Riverlea organised by the Hamilton Swiss Slub.

More than 200 Swiss residents and their New Zealand friends were received by the President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, Mr. A. Biland, and Mrs. Biland. Among the official guests were

the Mayor and Mayoress of Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. R. Braithwaite, Mr. W. Risi, of Ngaruawahia, President of the New Zealand Swiss Society, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. M. Bachmann, President of the Auckland Society, and Mrs. Bachmann, and Mr. J. Steiner, President of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and Mrs. Steiner.

Decorations With Swiss Theme

Feminine guests of honour were presented with flowers by a Swiss girl wearing national costume. Swiss and New Zealand flags, cowbells, paper lanterns and posters showing Swiss tourist centres, decorated Riverlea for the occasion.

In a speech of welcome, Mr. Biland sketched the Swiss charter of 1291 and the beginning of the world's oldest democracy. He added, "We Swiss in New Zealand can do no better service to our beloved homeland than by being loyal and law-abiding citizens of New Zealand."

The British and Swiss National Anthems were sung simultaneously as both countries have the same tune for the National Anthem.

Between dances guests were entertained with flag throwing, yodelling, a Swiss choir and accordion and humorous items.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY AT AUCKLAND

To commemorate the occasion of Switzerland's National Day, the Auckland Swiss Club held their 1st of August celebrations on Sunday afternoon at the Coronation Hall. There was a large gathering of some one hundred and forty people including a great number of children.

President of the Club, Mr. M. Bachmann, and Mrs. Bachmann, received the guests, and among the official party welcomed from sister clubs were Mr. W. Risi, President of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, and Mrs. Risi, Mr. A. Biland, President of the Hamilton Swiss Club, and Mrs. Biland, Mr. J. Steiner, President of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and Mrs. Steiner. Misses Veronica and Elizabeth Bachmann, dressed in Swiss National costume, presented the ladies with small gifts of flowers.

Following a short speech of welcome made by Mr. Bachmann, Dr. Kaegi addressed those present in "Schwizerduetsch", touching on the history of Switzerland, and its connection with the significance of the National Day celebrations.

A feature of the celebrations was the dancing of the polonaise by the children, organised by Mr. C. Ding, and danced to the accompaniment of the accordion. Everybody heartily joined in the singing of national songs, and a very witty recitation was given by Miss A. Weber. Mrs. Heidi Spielmann obliged with a yodelling item

and Mr. L. Burgener with a humorous song or two.

A delightful afternoon tea of coffee and Fastnachtchuechli was served and later in the evening Surchrut and Schueblig were enjoyed by all. Special thanks to our President, Mr. Bachmann, and Mrs. Bachmann and Mrs. H. Bryner, who went to a great deal of trouble in the preparing of the Surchrut and the Fastnachtchuechli.

Swiss dance music was provided by Mr. C. Von Rickenbach, Mr. A. Meier, and Mrs. L. Mueller, and to them, and to all the other people who offered their services willingly, we are very grateful.

D.P.

Although the Consul-General is still absent from New Zealand, Madame Aubaret very kindly invited the members of the Swiss Colony of Wellington to celebrate our National Day at her home.

The house was decorated with Swiss lanterns and flags, and many complimentary remarks were made by the guests, especially about the artistic table decoration of fruit, leaves, and candles.

The Vice-Consul, Mr. W. Sollberger, read messages from the President of the Confederation and the Consul-General, Mr. P-H Aubaret, which he linked together with a few words in genuine "Baseldytsch." Afterwards the guests enjoyed a real Swiss dinner consisting of sauerkraut, sausages, ham and salads, followed by fruit salad. After this delicious meal, Madame Aubaret organized a few dance-games, which everyone seemed to take a real delight in. During all this activity Mr. Hangartner was here, there and everywhere taking flashlight photos. People danced and chatted, and time passed all too quickly; it was half-past eleven when the party finally broke up. Everyone agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening. Thank you very much, Madame Aubaret.

L.H.

Dear Compatriots,

**Excerpt from the Rules of the Society—
Paragraph C**

"TO PROVIDE FOR THE MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF SWISS CITIZENS LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND IN URGENT AND DESERVING CASES, IN PARTICULAR TO CARE OR PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDY FAMILIES OF LIVING OR DECEASED SWISS CITIZENS, PROVIDE A DECENT BURIAL AND RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO DIED WITHOUT ADEQUATE MEANS, AND GENERALLY PROVIDE FINANCIAL,

MORAL OR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ANY CASE IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE THINKS FIT, BUT SO THAT NO PERSON CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE AND IN THE EYES OF THE LAW OF NEW ZEALAND OR SWITZERLAND TO BE OF BAD REPUTATION OR AVERSE TO HONEST WORK SHALL RECEIVE ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SOCIETY."

Twenty-five years ago in the Spirit of Ruetli and Sempach a handful of Swiss joined together and founded the Swiss Benevolent Society. The above was the principal rule they laid down and when the Swiss Society took over and altered the rules in order to give it more scope it was adopted in full. In the course of the years the old Society have saved up about £670 for this purpose. We want to be worthy trustees of this inheritance and in the same old Sempacher Spirit "One for All and All for One", I am appealing to you to assist us in the patriotic deed. Your monthly paper, the "Helvetia", is our only means of income at present. We are endeavouring to make it a little more attractive by giving up-to-date news from the different Clubs so as we all know what is going on and also other news as much as we can make available. During the next two months we will compile a new register of all Society members all over New Zealand and publish it in the November or December issue. Let us make it a handy Social register, a list of honour for everybody proud to be included.

WALTER RISI,
President.

Mr. Toni Lotcher,
Box 608,
HAMILTON.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed £1, being subscription for "Helvetia" and membership fee, Swiss Society.

Name

Address

(Please write clearly.)

OBITUARY NOTICE

An old identity of Taranaki, and Hawera in particular, Mr. Albert Schicker, died on Friday, August 2nd, after a heart attack the day before.

Mr. Schicker came to New Zealand as a young lad almost 50 years ago and settled in Taranaki. He went home to Switzerland in 1914, with the intention of getting married and returning to