

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 27 (1964)  
**Heft:** [8]  
  
**Rubrik:** News of the colony

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 10.01.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

who have enriched themselves in the course of two world wars, and yet arrogate to themselves the role of "schoolmaster to the world." The reality of the case is quite otherwise, and is perhaps most clearly portrayed by the current Swiss National Exposition in Lausanne. The "Expo" is well calculated to open the eyes of non-Swiss visitors to the fact that Switzerland, "today a highly industrialised and super-modern country, was constrained by the force of circumstances—by its glaring lack of natural resources—to develop the highest work-standards and to make a virtue of necessity. But even though Switzerland has become rich, extremely rich, by dint of industrialisation and tourism, it still holds to a traditionally puritan way of life (which achieved its highest expression in the works of Zwingli and Calvin). This is particularly true in small matters, where great restraint is exercised. In larger matters, however—when it is a question of voluntary contribution to worthy causes, or international aid—Switzerland is capable of digging down deeply into its collective pockets."

—Press Service, Swiss National Tourist Office

---

## NEWS OF THE COLONY



### Auckland Swiss Club

This year's 1st August celebration exceeded all our expectations and previous celebrations. The decorations were remarkable; on the stage our "Matterhorn," surrounded by pine trees and a "Chalet" displaying copper kitchenware and cowbells, brought special warm applause from the audience, as did the 26 shields of our Cantons framing the stage. The tables were decorated with masses of flowers, lampions and tangerines with tiny Swiss flags. In the centre of the Hall another display of flags were hanging in a circular shape from the ceiling. Altogether it made a perfect setting for the celebration of our National Day.

With our honourable guests from Wellington, Consul-General Dr J. P. Weber and Mrs Weber, about 200 guests arrived for this occasion, among them Mr and Mrs Werner Schicker, Mr Hiestand and the Misses Hiestand, from Taranaki.

At 9 p.m. the music played the opening march, followed by Alphornblasen by Mr Hans Hess, who had arrived in Auckland only a few days previously (frantic efforts were made to contact him at the last minute via the Auckland Star!). With our stage scenery the "Alphornblaser" made the picture perfect. After the National hymn the President, Louis Mueller, greeted and welcomed all the guests in several languages and thanked everybody who had helped to organise the evening. Mr Heinz Ruch, who had painted the 26 18in x 24in shields, cut out of hardboard (they are not only beautiful but also a durable asset to the club), was also thanked. Inviting

Dr Weber on to the stage, the Consul-General greeted the guests with a special warm message and complimented the club for their very successful work, especially Mr and Mrs Louis Mueller for their continuous and untiring efforts to uphold the traditions of our country. This was most warmly applauded by the audience. Dr Weber continued with his speech, referring mainly to our traditions, characteristics of our people and also the Expo in Lausanne.

Always of interest to hear about home and our peculiarities, Dr Weber's speech, with its humoristic details, was acclaimed with great applause. Louise Mueller made one more announcement, declaring Alf Meier as an honorary member of the Auckland Swiss Club, mentioning that Alf Meier, with his accordion music, had supported the Swiss communities in New Zealand for many years. Tremendous applause followed and after singing "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow," Alf Meier made a wee speech—sweet and short, as he said—thanking Louis and the committee as well as the audience.

The official part over, entertainment started with a Radio Mix-up between Beromuenster, Radio Berlin and Hofsender Wien; a pity the transmission of the tape could not always be understood clearly, because it appeared to be very intriguing! Mrs Doris Binder, accompanied by Charly Rickenbacher, continued with jodelling and, as always, she was terrific, a delight for everyone, young and old, and especially to our N.Z. guests. "Le char a fumier" followed, played in French by Evelyne and Erich Flueck, both born actors. It had to be seen to appreciate the humoristic play, Evelyn singing of how her love proposed to her beside the dung-cart!

Next on the programme were Miss Morris, well-known in the operatic society, and Mr Lawson. Accompanied by Miss Morris' mother, they each sang individually and then a duet; their voices, particularly that of Miss Morris, sounded beautifully clear, ringing on like bells; a pity the piano was slightly out of tune like the one in the Town Hall!

A humorous sketch, "The Oracle," played by Miss Frida Hirzel, Tony Brunschweiler and Richard Staehlin, followed. Having a most successful dig at the controversial dispute between the "Heimatschutz" and the "Schuetzenverein," this ended with both being very obstinate in their own point of view. It was played with great gusto and undiscovered talent, the Oracle becoming really impatient with these extremely obstinate "Hirtenknaben aus Helvetien!" A singing group came next on the stage, Mr and Mrs Piatti, Mrs Wolf and Mr and Mrs Flueck singing a pot-pourri of the most popular Swiss songs in French, Italian and German. Mr Piatti was the leader of the group, playing the guitar and singing the solos of the songs, jodelling included. Sitting together beside the Chalet, singing happily and with that carefree joy of young people, it made you forget that 20,000 km separated us from home; the whole audience was thrilled and asked for "encore, encore!"

Supper was then served and while everybody was busy eating sausages and the sizzling hot "Kaesekuche" made by Joe Keiser, Krapfen from Molly Gianotti, and drinking coffee, etc., records with Swiss music were played in the background. The supper was complimented by everyone as excellent. Continuing with the programme the Swiss Music started to play to get things moving again. "Kiwi Girls in Switzerland," played by Susanne Cranwell, Annette Perry R. Staehlin (two hitchhikers and a porter), was another sketch describing the difficulties and mix-up with foreign languages. Again the talent to act was surprisingly well done and very amusing.

Finally, Doris Binder, after repeated requests, came on stage again, so the singing group and the Alphornblaser brought the really excellent programme to an end. With music starting to play, dancing went on until early in the morning. "Polizeistunde" had to be called out several times to enable the very tired organisers to clear up the Hall.

Again the President wishes to thank everybody for their excellent support, in particular the ladies who worked so hard in the kitchen and for the mass supply of beautiful flowers. —H.B.M.

#### **WEDDING BELLS**

The wedding of Miss Rosina Hiestand, daughter of J. A. Hiestand, Oeo Road, Manaia to Thomas Finlay took place on the 4th July 1964 at the Catholic Church in Manaia, Taranaki. The wedding was held at 4.00 p.m. and attended by a considerable number of Swiss people from Taranaki.

The bride, who was given away by her father, chose white ripple faile for her full length wedding gown, which was cut on classic lines. Fine piping at the waist joined a low cut bodice to the sheath gown. The front skirt featured motifs of satin embroidered organza roses, graduating in size and the centres of the roses were studded with immaculate white pearls. The back skirt was accented with a drape also featuring motifs of roses with pearls, which flowed gently from the back waist. The panel was lined in a champagne crystalline and an over-blouse with long sleeves tapering to a point, added a special effect to this beautiful wedding gown. A Spanish Mantilla, pleated on to a wide, satin covered pillbox hat, made an enchanting headgear. The bride carried a solitary rose.

The bridesmaids, Dot Mawhinney and Julia Hiestand, wore sheath gowns in bamboo satin in two tones, cognac and champagne with overblouses in the dark tones and draped back panels in champagne shade. The drape was beaded in bronze bugle beads. A narrow band in champagne was worn on their heads and they carried bouquets in autumn tonings. The best man was Lee Mawhinney and the groomsman Joseph Hiestand. Men wore shole collard black dinner suits, dressy shirts and black bow ties.

A reception was later on held at the parents place of the bride until early in the morning. To the couple we wish to extend our very best wishes for their future. —H.B.M.

## **GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Mr and Mrs Frank Steiner from Eltham, Taranaki, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 8th, 1964. The celebration of Mass was held by Mrs Steiner's nephew, the Reverend Father Leuthart, at St. Joseph's Church in Eltham, where Mr and Mrs Steiner were married 50 years ago.

Attending the ceremony were the bridesmaid, Mrs L. Gupperth, the best man (Mrs Steiner's brother, J. Leuthart) and family members Frank and Bernard Steiner, from Napier, John Steiner, from Rotorua, and Mr and Mrs Rudolf Gianotti-Steiner, from Auckland.

After Church, photos were taken and then everybody assembled at the Astley's Lodge for a dinner with champagne, followed by a further happy gathering at Mr and Mrs Steiner's residence with coffee and "Krapfen und Chuechli."

Our congratulations and best wishes for many more years to come!

H. & B.M.

## **Hamilton Swiss Club**

A very homely atmosphere prevailed at the Club's 1st August Celebration on Sunday, August 2nd. Dr Weber, Charge d'Affaires Swiss Embassy, and Mrs Weber, were our guests of honour. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion and full marks are due to the committee members for a job well done. A cablegram was received from President Arnold Biland, sending us his best wishes for the occasion.

Dr Weber brought us the message from Federal President von Moos and in his speech acquainted us with the difficulties the old homeland is facing at the moment, due to the unexpected prosperity that came her way when everybody expected a recession. He congratulated us on being in such a peaceful country where the Government and people are so well disposed towards immigrants from Switzerland.

The entertaining items, jodelling and alphorn, ladies' choir, trumpet and accordion, recitations and community singing ("Trittst im Morgenrot daher" and "Rufst Du mein Vaterland"), made the evening very homely. Supper consisted of a Bernerplatte cooked and served by members of the committee and the excellent Swiss-type cookies and coffee helped to keep everybody in a good frame of mind.

May I take this opportunity to thank everybody who helped in any way to make this evening such a big success, no doubt due to the wonderful co-operation between the three committees to make one big effort on this, our evening of the year. Last but not least, may I thank our worthy representative of Switzerland, Dr Weber, and Mrs Weber, for making their valuable time available to be with us.

—W.R.

## Taranaki Swiss Social Club

On Saturday night, August 1st, the Taranaki Swiss Social Club held its 1st of August National Day Celebration in the Kapuni Hall. The evening was a Cabaret Social one and the hall was packed by Swiss from all parts of Taranaki. Music for dancing was played by A. Engelberger, J. Fohn, P. Amstalden, Mrs Brisco, J. Brisco (accordions), and Mrs L. Chamberlain and Mrs T. Walker (piano). Items were given by Mrs F. Suter, Mrs Seifert and Miss Engler (sketch), Mrs Dudli (jodelling), and Mr Dudli (cornet solos). Monte Carlo winners were Mr and Mrs J. Leuthard and Mr and Mrs B. Jordon.

A delicious supper was served by the ladies consisting of Swiss sausages, stuffed pork and ham, followed by savouries and cake and the usual "doings" in the tea and coffee.

Card winners for July were.—6th: Ladies, Mrs P. Zimmerman, Mrs F. Suter, Miss T. Hiestand; men, W. Waldvogel, F. Gwerder, R. Spora. 13th: Ladies, Mrs E. Meyer, Mrs J. Hermann, Mrs D. Hiestand; men, David Gwerder, Len Dettling, Joe Dettling. Points prize winners: Mrs P. Zimmerman 1st, Miss T. Hiestand 2nd. —M.J.S.

## Wellington Swiss Club

We are delighted to report that the 1st of August, our National Day Celebration, which was held at the Brooklyn Hall, was enjoyed by all present. The attendance of members and friends was great. The Hall was very attractive indeed; it had been decorated with white and red Camellias. Our Swiss flag was also made up of these delicate and rich flowers, a proper and appreciated setting for our evening.

First on the programme was a colour film of Switzerland and with it our fond thoughts and memories travelled. Again we were all completely wrapped up with the beauty of our treasured little country. Then followed likewise a coloured film of our adopted country New Zealand and this made us realise why we are very happy to be here; it is also a good country and very beautiful.

The presence of Mrs and Dr Weber, our Charge d'Affaires, made the evening perfect. Dr Weber addressed the audience in the name of our Bundesrat; this is a part of our National day that we all always look forward to. A good orchestra loaded with rhythm and pep made the evening lively and gay for all. There was also a pleasant break in the programme through a little game: we ask the questions, you give us the right answers!

Mr Hans Zeller, from Basel, Switzerland, was one of our guests. Mr Zeller is a close friend of our President and was at the time in New Zealand on a business trip.

Extra special thanks to all those responsible for the decoration of the hall; likewise to the fair sex who were chained to the kitchen stove and sink. Through their effort, one hundred and thirty hungry and thirsty souls were well provided for. —E.S.

## FOR ALL OUR SHOOTING FRIENDS

We cordially invite you all to participate in our forthcoming Shooting Competition and Banquet, to be held at our permanent shooting range in Henderson and the Northcote College Hall in Northcote, respectively. Auckland residents will be shooting on **Saturday and Sunday, September 26th and 27th, 1964**, and our guests from further afield on **Saturday, October 3rd, 1964**.

This occasion is exceptional indeed as we have been fortunate to procure the special "Landi-Taler-Schutzenabzeichen" as trophies for this competition. To win a "Landi-Taler" persons must gain **51 points** (ladies and juniors under 18 years, 49 points).

The prizegiving for this event, as well as for the Swiss Society Shooting Competition, will be held on the evening of **October 3rd, 1964**, at the Northcote College Hall, Kauri Glen Rd., off Onewa Rd. (Directions: Cross Harbour Bridge—take first turn left and you are already in Onewa Rd.—continue straight up for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile—turn right into Kauri Glen Rd., approx. 100 yards on right.)

### Programme for Social Evening:

Dinner will be served at 8 p.m. sharp.\*

Prizegiving approx. 9.30 p.m.

Gemuetiche Unterhaltung for remainder of evening.

#### \*Menu:

Tomato Juice

Forellen meuniere

Hirschpfeffer

"Spatzli"

Schweizer Kopfsalat

Fresh Fruit Salad

Coffee

**Fees: Shooting Competition: Hauptstich 15/-**

Nachdoppel 5/-

**Social, incl. Dinner: 12/6 per person.**

—THE AUCKLAND SHOOTING COMMITTEE

## JUDGING AT ROYAL SHOW AT BRISBANE

Mr J. W. Risi, of the Mountley Stud Piggeries, Ngaruawahia, left this month to judge the Large White section at the Brisbane Royal Show. Mr Walter Risi has judged at many shows in New Zealand and has given many judging demonstrations, but this is his first overseas judging assignment.

Mr Risi has just retired as president of the New Zealand Pig Breeders' Association and was for eight years a member of the council of the association. Mr Risi is president of the Waikato branch.

---

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS** ● ● ● ●

### **Hamilton Swiss Club**

No Evening will be held in September. The next Evening will be held on October 11th in the Pine Lodge, Melville. A welcome will be given to our members who have returned from Switzerland. The Quintones Band will play for you — bring your partners.

### **Taranaki Swiss Social Club**

The Committee of the Taranaki Swiss Social Club wish to take this opportunity to notify all members of the most unusual occurrence happening in Taranaki early in September. A Swiss Ski Team is to spend a few days in our area and it is considered by the Committee that we must take this chance to meet these young Swiss men. To give our members a chance to contact these people and to give them the opportunity of meeting the Swiss in Taranaki, a Social Evening will be held in the Kapuni Hall on Monday, September 7th, 1964, at 8 p.m.

The usual good Swiss music will be supplied, refreshments, of course, cards for non-dancers and a Swiss supper. All at the usual 15/- per double ticket. Ladies a plate please.

Come one, come all, to welcome these boys from the Homeland and show them our Taranaki friendship.

---

## **NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND** ● ● ●

### **SKIING AT THERMAL SPAS**

There was a time when the French Riviera proudly advertised a spring skiing tour combined with swimming under palm trees on the same day. A version of this original recreation is offered today by several Swiss mountain resorts with thermal springs. After a strenuous excursion, the tourist can experience the pleasure of a hot bath, invigorating to body and mind, in Leukerbad (Valais) or St. Moritz and Bad Ragaz, only to mention a few such resorts.

Due to the recently inaugurated aerial cableway of the Corvatsch, which makes skiing possible all the year round, the thermal springs of St. Moritz have gained in importance as an enjoyable counterpart to skiing. The Corvatsch cableway leads to the snow-fields of the Piz Corvatsch, 11,339 ft., one of the most famous peaks in the Engadin region.