

Swiss Society Annual General Meeting

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and the organizers must have known it, because both the dart and the cans were supervised by ladies.

So with all these attractions I couldn't resist the sweets at the stall and soon found myself completely forgetting that I ought not to be as fat as the ham that eluded me. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening that passed only too soon and will remain as a happy memory.

The success of this evening is not in doubt at all, although I do not know how much more is now in the club's account. But I would like to express my personal gratitude to all those many helpers and organizers and let them know that we all did appreciate their work. —“Chlaus”

Special thanks to the old workhorses Mr Schaerer, Mr Wehrli and Mr Hangartner which, as usual, helped to erect and clean up the hall. The same goes for the new arrivals who helped with the same matters despite being partly robbed of their weekly basketball game. —W. Frick

SWISS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Delegates from Wellington and Taranaki, as well as a good number of Hamilton Swiss Club members, attended the Society's annual event in the Swiss Chalet on June 4th. A most cordial atmosphere prevailed all through the meeting; perhaps the excellent Swiss-type dinner (Gespikter Rindsbraten) before the actual business started might have had something to do with it.

The President, Mr John Steiner, in his report, said that due to the increased subscription the Society's financial status was in a much healthier position. He thanked the clubs for their loyal support and the Secretary for his work and also the Press Committee for compiling the news for the Helvetia.

Discussing under general, Mr Paul Hermann, speaking for the Taranaki delegates, wished the Society's aims and objects more clearly defined. He questioned the merits of raising funds when practically all the needs of today are covered by the country's social security scheme.

Replying to this question, W. Risi outlined that considerable hardships can accrue if a new immigrant meets with a serious accident before he or she becomes eligible for social security and that so far the Society had paid out quite a tidy sum of money if all the contributions were added up since its foundation in 1932. Over the period he was closely associated with the affairs of the Society, one mentally ill person was assisted by paying for his board until a passage was available to get him back home to Switzerland and £150 paid towards this passage. A widow, who found herself destitute by the sudden death of her husband, was assisted with £60. Funeral arrangements were made for a young Swiss who was mentally unbalanced and committed suicide. An

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

Receipts and Expenditure Account for year ended 31st March 1966

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
Subscriptions (1963 £196/5/-)				Printing, Postage "Helvetia"	268	5	4
(1964 £218/10/-) (1965 £213)				Auditor's Honorarium	3	3	0
Wellington	58	15	0	Toll Calls	2	0	0
Hamilton	90	0	0	Incorporated Societies' Fee	10	6	
Christchurch	6	10	0	Exchange and Cheque Book	1	10	0
Auckland	49	1	9	Inland Revenue Income Tax	7	4	0
Single Subscriptions	104	0	0	Taranaki Newspapers—Printing	3	0	6
			308 6 8	Receipts in excess of Expenditure to balance	81	8	2
Interest P.O. Savings Bank	2	5	7				
Interest Bank N.S.W.	1	9	11				
Interest Wellington Investment Trustees' Agency	20	0	0				
			23 15 6				
Advertising Refunds:							
Dalgety and N.Z. Loan Coy	10	0	0				
Air France	10	0	0				
			20 0 0				
Donations	12	0	0				
Refund Insurance	2	19	4				
			14 9 4				
			£367 1 6				£367 1 6

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 1966

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Accumulated Funds	701	7	1	Cash on hand	1	0	0
				Addressor	1	0	0
				Credit Balance P.O. Savings Bank	79	2	3
				Credit Balance Bank of New South Wales	131	13	10
				Credit Balance N.W. Printing Co.	66	6	0
				Deposit Consulate of Switzerland	22	5	0
				Wellington Investment Trustee Agency Co.	400	0	0
			£701 7 1				£701 7 1

I have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Revenue Account of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, from the books and vouchers presented to me. In my opinion the statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet correctly sets out the position of the Society concerned.

Stratford, May 27th, 1966

J. M. STEPHENS, Honorary Auditor

old-age pensioner's glass eye was paid for as this did not come under social security. Only two years ago the grave of a young Swiss, who died soon after his marriage with a New Zealand girl who then remarried and neglected her first husband's grave was tidied up by Christchurch Swiss Club members. Their out-of-pocket expenses for material were paid for by the Society.

We investigated the possibility of taking out an insurance to cover accidents that occur before a new immigrant becomes eligible for social security, but it proved too expensive for the Society to pay the premium; however we are still pursuing this because it would be a very worthwhile cover. Actually, if we could enlist only an additional hundred or so subscribers to the "Helvetia", which would add comparatively little to the overall printing cost but make just the difference towards giving us the revenue to pay for such an insurance.

The striking part about all our payouts is that only one, the husband of the widow, was a member of the Society. All the others qualified because they were Swiss. This must inevitably remain so because it takes a considerable time for a new arrival to get acquainted with our Society and its aims and become a member, and it is just this period where he or she could miss out on the social security benefits of this country. That is where the words of Arnold von Winkelried "One for all and all for one" apply.

Officers elected for the year 1966-67 are: President, Mr John Steiner; Vice-President, Mr H. Schaerer; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr Loui Kuringer.

The venue for next year's annual general meeting will be Wellington. —W.R.

EXTRACT FROM THE RULES OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF N.Z.

2. Objects

The objects for which the Society is established are:

- a. To take over the aims, the objects and the assets of the "Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand".
- b. To conserve, promote and advance the cultural standards of citizens of Swiss origin within New Zealand.
- c. To provide for the moral and the 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 die 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. Financial support in the term of this paragraph shall only be given in cases where Social Security benefits prove insufficient.

- d. To assist Swiss immigrants to learn the New Zealand way of life.
- e. To support the social and cultural contact among people of Swiss origin.

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NOTICE

Our Charge d’Affairs, Dr Weber, is very keen to compile a history of our early immigrants, whilst there are still descendants and friends about who remember the facts of these ‘real life stories’.

It would be much appreciated if anyone who has a fund of such information were to pass it on to Walter Risi. We thank you for your valuable assistance which will in this year, dedicated to the Auslandschweizer, be a very much up-to-date gesture.

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Forthcoming Events ═══════

Hamilton Swiss Club

First August celebration will be held on Saturday, July 30th in Pine Lodge at 8 p.m.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

SOCIAL EVENING—in the Kapuni Memorial Hall, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 2nd

Popular Admission Charges:

Double Ticket 15/- plus a plate, Gents 15/-, Ladies 5/- plus a plate,
Junior Gents (under 18) 7/6

CARD EVENINGS: Swiss Cards and Euchre

MONDAYS, JULY 4th and 11th. Admission only 2/6

Prizes: Ladies and Gents 1st, 2nd, and 3rd; also points prizes

Wellington Swiss Club

The August 1st celebration will be held on Saturday, July 30th. Further notices will follow.

Do not forget our walk-in-space on June 19th or 26th, depending on the cloud formation and wind direction. Be ready now.

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Laugh a little . . .

KENNET DER DAE

Zwei Seelen steigen durch die Unendlichkeit des Alls zum Himmel auf. Die eine, die sich bedeutend rascher bewegt, sagt heim Ueberholen zur anderen: “Gestatten, dass ich mich vorstelle: Kuntze, Duesseldorf-Verkehrsunfall”, worauf die andere gemaechlich zur Antwort gibt: “Freut mi, Habegger, Bern-Schlacht bi Laupe”.

—Nebelspalter