

New Zealand's Swiss Club news

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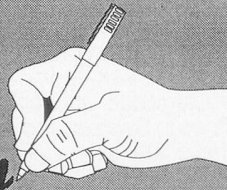
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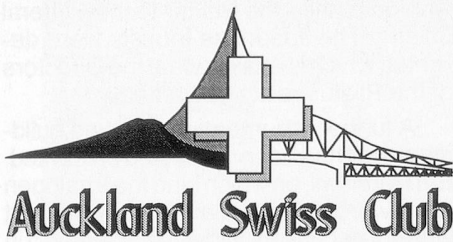
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New Zealand's Swiss Club News



Auckland
Christchurch
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington



Humor set out from Switzerland to go and look at the world. Unfortunately, it hasn't come back from its travels yet...!

Hi there folks...

...and welcome to the 1994 Auckland Swiss Club year. As usual there are many events & functions planned. With your input, help and motivation we can once more make the coming time with the club good fun for everyone.

SAMICHLAUS

A good crowd attended the Samichlaus picnic on Sunday, 5 December at our Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa. And what a fine mainly sunny day it turned out to be! After a delicious lunch of Swiss sausages from the grill, bread and mustard followed by strawberry squares, everybody, especially the children, were anxiously waiting for Santa to arrive. He approached over the hills by helicopter. He talked to 73 children and they all received a "Chlaussäckli". Later in the afternoon Albert Ryter played the accordion and a group joined in singing and having fun. Special thanks to **Santa Paul, Osci, Swiss Bakery, Swiss Butcher**, the committee and everybody who helped make this such a great one.

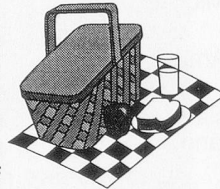
A.W.



PICNIC

The first big function for all of you after the long summer holidays is on Sunday, **6 February 1994**. Our annual picnic is on again at the Swiss Farm in Kaukapakapa starting at 10.00 AM.

Food and Drinks are available at very reasonable cost. The day will be again full of fun, games and meeting people. If unsure of the way to



get there don't hesitate and ring any Auckland Committee member listed on the second page of this magazine.



PS: The sun will be there so don't forget your sun umbrellas. The tables got holes for them!



"INTERNATIONAL" TEN PIN BOWLING TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, 27 February the **ESI** is organising the second "**International**" **Ten Pin Bowling Tournament**.

This time the venue will be the Panmure Bowling Alley, Ellerslie-Panmure Highway, Panmure.

In order to expedite procedures on the bowling day, entries should be sent to: Dick Post, 198 Shirley Road, Papatoetoe Phone: 278-1419, Fax: 573-1578

Please send the entries well in advance of the event, accompanied by the Bowler's Name, Nationality, Address and Phone Number, plus a cheque for \$17.00 per person made out to the "**N.Z. Netherlands Society**". The payment includes shoe hire if required. Ideally teams of four should be entered but individuals are most welcome and will be assembled into teams.

In order to avoid disappointment, entries should be submitted as soon as possible. The limit is 48 bowlers (12 teams of 4). As soon as this number is reached entries will close automatically.



Check-in time 1.30p.m., bowling starts 2.00p.m. sharp. Three games will be bowled.

We are German, and for years we have been unlucky with our holidays in Switzerland.

**Does it really always rain there?
No, in the winter it snows!**

SOCIETY GAMES

SHOOTING

On Sunday, 13 March at Ernst & Martha Glaus's place, 145 Chamberlain Road, Henderson (ph. 833-6767). The famous Swiss Society Small Bore shooting competition is on again. It starts around **10am** till lunch time and if necessary will continue afterwards. The entry fee for this medal winning competition is **\$4.00**. Bring your own small bore rifle along. This is a B.Y.O. lunch & drinks event and as usual is full of fun for everyone.

JASSEN

On Friday, 18 March, 7.30pm at the Gasthof "Prost Ethnic", 224 Hobson Street, City. Hans Iten, Ph. 620-9208 invites all the keen Jassers to come and compete for one of the beautiful Swiss Society medals. The entry fee is **\$4.00**. Drinks will be available to quench your thirst. Feel free to bring a plate.



Society Game Medals

Approx. 25% of the participants of any of the Society Games (Jassen, Kegeln, Shooting & Steinstossen) will win one of the beautifully, custom designed Medals. It is well worth it to take part in one or two of these competitions.

COWBELL COMPETITION

On a Sunday in April or May, starting at 10am at Edith Hess's place, 5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield, Phone: 444-6972. Once more we have to beat the Hamiltonians in Kegeln, Steinstossen & Jassen to qualify for the finals which will then be held at the **Swiss Society's AGM** on Queens Birthday weekend 5/6 June in Taranaki. The number of entries are not limited but only the best results will count. The more of you turn up the bigger the chance to win but please let us know so we can tell the Hamiltonians to be prepared to loose. For any information phone **Presi Chris on 838-9894**

DATES

- 06 Feb. Picnic**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 09 Feb. Swiss Travel Group Shooting**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 13 Feb. Closed private Function**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 27 Feb. Practice Day, Shooting**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 13 March Society Shooting**
145 Chamberlain Rd. Henderson
- 16 March Meet Rolf Bodenmüller**
224 Hobson St., (re: Embassy)
- 18 March Society Jassen**
224 Hobson Street, City
- 20 March Obligatorisch Shooting**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- 24 April Feldschieszen**
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa
- ?? April or ?? May Cowbell Competition Semi-Finals Auckland vs Hamilton**
5 Glen Vista Place, Glenfield
- 06 May AGM - Auckland Swiss Club**
224 Hobson Street, City

15 May Hamilton Shooters Open Day
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

29 May Ausland & Eidgenössisch Shooting Day
Swiss Farm, Kaukapakapa

All shooting events will start at 9a.m. promptly.
Please be on time, **Roy Spillman**

WANTED, WANTED, WANTED

Single & double mattresses for the newly built bunks at the Swiss Farm. Also needed are brooms, dustpans and other cleaning utensils.

If you think you can spare anything, please ring **Markus** on 832-3334



Hi, it's me again, **Mario Brändli!** Just dropped in to say...

... "Mummy and Daddy are finally tying the knot on 13 February 1994".

Die Liebe ist ein Brunnen, aus dem wir nur soviel trinken, als wir hineingeschöpft haben, und die Sterne, die aus ihm blinken, sind nur unsere Augen die hineinsehen.

Stendhal



MORE SPONSORS...

Some time ago we received the money to make that big table for the Swiss farm which comfortably seats 20 to 30 people.

Once more **Willi Pfenniger** is full in action. He has found and convinced more Sponsors who can't wait to pay for some more of these mighty big seating constructions. In due course the idea is to firmly place them, possibly with a little concrete, outside the small hut. It will be in such a way that the also planed 'roof extension' will cover them all. Good all!

The happy sponsors were, are & will be:

- Table No 1: **Osci & Hazel Roggen**
- Table No 2: **Swiss Bakery, Patisserie & Café Franz & Eveline Müller**
- Table No 3: **Edi & Rita Brändli**
- Table No 4: **Swiss Delicatessen Fine Meats Hausi Reiser & Roman Priore**
- Table No 5: **Toni & Hanna Manser**
- Table No 6: **Remi Zibung, Reymar Walker & Swiss Time Service Center**
- Table No 7: **You??**



MERIT CUP IS HERE!

Being a proper Swiss Yacht they have of course picked the best moment to finish the 3rd leg in Auckland. On Sunday, 23 January at midday, skipper **Pierre Fehlmann** and his crew entered the mooring site at the Whitbread Village welcomed by yodeling, Alphorn sound, carnival music and the

cheers of thousands of people. The great reception must have taken them a bit by surprise as that very day was also the official "Swiss Day". Swiss food, music, dancing and performances on the program all day. Swiss flags everywhere in the Harbour City. The timing could not have been better! Peter Graf, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Switzerland did loose a bit of sleep the nights before. He organised the official reception for Pierre and his crew having to invite all the guests hoping that Merit Cup will be here in time on the 23 January. According to TV

News it sounded more that the yacht could turn up a little too late. But the winds have changed and Merit Cup picked up a lot of time on the way down from up north. So off the boat they came just to join their New Zealand welcoming party! Even Pierre Fehlmann was a bit stunned by that perfect "Swiss" timing. Although he did say that they would have hurried a bit more had the Swiss Day been on the 22 January. Well done Pierre and crew! Lets hope that your stop over in Auckland will once more be an unforgettable time for you guys. **EGB**



Here it is, our new logo! The winning entry was designed by Walter Hartmann and the Speaker of the House, Mr. Robin Gray officially accepted it. We think the logo looks great and we congratulate Walter on a fine effort.

Many others participated in the competition as well. All entries were of a very high standard and very original. Unfortunately some of the entries were disqualified due to technical or legal reasons. We like to thank all those artists who took part.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

12/13 February: Cowbell Competition. This is an inter-club competition of the Swiss clubs. The "Wanderpreis" is a cowbell. This meeting will be held in Taranaki. If you are interested in taking part and if you can offer a lift or would like a ride to Taranaki or if you would like to be billeted, phone Maya Beddie-Geiser, Ph. 479-7503

19 March: Bicultural Field trip through the Porirua Basin.

CHILDRENS ST.CLAUS CELEBRATIONS 1993

After an expanded and extended winterbreak, St. Claus finally found the right clothes to wear for a very special day: The Swiss Children's Christmas Party in the Ohariu Valley's Swiss Club House. He was surprised to find that the 25 children had grown quite a bit in the last 12 months. St. Claus loved the poems and other little presentations which were specially prepared for him! In the meantime 2 special angels, Ruth Messmer and Christine

Staudenmann, had helped him organise the many gifts which were gratefully received by all the youngsters. All the children promised to be really "good boys and girls" until Christmas - maybe even further into the New Year. Soon the new toys were tried out and the parents had the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. The time came when St. Claus



Max and Rosina FUHRER with their adopted grand-daughter Sarah, preparing the homegrown Christmas tree.



Alexander and Sophie MAC DONALD are telling St. Claus some stories.

had to take his leave, as he was expected to make another stopover in the Tilbury Valley. Left behind was the exquisite looking Christmas Tree, waiting to give the adults some pleasure on their own party.

MBG

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was our last function of the year 1993. About 80 members and friends enjoyed each others' company, the good food and of course the visit of St. Nikolaus and his "Schmutzli". What St. Nikolaus read out of his large book was funny and to the point. (Well done!). We were very pleased to officially welcome our new Ambassador and his wife, **Mr. and Mrs. THURNHEER**. The club wishes them a happy stay in this country, and we hope to see them at many more of our functions. On a not so happy note: this Christmas party was most likely the last meeting in our club which François Schmidt attended. We will miss his happy nature! We wish him well for his new posting in Moscow. Another special guest attended our party: Mini-Mack or Roman Bont. He even brought along his scooter for everyone to view. Afterwards a collection was held for the Child Cancer Foundation and to help Mini-Mack along on his trip through the South Island. A very special thanks goes to Franz REMPFLER for hosting Roman BONT (Mini-Mack) for several days.

BICULTURAL FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE PORIRUA BASIN

Come and join us on this exciting tour which is planned for Saturday the 19th of March. We will meet in front of the Porirua Museum at 13.45, opposite the Takapuwahia Marae, in Elson. Dioramas will introduce you to the local whaling stations, Taupo Pa, Joshua Prosser's stables Auntie's local store. We then take our own cars and follow the Education Officer, who will guide us to many interesting sites. We will drive over the

Paramata Bridge, which was opened in 1936 as part of the "Centennial Highway". Prior to this, the travellers had to drive around the Pauatahanui estuary and along Grays Road to Plimmerton.

Our first port of call will be the Ngati Toa Domain, one of the most important historic sites in the Porirua district. It was occupied by early Maori settlers around the 15th century. In the 1820's after the migration of Ngati Toa to this region, Nohorua, the Ngati Toa Tohunga, built his pa here and lived at this site. Later on the British Army built the Paramata Barracks.

After visiting Plimmerton, a village which was named after John Plimmer, one of the directors of the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company, we will stop at the bottom of Grays Road. It was in this area that Gold was found but not in profitable quantities.

Motu Karaka is another important Maori Camp site, perhaps 500 years old. It was at this point that the original town of Porirua was to be built. This will lead us to the Ration Point, a place at which rations were unloaded from ships for the army barracks at Pauatahanui in the 1840's, this being as far up the inlet as the ships could travel. The earthquakes of 1848 and 1855 raised the seabed and ships were no longer able to travel up this far.

In Pauatahanui we will inspect St. Albans Church, which was built on the famous pa called Mataitaua. Being a junction in the road from Wellington to the north and to the Hutt Valley, and a day's coach journey from Wellington and Waikanae, Pauatahanui became important as an overnight stopping point for travellers and boasted four hotels in the 1880's.

Our journey will be completed at the Gear Homestead, built in the late 1880's for James Gear, founder of the Gear Meat Company.

Come and enrich your lives on this tour and bring along your youngsters too!

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate **Christine STAUDENMANN** and **Murray HUGHES** to their second child. Their son **Nico-Alan** was born on 28 December 1993.

ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY WELLINGTON

Waitangi Day Celebrations, 6 February 1994

The Waitangi Day activities and festivities will be in Frank Kitts Park, starting at 12 noon with an ecumenical service, concluding at 1 pm. From 1 pm through to 5 pm there will be a country fair with the theme "early settlement of the Wellington district". There will be various activities happening throughout the whole fair, such as a mini A&P show, cultural performances, old time dancing, performing arts and displays, for example weaving and carving. Please come along and enjoy this special day.

THE GREAT DEBATE

All the German speaking clubs (German, Austrian and Swiss) from Wellington will combine for a special "Bunter Abend", Saturday 26 March 1994, 7 pm at the Petone Senior Citizen Hall, Elizabeth St. The debate will be: "**SHOULD ALL THE GERMAN SPEAKING CLUBS UNITE INTO ONE?**" Come and enjoy a fun night out. Entrance fee \$5 incl. supper.

Andreas hat die erste Englischstunde hinter sich. Stolz berichtet er zu Hause seiner Mutter: "Ich kann schon 'Guten Tag', 'bitte' und 'danke' in einer fremden Sprache sagen."

"Wie schön!" antwortete die Mutter. "In Deutsch konntest du es bisher noch nicht."

700 YEARS SWITZERLAND

Two years after planting the 7 trees to celebrate 700 years Switzerland, we visited the area where the trees are now well established. Six of them are thriving and the seventh does look a bit poorly. It will be replaced when the time is appropriate.

Anyone visiting Wellington should make the effort to go to the Botanic Garden and look at the extensive collection of trees, shrubs and flowers. And then of course the most important patch is "Little Switzerland" where on November 6, 1991, seven people planted one tree each, one for every hundred years of the Confederation. The Deputy Governor General planted on behalf of the Crown a "Pinus Sylvestris". Deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon planted a "Pices Ables" on behalf of the New Zealand Government. The Ambassador Dr. M.U. von Schenck planted a "Abies Alba" on behalf of the Swiss Government. Erica Koller (wife of the Federal Councillor Arnold Koller) planted a "Betula Pendula Alba" on behalf of the people of Switzerland. Sir James

Belich planted a "Larix Decidia" on behalf of the City of Wellington. André Schleicher planted a "Pinus Nigra" on behalf of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and the President of the Wellington Swiss Club, together with his daughter Debora, planted a "Pinus Mugo" on behalf of the Wellington Swiss Club and the "Young Swiss in New Zealand" respectively. All these trees grow in New Zealand as well as in Switzerland.

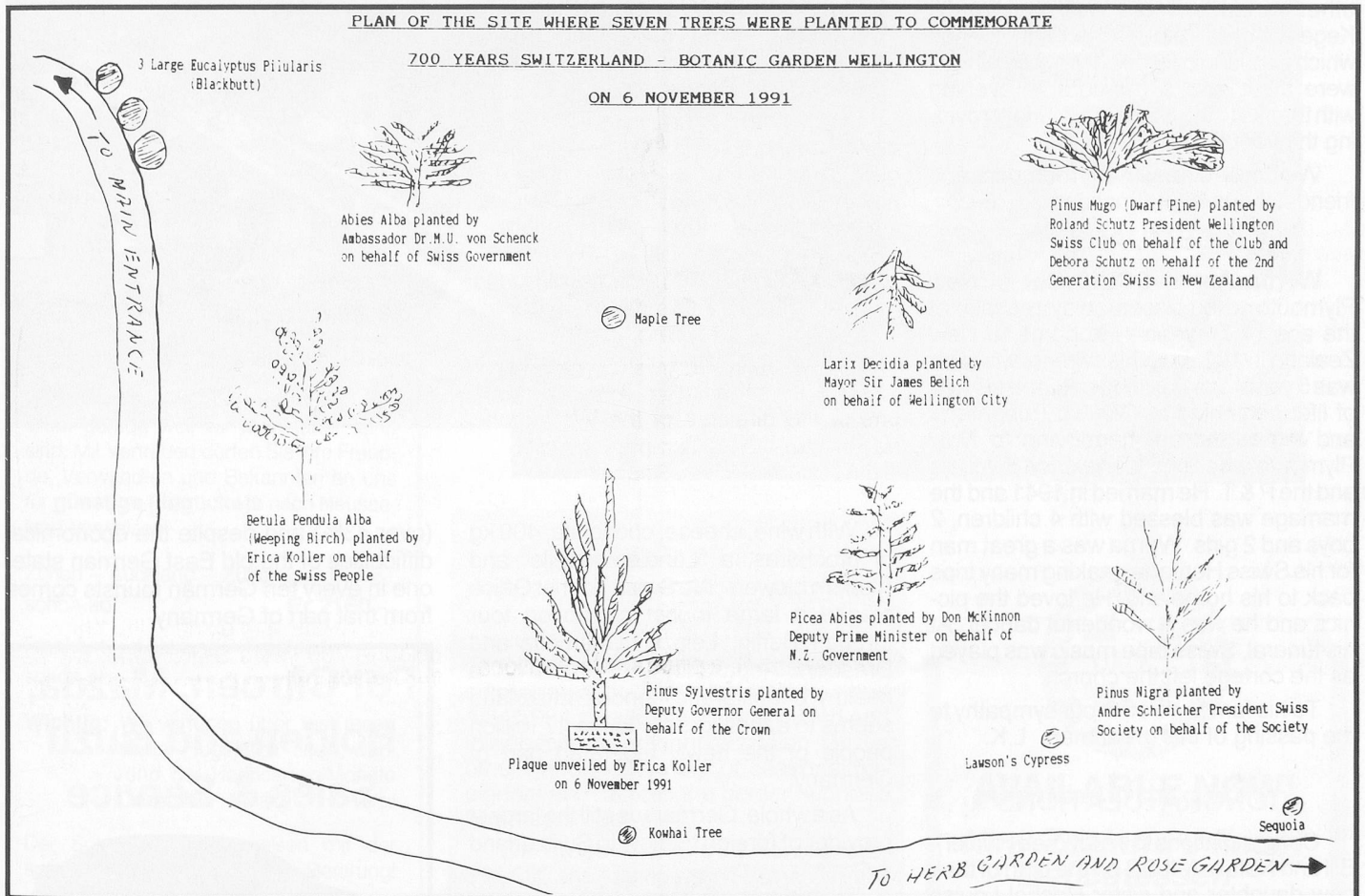
The plaque, covered with the Swiss Flag, was then unveiled by Erica Koller and the Alder Family provided a festive atmosphere with a "Yodel".

The place is easy to find. It lies in a sheltered little valley half way between the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and the Main entrance to the Garden on Glenmore Street, opposite the Sharella Motor Inn. From either side it is only a few minutes walk. The plaque reads: These seven trees were planted to celebrate the 700th Anniversary of Switzerland 1291-1991.

André Schleicher



The Consul Mr. Peter GRAF (left) and the Supervisor of Botanic Garden Mike OATES inspecting the 7 trees.



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**NOTE TO
SECRETARIES**

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine: April 1994. All contributions must be in by 15 March. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

**Menschen ohne Rückgrat
kann man leicht aufs
Kreuz legen.**

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HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PICNIC AND SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Sat. 26th Feb. 1994 - Shooting competition 10.30 am start. Please remember to bring your own lunch.

Sun. 27th Feb. 1994: Picnic and Sports competition (bowling, shotput) 11 am start. B.B.Q. sausages, cakes, coffee, cold drinks and entertainment for the children will be available.

Venue: Villiger's Farm, Kiwitahi.

GEMÜTLICHER ABEND:

A low key Gemütlicher Abend before the Christmas rush was immensely enjoyed by over 50 members and friends of our club. Some indulged in card playing, others tried out the new automatic Kegelbahn or had a chat with friends which was long overdue. I am sure all who were there had a memorable evening with thanks to the Staheli family for providing the venue.

We hope to see all our members and friends at our 1994 functions. *E.C.*

OBITUARY

Werna Anton SCHICKER of New Plymouth who passed away recently at the age of 77 years. He came to New Zealand in 1921 with his parents when he was 5 years old. Farming became his way of life, beginning at Okaiwa Pungarehu and Inglewood before moving to New Plymouth where he worked for Synfuels and the P & T. He married in 1941 and the marriage was blessed with 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Werna was a great man for his Swiss Heritage, making many trips back to his homeland. He loved the picnics and he was a wonderful dancer. At his funeral, Swiss tape music was played as the cortege left the church.

To his family we offer our sympathy to the passing of this great man. *L.K.*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Trudy (nee Flühler), Bill and Natalie MILES on the birth of their new daughter and sister Rachel Louise born at Waikato Women's Hospital on November 25th. 1993 to the sound of Haydn's Cello Concerto in C. She weighed 3420 grammes (7lb 9oz).

TARANAKI AND CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUBS

No news has been received from these two Clubs for this issue which is a pity as there is no further issue of the Helvetia magazine until next April.



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BIG SWISS PROMOTION IN EX EASTERN GERMANY



With wine, cheese, chocolate, 400 kg of brochures, a "Ländlerkappelle" and Alphorn blowers, the Swiss Tourist Office staged a large tourist promotion tour through Berlin, Leipzig, Chemnitz and Dresden. Apparently the picture of a healthy, beautiful and friendly Switzerland seems to appeal greatly to the 17 million people of the newly federated part of Germany.

As a whole, Germany is still the largest provider of foreign tourists to Switzerland

(over 43%) and despite the economical difficulties of the old East German state, one in every ten German tourists comes from that part of Germany.

REDUNDANCIES

Following the decision to reduce the Swiss army by some 30%, the Military Department has started its programme of staff reduction too. Over 3000 positions are to be axed over the next few years, mainly through early retirement and non-replacement of staff leaving the Department on a voluntary basis. As a further measure, action is under way to encourage everyone to retire at the age of 60 instead of the present 65.

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