

New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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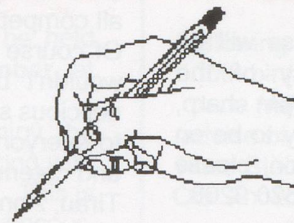
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New Zealand Swiss Club News & Happenings

Web-page - <http://www.swiss.org.nz>
E-Mail - society@swiss.org.nz



Auckland
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington
Christchurch



Auckland Swiss Club

auckland@swiss.org.nz

Past Events....

Romantic Dinner by Candlelight

52 lucky people had a wonderful evening at the Swiss Farm, which had been transformed by magic into an elegant and charming restaurant. Beautifully decorated, the whole room looked superb with 200 candles giving that very special atmosphere. The men bought orchid corsages for their partners, and romantic music complemented the delicious food and wine - and all this took place without electricity!

So guess who the genius was behind all of this - organising decorations, music and food, as well as ringing around to find people to fill the hall? The whole concept was the idea of our own Edith Hess, who has only been on the committee for two months, and it's now all go-go-go!! There will be more in store!

The whole committee gave a helping hand, which proves the point that good activities bring a good spirit into the Club - it makes the Club.

Thank you, Edith, and everyone involved with this successful function!!

Special General Meeting, 31 July

24 members attended this meeting, and 20 postal votes were received. The motion, regarding installation of electricity on the Farm was voted on by secret ballot.

The result was 35 votes for, and nine votes against, the proposal.

New Farm Committee

W Pfenniger, T Manser, M Bühler, H Werffeli, H Matysik, F Röthlisberger, Lee Ashton and C Hochuli.

First of August Celebration

It seems that this event belongs up at the Swiss Farm, which was decorated with home made lampions and very attractive floral art.

And now we can have the function under cover, protected from wind and rain, and still have the traditional bonfire. It is a family activity for all ages, with activities organised for children, and 130 members enjoyed the occasion, along with a good, traditional meal of Minestrone Soup, Sauerkraut, Rippli, Speck, Schübli, Wienerli, and potatoes, with chocolate custard, Nussgipfeli and "Schnägge" for the desert.

The highlight was of course the bonfire, which was prepared the week before with the fallen and dead tree log brought up from the bush. The weather was just beautiful, and perfect for the fireworks display, with the sound of five accompanying alphorns stirring everyone's hearts with patriotic feelings.

Back inside, the Swiss Kiwi Yodlers sang "Schwyzerbode" and other songs.

Then there was dancing, to the sounds of Kurt, Ursula, Albert, Peter and Menk on the "Bassgeige".

A special mention must also be made about the first class sound system. Roland Feurer brought up all the equipment and spent the afternoon wiring it up.

The barmen also had a busy time, and the Committee and helpers worked tirelessly so that all who came were happy and enjoying themselves. AR

Jass Evening

Results of the card evening, 21 July:

1. Jakob Preisig	4144 pts
2. Hans Fitz	4120
3. Toni Manser	4100
4. Hans Iten	3966
5. Louis Wallimann	3868
6. Max Bachmann	3840
7. André Iten	3478
8. Hilda Iten	3453
9. Fidel Good	3371
10. Lynne Daphne	3340

Thank you to everyone who donated a prize, and also for the generous suppers donated by various players.

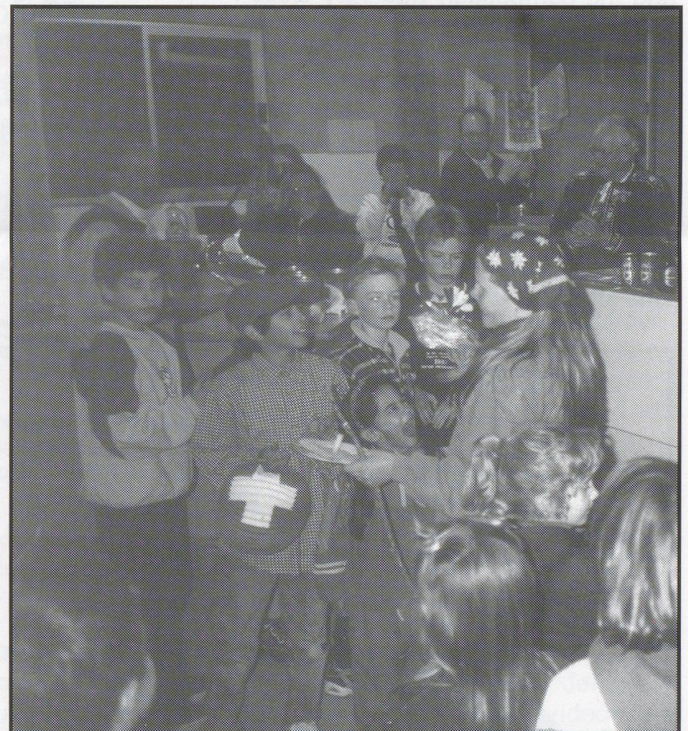
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Congratulations

to Henry Werffeli and Susannah Voorham on the birth of their daughter, Samantha, on 8.8.2000
A sister for Orlando and Isabelle



The children with traditional lampions and candles to celebrate the First of August at the Swiss Farm

Forthcoming Events....

Game Evenings - These will be held every **third Friday** of the month, commencing at 8.30pm sharp, at 224 Hobson Street. Try to be on time. For more information, please contact Hans Iten, ph. 09 620 9208.

'Fondue Abig' - 30th September to be held at the Swiss Farm, from **7.00pm**. Come along to enjoy a delicious fondue. This is a very popular event, so please book early!

Contact any committee member:

Vreni Pfeniger 09 420 8517
Trudi Fill 09 376 4923
Edith Hess 09 444 6972
Maria Hillensbeck 09 836 6853

Mystery Event - 15 October

Keep this date free !! Look for more info in next month's Helvetia.

six evenings, as well as for the overall competition.

Of course our annual card evenings wouldn't be the same without the delicious suppers, so a big thank you to everyone who helped with baking and catering. At our fifth evening in Tirau, Annemarie Schweizer and Lydia Lenggenhager were both presented with a gift from the Club for their baking and work in the kitchen for the three evenings held in Tirau every year.

Finally, thank you to the card players, some of whom travel quite far, for regularly coming along and making our winter card evenings so successful once again. BL

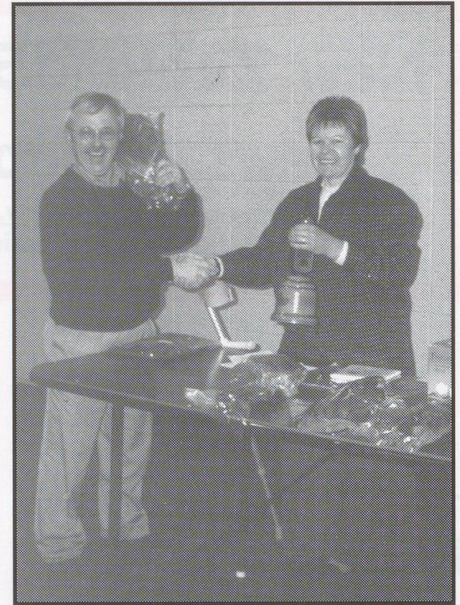
Winners of the last two evenings, and of the overall prizes, are:

Fifth Card Evening, 24 June

1. Therese Rust	4224
2. Alice Arnold	4109
3. Hans Vetsch	4044
4. Roland Rufer	4023
5. Albert Schweizer	4015
6. Fritz Häsli	3993
7= Evelyn Knights	3962
7= Kathy Lenggenhager	3962
B. Prize: Josef Arnold	3247

Sixth Card Evening, 10 July

1. Uli Elmiger	4202
2. Jack Dünner	4140
3. Joe Staheli	4110
4. Erika Bolli	4093
5. Bert Steiner	4075
6. Heidi Leuenberger	4034
7. Bruno Rufer	4024
8. Walter Zuber	4020
B. Prize: Therese Rust	3265



Overall winner and Jass Champion, Hans Vetsch, receiving his Trophy and prize ham, presented by Beatrice Leuenberger, at the sixth card evening at Eureka

Overall Prize Winners, 2000

1. Hans Vetsch	19,718
2. Jack Dünner	19,687
3. Joe Staheli	19,589
4. Heinz Leuenberger	19,574
5. Patricia Gillon	19,567
6. Ruth Waldvogel	19,538
7. Werner Fässler	19,532
8. Theres Kennel	19,496
9. Uli Elmiger	19,393
10. Erika Bolli	19,379
11. Margaret Hayward	19,371
12. Alice Arnold	19,292
13. Joe Kennel	19,276
14. Walter Zuber	19,221

Hamilton

Swiss Club

hamilton@swiss.org.nz

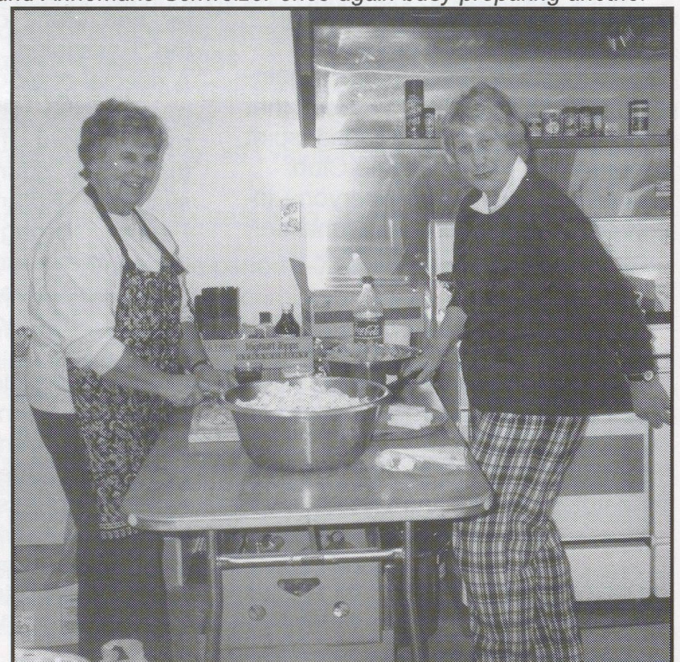
Past Events....

The fifth and sixth Card Evenings

being the last for this year, were once again very well attended with 48 and 46 players respectively.

In total, there were 298 card players, and the competition was very close right to the end, with the 14 prize winners just under 500 points apart. At the end of the sixth evening, the final calculations were done for the overall winner of the card evenings. Congratulations go to Hans Vetsch, who is now Hamilton Club's "Jass Champion 2000". Well done, Hans !! The Club thanks all those people who donated extra prizes over the

Lydia Lenggenhager and Annemarie Schweizer once again busy preparing another of the delicious suppers for nearly sixty card players at the Tirau Events Centre



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 **Mountain House**
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The First of August Function was this year held on the 29th July on a very cold Saturday evening, but this didn't stop about 90 people from coming to the Eureka Hall to enjoy an evening of traditional entertainment and Swiss food.

We had a very good turnout, considering quite a few people are away in Switzerland at the moment, and it was nice to see a good number of children. There were also several visitors from Switzerland who saw how we celebrate the National Day here in the Waikato.

The entertainment was provided by Peter Arnold's ever popular band "Sounds of Switzerland", who travelled down from Auckland to join us. The dance floor was really full all evening and people also had a good laugh at the very entertaining songs. Early in the evening, Club President, Herbert Staheli, welcomed everybody and the tape with the speech by Adolf Ogi for the Swiss National Day Celebrations was played, followed by two verses of the Swiss National Anthem.

Next, we were treated to some singing by our very own Hamilton singing group, as well as the Flag throwing. This was enjoyed by all and showed the group's dedication and many practices over the last couple of months.

Following this, a beautifully presented buffet dinner was served with hot ham, frankfurters and a big selection of home-made salads and freshly baked bread and Zopf.

After dinner the dance music continued and soon it was time for coffee, schnapps and home-baked cakes.

Music and dancing continued to well after midnight, but time passed quickly and all too soon it was time to go home. Many thanks to all the helpers throughout the evening, as well as to the band and all the people who attended to make this function such a success.

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Forthcoming Events....

The Fondue Evening will be held on **Saturday, 23rd September, at 8pm** at the Eureka Hall.

Please come along and enjoy the company of fellow Swiss, along with your friends and neighbours. This is also an evening where we encourage children to attend, to give them an opportunity to taste Swiss food as well as enjoy some traditional Swiss entertainment, which will this year will be the "Holzhacker Band" from Auckland (who played at our First of August function last year).

Please remember to bring your fondue sets (we were a bit short last year), even if you leave them in the car until we ask for them. We look forward to seeing you all. AZ

Hamilton Pétanque Open Day

Sunday 17 September,
from 11 am to 4 pm
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Dey Street, Hamilton East

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BEREAVEMENT

Following the celebration of her 100th birthday in May (*article in June Helvetia*), we now sadly advise of the recent passing of Rosa Steiner, on July 13, 2000. Our sincerest condolences to all of her family.



taranaki@swiss.org.nz

Past Events....

First of August

Our celebration this year was held on 29 July at the club house. A record attendance for many years heard the speech of the President of the Confederation and the National Anthem... it was great to see so many people.

The entertainment for the evening began with the singing group; the dancing group; Ruedi blowing the alphorn and Remigi throwing the flag (and missing the light bulbs this year!!); and the Seifert boys doing "Talerschwinger"... we were fortunate to have such a multi-talented lot! Zeno accompanied everyone again, as always. Thanks to everyone who helped provide such wonderful entertainment... it was certainly enjoyed by all.

Later, the tombola tickets went on sale - and just disappeared!! There was a terrific display of prizes organised by Erna... many thanks for your effort. Special thanks to committee members, the Mountain House, Campbell's World Travel and Leo Zehnder for donating prizes. We appreciate your generosity. A mention also to those who recycled tombola tickets and onsold them to family... my word, Paul, you're quick! He did, however, return the money with a cheeky grin on his face. Never trust your brother-in-law, Chris! Zeno, Maria, Aaron and Jennifer Bösch, and Leo then provided superb music... many thanks for your contribution - our Club truly appreciates your talents.

The Society medals were then handed out, together with the cups for Jassen and Euchre (won by Josie and Doreen Schuler respectively) and the Kegeln Cup and medals. Well done to winners and especially to all the competitors for taking part. A delicious supper was then served and enjoyed by all. The very last members left in the wee hours of the morning.

Thanks to everyone who came to this evening - your support makes such events successful.

A great time was had by all !!

The next morning was clean-up...not that there was a huge mess, and then thirty members enjoyed a lovely lunch (thanks Doreen for the delicious soup). A Committee meeting followed (not outside this year) and then some were eager to go home for a snooze!!

First August at Mountain House

It is more convenient to have the function on a Saturday at the Swiss Club, so at least we have an excuse to have another evening to celebrate the Swiss National Day. And the most obvious place is of course the Stratford Mountain House!

36 of us had a delicious meal and a wonderful evening, with lovely music from Zeno and Peter Canziani. The singing group had a 'practice' again and at two in the morning the last ones left. Several of us then congregated again for breakfast.

We all had a ball !! LB

Anniversary Shoot, 2000

This was held on 2 July 2000.

A very good day was had by all, with the weather being on our side.

A total of 98 enjoyed the delicious Rippli and Sauerkraut meal. After the dishes were done (many hands make light work!), we made a start on handing out all the cups, medals and trophies for the 2000 smallbore shooting. Then we started reading out the scores for the day's competitions, where everyone gets a prize for either shooting or skittles. There were 74 competitors in all (38 shooters & 36 skittlers), one less than last year. The children were anxious to get started with the spinning wheel and the Mystery Prize draw, as well as the lovely supper provided.

I would like to thank all the supporters, sponsors and helpers who made it all possible. We, the Shooting Committee, hope that you had an enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing you at next year's Anniversary Shoot. The next shooting event (Ted Naepflin & championship cup) will be held on **15 October**.

Mark Kiser, Riflemaster

Note: All results - cup, trophy, medal and prize winners, will be included on the Taranaki list of Society Sport placings in the next issue of Helvetia.

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Forthcoming Events....

7 September

Kegeln recommences and we have beautiful medals for winners and runners-up... come along and support us, every first and third Thursday of the month.

15 October

The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot and the Championship Shoot commence at 1.00pm. Please support the shooting Club too... members of all ages are welcome. Our new Riflemaster, Mark Kiser, is doing a terrific job... just like his predecessor! MB

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5th August - National Day and Opening of the new Clubhouse

After several hectic weeks and many late evenings, our new clubhouse was finally ready: kitchen floor tiled, all lamps working, fairy tale stove connected, hot water galore, carpet down and shampooed, curtains up, and the rubbish on the tip - thank you, Hans Buess, Hans Glauser, Roland Schütz, Heinz Jäggi, Peter Hynes, and many others!

Jeanine Macdonald washed glasses and plates, and then more glasses and more plates all afternoon, while Vreni Madgwick was busy arranging, decorating and laying the tables, and Peter Hynes and Heinz Jäggi helped wherever strong men were needed. After the rugby match the whole Macdonald family came and offered help with curtains and dessert, and by 6.30pm, when the first guests arrived, all was ready!

The evening started with mulled wine, expertly prepared by Jeanine Macdonald and served by Robert Macdonald. Then we listened to the tape with Bundesrat Ogi's speech, sang the National Anthem (better than last year thanks to Heinz Jäggi, but there's still room for improvement!) and the Ambassador, Mme Sylvie Matteucci, gave an outline of her work.

Past Events....

First of August

After a long spell of wonderfully sunny, calm winter weather, the forecast looked less than great. But the Southerly seems to be sympathetic to the Wellington Swiss Community: it blew over in the morning of 1st August, and the evening was calm and mild again.

Peter Hynes and Verena Madgwick, with her helpers Marcel and Craig, provided truckloads of firewood, stored on Roland's front lawn. Well, Roland has his lawn back, and we had a great fire! As a matter of fact, we had a whole string of fires, as groups of Kiwi-Swiss children set up their own fires to toast marshmallows on as a dessert to follow the 80 or so sausages we sold. There was a great turnout of young families, all keen to pass on a bit of Swiss tradition to their children.

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The President, Roland Schütz, asked our Patron, Max Fuhrer, to cut the ribbon and raise the Swiss flag in our new clubhouse for the formal opening of our new venue. Max and Rosina Fuhrer had been our hosts for many, many years and had given countless hours to the Swiss Club and old clubhouse at Ohariu Valley. Thanks to Monika Sörensen, who synchronised everything in her usual quiet, competent way, we all enjoyed a good meal; the meat had been cooked with great dedication until 2am on Saturday morning.

continued on next page....

Our oldest and youngest Club members present at the celebration opening the new Clubhouse.

Frank Rempfler is holding James Eastwood - with James' mother, Marianne Wälti, and Swiss Ambassador, Mme Sylvie Matteucci



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Hans Glauser and Robert Macdonald, the main initiators of the clubhouse, gave short speeches full of understatement about their involvement and contribution. Roland Schütz then presented a bottle of wine to the key workers -and flowers for their wives, as a small thank you for their understanding; a shame only that Ruth Glauser was unable to attend the evening, due to sporting commitments of their daughter. The evening finally came to a close in the early hours of the morning.

Forthcoming Events....

Friday, 8th September

Ten Pin Bowling,

at Ten Pin, Petone, 12 Western Hutt Road, at 7.30pm. \$7 per person. Ring Heinz Jäggi (569 7516, mobile 025 430 759) for further information and reservation until 6th September.

Saturday, 16th September

"Builder's Party"

from 6.30pm at our clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Rd, Wainuiomata. Everybody welcome to a Bernerplatte - cost to be advised. Bookings and information with Roland Schütz (568 6772, work 568 5737) or Heinz Jäggi (569 7516, mob. 025 430 759) by 10 Sept. No late bookings please.

Our Clubhouse is there to be used. It will be open every Friday afternoon starting 1st September, 1 - 5pm, until further notice.

Come for a cup of coffee, a chat, or a Jass. Or drop in after a walk in the Rimutaka Forest Park; a drive to the coast; or a trip to the tip. Come on your own, or bring a friend. tb

Web Site Update

Although Edi Brändli is now residing in Australia, he is still looking after our web site for us, and would like to update the Club details on the home pages of Swiss Emigrants in New Zealand.

The web page is visited on a daily basis by people from all around the world, so it is a bit embarrassing to know that the information is very out-of-date due to the lack of new data input. But all the information found on these pages is quite outdated and really depends very much on co-operation of the Clubs.

It would be ideal if Clubs could appoint one person (with internet) to keep Edi up to date with details about Club contact names and functions planned, and he will then do his best so "visitors" will find a Swiss Society site "without too much dust"!! Information and details for the web site, along with members' own e-mail addresses, can be sent either to Beatrice Leuenberger (see contact details, pg 2) or send an e-mail directly to Edi (egb@pacific.net.au).



Clubhouse Birthday Cake being cut by Trudi Brühlmann

Confidence Returns

Consumer confidence in Switzerland is rising and reaching levels not seen since before the early 1990's recession. Households are optimistic about their future prosperity.

A survey of 1100 households shows that confidence is at its strongest for 10 years. They were also found to be more optimistic about employment and the economy in general, saying they were able to save some money. However, people were still reluctant to spend large sums for such things as cars, furniture and appliances. There are still concerns about prices and that inflation will increase.

End of an Era

The 3000 Swiss Army Cycle Troops, fully armed and prepared to defend the country, will most likely soon be consigned to history.

The troops, much respected and admired for over 100 years, are no longer needed because with the "Cold War" considered passed, invasion of Switzerland seems unlikely!!

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