

New Zealand Swiss Club news & happenings

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New Zealand Swiss News & Happ

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Past Events...

Auckland recently celebrated the **Festival of Europe** where most European countries and communities were represented.

Switzerland contributed to the festival with an exhibition of prints at Auckland University of Technology, which was opened by the ambassador of Switzerland.

Switzerland also contributed the **"European Catalogue Show"**, for which Peter Deutschle, our Auckland honorary consul and the owner of a successful prepress company, produced a beautiful poster and set of promotional pamphlets. Countdown Supermarket featured a big Tilsiter Cheese loaf in one of their supermarkets, on offer for sampling. The major sponsor of this event, HSBC, organised an all-day Seminar at the Heritage Hotel on the 8th November 2000, with various speakers presenting their viewpoints on Trading with Europe.

I received an invitation to this seminar and went along, not really knowing what to expect. It was very interesting as speakers from various exporting (morning) and importing (afternoon) companies described the problems, pitfalls and successes they experienced in trading with Europe.

The conclusion I drew from that seminar is that New Zealand has to become a country similar to Switzerland, producing high quality products in the farming and manufacturing industry. If New Zealand gets this right it has a rosy future. In between all the "heavy stuff" a nice luncheon was served.

Ernst Gfeller.

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Come and celebrate Christmas among all the fellow Swiss. If you haven't booked in advance, and you are worried that you might not be able to come, this is an occasion where you can just turn up. While it is always easier to plan an event when approximate or even better, exact numbers are known, there will be plenty of food available. And Santa will have an endless supply of goodies on this occasion, so do not hesitate to turn up. The cost of goody-bags from Santa for non-members is \$7. Any spares can be bought after Santa has been for \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members.

The first event after the Christmas break is ;

The Picnic.

On Sunday, 25th February 2001.
Watch this space in the February issue. TF.

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Past Events...

Bowling and Card Evening

Although attendance was a little on the low side, with only about twenty people, it was still a very enjoyable evening.

Nearly everyone (except the odd "invalid") took part in the bowling competition, with four lucky people taking home a prize.

Of course, card playing commenced as well, and soon, the bowlers were also joining in.

The evening concluded with a delicious supper, a chance for a chat, and the presentation of prizes.

Many thanks especially to Helen Staheli for making and donating yet another of her now famous quilt blankets. She has made so many over the years, that probably very few homes are without one of these wonderful and versatile rugs!

Forthcoming Events...

Christmas Family Function

Come along on **Sunday, 10th December, from 11.00 am**, to the Livestock Improvement Centre on Rukakura Road (near the Morrinsville Road intersection).

Go through the main carpark and follow the driveway to the back, where the Swiss flag will be visible. Everyone is welcome - the day is fun for all, from toddlers to grandparents!

The pool will be available; play tennis or volley ball; or just come along to meet up with friends for a chat. (Parents must be responsible for their own children in and around the pool.)

Barbecue sausages will be provided, as well as coffee and home made biscuits for the adults, and some other treats for the children.

Santa will arrive after lunch, so parents - please bring along a wrapped (and named) gift, to the value of about \$5, for your own children.

Raffles will again be on sale and we would appreciate your support (in other words, remember to bring some money!).

We look forward to seeing you there.

Hamilton Marathon, 28th January 2001. (Anniversary Weekend).

As many of you may recall, a number of our members helped at a drink stall for the Millennium Marathon, which was held early on New Year's morning.

The Club has again been approached to look after the first drink station, this time for the Hamilton Marathon. At least eight people will be required for this early start, for about 1½ hours.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please ring Anita, ph. (07) 856-2414.

Annual Swiss Picnic Sunday 25th February, 2001

Hopefully, this date has been noted in your calendars and diaries!

Our Annual Picnic will once again be held at the Eureka Primary School, Morrinsville Rd, opposite the Eureka Hall, commencing approx. 11 am.

Come along and make it a fun family day with something for everyone.

For lunch, barbeque sausages will again be on sale, with coffee and baking available afterwards. Drinks will also be on sale.

For members, take the opportunity to compete in the annual Society

medal competitions for bowling and shot put. (Shooting will be held at a separate venue, yet to be advised, on Saturday, 24th February.) Club members will also be able to compete for the bowling trophies, and everyone can have a go at bowling for sausage prizes.

The swimming pool will be available (again, parents are responsible for supervising their children in and around the water), along with some other activities for the children, including use of the playground.

Please bring with you rugs and folding chairs for seating, and most importantly sun umbrellas, as tree shade is only available around the perimeter of the field.

We look forward to seeing you there. BL

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Tony Steiner was born at Kaponga in Taranaki on 4th January 1914, the oldest in a family of two boys and five girls.

- At the age of 6 he started school at Dudley Rd. Primary, and at 14, he left school to work on the farm with his father at Otorohanga. At 18 he was called up to join the army, but because of his asthma he was not sent overseas. Instead, he was an Army truck driver in the NZ Home Guard. When he left the Army, he worked on a farm in Putaruru.

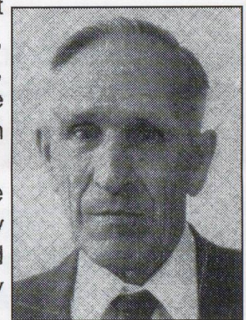
- In his early 30's, he travelled to Switzerland where he met Maria Müller, bringing her back to New Zealand. They were married on 26th Dec. 1950, and had two children, Lily and Bruno. In 1952 Tony bought his fathers farm in Lichfield.

- In 1964 they made their first trip back to Switzerland and again in 1974. Marie died in 1984, after suffering a stroke 7 years earlier. Ten years ago Tony also suffered a stroke, losing his speech and becoming partially blind. He moved back to live with his daughter on the family farm. - He died peacefully on 20th October, 2000, well prepared to meet his God.

- Tony was a kind and caring person, who never spoke a bad word about anyone, and he had the patience of a Saint.

- Tony was a much respected member of the Swiss community, and for many years a member of the Hamilton Swiss Club.

May he rest in peace !



Anton Steiner





tararaki@swiss.org.nz

Forthcoming Events...

New Year's Eve - December 31st

All are most welcome to New Year's Eve at the Swiss Club - an evening full of great entertainment. If you have an item to share, please don't hesitate to tell us. Happy hour from **4.00pm**, with BYO barbecue at **6.00 pm**.

Annual Picnic - February 11th

held at the Clubhouse... an excellent social event. Schwingen is a highlight and of great entertainment value.

Wellington - February 24th & 25th

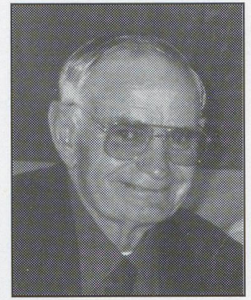
A bus trip is being organised to go to Wellington for the semi-final of the Interclub cowbell competitions. Wellington are a terrific and friendly bunch, and I'm sure that they'd like us to see their new Club facilities. Please ring Walter or Othmar with your bookings ... a great time is guaranteed!!

Alex Kuriger was born as the youngest in a family of six boys and two girls.

- In 1965 he married Barbara and together they bought the farm in Midhurst. They were blessed with a family of six children.

- Alex loved music; he sang and made music in his Church. - He was a man of strong faith.

- He was a very loyal member of the Swiss Club and had served on the executive for 23 years in different positions. - At our functions during the 60's and 70's he always took on the role as 'Master of Ceremonies'.



Alex Kuriger

- Alex loved Swiss music and he always provided music in full volume at the Picnic at Te Nuto Park. As a deep rooted Swiss he treasured the opportunity to travel in order to find his place of origin in Switzerland.

To all the Family our deepest Sympathy.

R.D.

AGM - March 1st

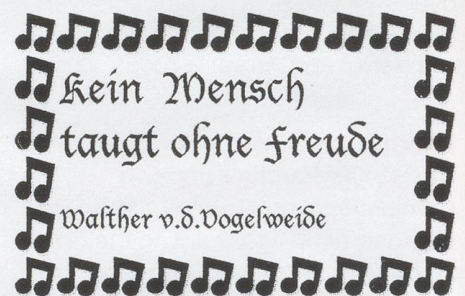
Our club's Annual General Meeting commences at 8.00pm. Be sure to attend and participate.

Shooting - March 18

Championship and Society Shoot, starts at 1.00 pm.

The Singing Group is busy practicing and attending several gatherings to provide entertainment.

All audiences appreciate their varied entertainment, and the time they give to demonstrate our traditions and culture. MB



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Past Events...

11. November - Garage Sale

Contributions from many members accumulated in the weeks before the date. We had a great selection of weird and wonderful items, but mainly very useful secondhand goods, from clothing over books to kitchen items, sports gear, lawn mowers, just anything you can think of. The sale on Saturday morning went very well, and we made more money than in any function of the year; no stress and lots of fun!

- Thank you, to all the generous donors and thank you, Heinz Jäggi, our garage sale instigator, promoter, expert; your enthusiasm and expertise made it a most successful event - so successful that we decided to make it an annual event.

Please start collecting for the next garage sale right now - it's a great help for the club that doesn't cost you much.

12th November - Family Fun Day / Shotput

The committee arrived at the clubhouse around noon - to find the clubhouse, more precisely the clubhouse garden, well used by eager card players - a dream come true.



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Cultural Exhibitions and Festivals from Switzerland

(As advised by the Swiss Embassy)

Why make Prints ? This Exhibition shows the development of printmaking in Switzerland, since 1960, in over 70 works by 51 artists. The works document developments from screenprinting, to the experimental woodcut, engraving, lithography and, finally, the involvement of the computer. (See also July / August *Helvetia*)

Nelson **3 February - 4 March 2001**

at the Bishop Suter Art Gallery, 208 Bridge Street, Nelson

Timaru **23 March - 29 April 2001**

at Aigantighe Art Gallery, 49 Wai-iti Road, Timaru

Dunedin **14 May - 24 June 2001**

at Otago Museum, 419 Great King Street, Dunedin

- We had a relaxed day in typical Wellington sunshine. We haven't quite reached circus standard yet, but the jugglers are well on their way, and the clown produced the most amazing bubbles. - After lunch we proceeded to more serious matters and did the Society shotput, all in our own garden. The nine competitors had a most amicable competition; have a guess who will get the medals....

Forthcoming Events...

Sunday, 3rd December, from 3 pm to approx. 5 pm: **Samichlaus** (not Father Christmas!) will visit the Swiss club Swiss style, with Swiss Samichlaus goodies.

- Parents please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

Sunday 10th December, 7 pm:

Carol Singing

Some members of our club, under the competent direction of Theres Scherrer, have been practising for weeks and will participate in the

traditional European Carol Singing in the Sound Shell of the Botanic Garden Wellington. - If you missed out on being in the choir, come at least to hear Christmas carols from many European countries!

Saturday, 16th December:

Christmas Party

We'll start the evening around 6.30 pm with our traditional Sangria and then enjoy a sumptuous buffet with our Christmas ham. Please book with Verena Madgwick (526 9841) or Jeanine Macdonald (569 10 76). Members will have received a personal invitation.

Please note: The Semifinal of the Cowbell Competition against Taranaki will not be on 10/11 February, as that's the weekend when our friends have their picnic at home. The Taranaki Swiss will be our guests for the Semifinal on the weekend of 24/25 February. I'm sorry for this slip-up in the calendar.
tb.



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