

History of the Taranaki Swiss Club

Autor(en): **Dudli, Ruedi**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **68 (2002)**

Heft [6]

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945435>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

History of the Taranaki Swiss Club

In 1867, Felix Hunger was the first recorded Swiss immigrant to New Zealand.

In August 1910, the Taranaki Swiss Club was formed as a benevolent society to support the life and culture of immigrants in NZ. The committee was President, Martin Steiner; V. President, Charly Schicker; Secretary, Jakob Schuhmacher; Treasurer, John Steiner. This organisation went into recess in 1914, and a new Club was formed fifty years ago, in 1952. The first annual picnic was held at Kaipokonui Beach in 1953. From 1954, until the opening of the current club house, picnics were held at Te Nutu Park.

Society competitions with interclub activities between the Wellington, Hamilton, Auckland and Taranaki Clubs began in 1968

Both Wellington and Auckland had their own clubrooms, and the desire for the Club to have a permanent base grew - Taranaki members were envious of Wellington's "Chicken House"!! (*Wellington's former club rooms were a renovated chicken shed - Ed.*) So 1975 saw the beginnings of our big undertaking. At a meeting, a member gave a bundle of notes labelled "for the Clubhouse". And with this, the Clubroom seed was planted. At the 1986 AGM, the decision was made to build, and a change of membership rules was made: the sub of one Pound for lifetime membership became an annual sub of \$6 per member. Subsequently, the total number of members dropped from 420 to 270, and is currently 220.

Next, a suitable building or land had to be found, and of course money to fund the project. In 1977, a major fundraiser was a raffle for a trip to Switzerland, and three beer festivals were held over the

next three years. Sponsorship was sought from members, with some very generous cash donations received. Wood was donated from the Sattler and Bishop farms - the timber on the Sattler farm was planted by the Club's founding President, Walter Risi, in 1939/40 when he worked there.

We finally found the site, consisting of four acres, with three registered sections at the front, at Grace Ave. Kaponga, purchased for \$4000 in 1977. And finally, in 1978, the first timber was cut, carted to the mill at Riverlea to be treated and guaged, and carted back to Grace Ave - a total of 15,000 superfeet! In March, 1981, the ribbon to open the Clubhouse was cut by our Patron, Ida Bernold, and since then all of the Club's activities have been held at the clubhouse. The then President of the Swiss Helvetic Society Abroad, Dr Weber, and the Secretary, Mr Ney, were present and donated \$1500 to the Club.

One of the front sections was sold in 1983 to reduce debt, and by 1986 the Club was finally debt free, so it was decided to use the surplus timber, with other donated goods and voluntary labour, to construct the Club's 50m smallbore shooting range. After the 300m range in Hawera was sold in 1989, Charly Schuler allowed the Club to build a new range on his quarry at Rowan. This was built to Swiss Military specifications, again using donated materials and labour, as well as the invention of a young Swiss who developed the target operation. Shooters have their results recorded and registered by the Swiss Military.

Today, the clubrooms are used for the Club's regular activities, as well as a range of private functions - and hopefully this will remain so for future generations over many more years to come.

(As told by Ruedi Dudli in his speech at the Sunday function in Kaponga.)

Please support
our advertisers
and let them
know
you saw the
advertisement
in HELVETIA



Incorporating Domestic &
Commercial Work
Specialists in Fabric & Leather
- Upholstery
Also Deep Diamond Buttoning
All Furniture Re-Upholstery

SWISSCRAFT LTD

Manager: **Herbert Stäheli**
Showroom: 33-39 Colombo St.
Frankton-Hamilton

Call us
Phone 078 477-220
Fax 078 473-039

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION EXPO 02

15 May – 20 October 2002

This is the year to visit Switzerland, your family, friends and EXPO.02
Don't miss this unique chance, the next "Landi" is only in 2023
For the best travel deals and full information on EXPO.02 please contact:



Swiss
Air Lines

Level 6
18 Shortland St
Auckland

Ph (09) 358 3216
Fax (09) 309 0725
Website www.swissair.com
Email l.rogers@walshegroup.co.nz



TRAVELAIR

Henry Sigerist

347 Parnell Rd, Auckland

Office Ph (09) 377 3285 Fax (09) 302 1099
Home Ph (09) 473 9011 Fax (09) 473 2966
Mobile Ph 021 255 5254
Email henry@travelair.co.nz or henry.s@ihug.co.nz

