

Auckland Swiss Club 1956-2006 : 50-year anniversary

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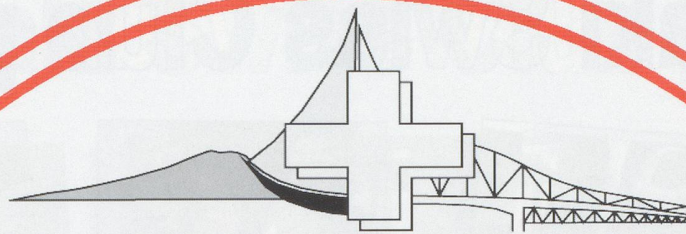
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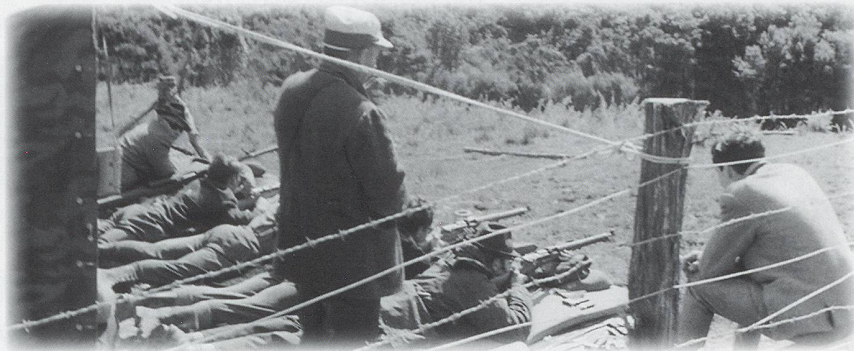
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Auckland Swiss Club

1956-2006

50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Beginnings of the shooting range at the Swiss Farm north of Auckland - 1968

After its official founding of 1956 the club continued to grow and certain typical Swiss activities became the main focus of gatherings, such as playing cards, "Kegeln" and shooting. The club was officially incorporated in 1962. Edendale Hall was the central venue at that time. The more physical games and sports were carried out at members' homes where the facilities were built to suit. Eventually these took on more formal status and the shooting deserves a special mention.

In 1961 Frank Reichmuth in Henderson built a 50-m shooting range, where many regular shoots took place with as many as 25 regular participants. In 1963 this group took part in the Radio World Championship, and in 1965 in the Swiss Abroad Competition.

Around the same time Hans Enzler spearheaded a special delegation to meet with the Defence Department in Switzerland and gained their official approval for the supply of ammunition and weapons, as the group had worked hard at establishing proper facilities and procedures for the compulsory practice to migrating soldiers of the Swiss army. The shooting venue was relegated to the NZ Deerstalkers Range in Riverhead.

In 1967 three founding members of the Swiss Club – Toni Sidler, Hans Enzler and Arthur Müller, purchased a 45-ha property near Kaukapakapa on behalf of the club.

This property of course contained the perfect terrain for a 300-m shooting range and this was promptly built, complete with shooting hut (or the skeleton thereof, protected from the rain by the Swiss Army supplied tarpaulins). A dream come true for many in the shooting section, and on 31 May 1968 the

New Zealand Defence Department gave its official approval of the range, for any kind of weapon.

It is now the regular venue for all the compulsory practices and many competitions.

The Auckland section regularly takes part in the Federal Shooting competition every 5 Years in Switzerland, with very good results.

The present rifle master Henry Werffeli has organised a special Anniversary Shoot for this year on the 25/26 March 2006 to which everyone is invited. For a modest entry fee of \$10 - \$15 there are five cups to attain – the Junior cup, the Waikato Cup, the Team Competition, the Luck Competition or indeed the Jubilee Shoot. 10 trial shoots provided for each entrant.

The prizegiving is a special Event the following Saturday 1 April 2006, at the farm and for \$40 ticket, be entertained by the Holzacker Band and served a delicious 3-course dinner. For bookings and information Call the rifle master on Tel. 410 3476.

This month we celebrate our senior people of the club. See special notices of the Auckland club. If you are over 65 years of age we invite you to attend our Special Afternoon on Sun. 12 March 2006, at 2pm. To exchange stories.

Please bring your photos and show them round.

The Yodlers and the Womens Singers will entertain you. Afternoon tea will be provided. Rothesay Bay Hall Rothesay Bay. Auckland. For transport please call Edith 444 6972.

Let's celebrate!