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WELLINGTON

*Past Events:*

**Steinstossen, Jassen, BBQ, Sunday 27 January 2008**

The Clubhouse was ready, the grass cleared from the debris and the tables out in the back under the trees, when the first families arrived. Heinz had lined up the bikes, the toys and the other fun machines and it did not take the children long to try them all out. The smell of sizzling sausages reminded the kids that we were here for a BBQ. And they were hungry.

Then it was time to start the game of cards. Roland and his Swiss visitors enjoyed the quiet sitting in the shade and the "Jassers" moved inside.

It was good to see so many families and friends enjoying the relaxed atmosphere on a perfect summer's day in the clubhouse.

**Swiss Society Medal shooting Competition on Sunday 8 February**

A small group of keen shooters gathered at 146 Mangaroa Valley on Sunday afternoon. Under the watchful eye of Hans Scherrer the practice and the competition shooting went ahead. During the shooting we [mainly the girls] were treated to an exciting view of the fly-over by Paul Scherrer in his home built "Helicopter".

It was a perfect warm sunny day and Theres served a welcome afternoon tea. *V.M.*

**Cowbell Competition in Kaponga 9/ 10 February.**

The keen "Campers" traveled to Taranaki on Friday evening and put up their tents in the Swiss Club Grounds. Then on Saturday morning the "Buses" arrived, and by mid-day all the 18 young and old Wellingtonians were ready there for the BBQ and the competition.

Every one tried very hard with the "Steinstossen" but those muscles of the Taranaki boys are just one notch up from our Wellingtonians. So Wellington lost the

"Steinstossen". From the long travelling the eyes must have been tired, and again the folk from Taranaki won the shooting.



Paul and Matthew having a go at each other

The Wellingtonians had more luck with the "Kegeln" and won this here. But the "Jassers" lost their games though by very few points.

Still it was fun and new friendship were formed. The ladies put on the delicious afternoon tea and dinner and the "Jassen" continued until late at night.

Sunday Picnic and "Schwingen".



Is there a problem?

A big crowd arrived for the fun and the sausages, drinks and Ice Creams were soon sold. It was hot and sunny in Kaponga while it rained in Eltham. Then we watched the boys competing in the sawdust. Good to see the Wellington boys taking part and winning some rounds too. Well done.

*Thank you, Taranaki, for your hospitality. It is always a fun weekend. V.M.*

*Future Events:*

**15 March: Society Jassen**

Get your brains going at this year's jassen competition. If you are lucky you'll win a medal. Please contact Roland 568 6772 or Vreni 526 9841 for information about the venue and other details.

**21 March: Easter Egg Colouring**

This event was very successful last year. Specially the kids enjoyed getting some arty colours onto the eggs. But this can also be a challenge and fun for grown-ups. Interested? Give either Isabelle 384 7373 or Sandie 528 6960 a call for further details.

**19 April: Wellington Swiss Club Annual General Meeting**

Every year the club members are getting together for some nibbles, to discuss the club's past year and what improvements could be made. Important decision are also made in this meeting. This is your chance to get involved in the club's activities. So please earmark this date in your calendar and come along! For more information call Roland 568 6772 or Vreni 526 9841

HAMILTON

*Future Events:*

**28/29/30 March: Ruapehu Weekend Hikes and Berner Abend, Tokoroa Hut.** Please join us for a weekend of short or long hikes. Accommodation is in bunk-style lodge with limited numbers. For further details please ring Vitus (07) 855-2841.

**18 April: Annual General Meeting, 8pm at Swisscraft premises, 39 Colombo St, Frankton.** Please come along and support your committee or maybe even consider joining our committee.

**Date to be confirmed: Cowbell Competition, Auckland vs Hamilton in Auckland.** For further details please ring Herbert (07) 847-7220.



**2 May: First Card Evening and medal Jass,** 7.30pm St John Ambulance Hall, Rawhiti St, Matamata.

**16 May: Second Card Evening and medal Jass,** 7.30pm Union Parish Hall, Queen St, Cambridge

**24/25 May: 300 metre Shooting** for Hamilton members at Auckland Club House in Kaukapapa.

## TARANAKI

### *Past Events:*

Keglen recommenced in February after a short break over Christmas, and by all accounts everyone is thoroughly enjoying these evenings ... if not for the keglen, then having a chat is a huge amount of fun!!! If anyone is interested in taking part in this 'Swiss sport', please give Johnny a ring. He would love to hear from you!!!

On February 9 we hosted the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition against Wellington where we compete in shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen. The Wellingtonians arrived in time for a lunch of barbequed Bratwurst and Vienna sausages, and some liquid refreshments before the stern competition started. We were sad that, due to work commitments, President Ro-



The jassers hard at it!!

land was unable to attend ... however his deputy Vreni did a great job!!! The jassen got underway first, where we put up a team of four ladies versus their four men ... well, whether it was good cards, great skill or just plain luck ... and we won't delve into this any further ... the ladies won all the

games!!! Well done ladies ... at your word we'll say you played terrific cards!!! So we had won the first event ... we just had to keep that up!!! The shot put was started, and we were, once again, very fortunate to have the skills and muscle of Antoni Sherman on our side. We eventually won this event by a whopping 10.38 metres ... thanks largely to Antoni ... many thanks for your valuable contribution. The score was now 2 - 0. Now to the keglen ... and unfortunately the skittle alley decided it was time to break down ... thanks



Our fix-it man Mark, trying to get the Kegelbahn going

to Mark and Lou the problem was soon fixed and the competition got underway. Both sides played reasonably good skittles but we were soundly beaten by Wellington by 209 points to 185 points ... largely due to Paul Scherrer's whopping 58 points!!! Well done, Paul; that was certainly a terrific score ... and we thought we hadn't skittled badly at all!!! You cityites just blasted us away!!! The score was now 2 - 1. Down to the shooting where both sides had great scores and we only just snuck in by 296 points to 291 points, with the best result being scored by our small bore shooting rifle master Mark Kiser with a total of 78. Well done Mark!!! After all the hard work by both semi-finalists we won 3 - 1. I would like to extend a big thank you to all the participants, espe-

cially to the Wellingtonians who travelled a long way to take part in this event. It is always a great pleasure hosting you, and this time was certainly no different. A delicious dinner was held, with musical wonderful entertainment provided by Peter Canziani and Zeno ... many thanks Peter and Monique for travelling from Turangi to be part of the whole weekend ... we all really appreciate your efforts!!!

The following day, 10 February, was our annual picnic ... and after weeks and weeks of rainless days ... you guessed it!!! The weather didn't look promising at all for a picnic ... not that the farmers would mind having any rain ... but did it have to be today??!!!! Adrian and I left home in thick fog and rainy conditions, and didn't know what would await us in Kaponga. However the closer we got to our club house, the better the weather looked for a picnic!!! And were we lucky? Yes ... sorry farmers, but hopefully you had rain in the following days to help relieve the drought-like conditions being experienced in most Taranaki regions. So we all got to and put up the gazebos, brought out the fridges and freezers, got the barbeques ready, the children's activity was organised and so forth. All we now needed was a good crowd!!! We were very pleasantly surprised when Ueli, Ricky and Max turned up from Hamilton, followed by Gary Hodel and visitors ... we really appreciated your efforts in attending our picnic, and hope that you enjoyed yourselves ... besides winning many of our raffle prizes, Ueli!!! Good on you!!! With Fidel from Auckland also joining us, we had members from all the Swiss Clubs in the North Island ... thanks for travelling so far to be with us; it was great seeing you all!!! Very soon the smell of barbequed Bratwurst, Cervelats and Vienna sausages filled the air ... and the stall was kept very busy. Many thanks to the Swiss Deli for continually supplying us with delicious sausages



... they are always appreciated by our members and friends, and are looked forward to annually. Mathias and Silvia were kept busy selling liquid refreshments and ice creams to many customers, and we were all very pleased with the good crowd that attended our picnic ... most people estimated



Heinz giving his all in the shot put

that there were approximately 200!!! What a great effort and we thank you all for coming along. Markus had the steinstossen (or shot put) under his wing, and many males and females participated in the hope of winning one of the two cups at stake. Winner of the men's event was our muscle-man Antoni Sherman with



The finalists in the schwingen: Thomas Werder and Erwin Hebler under the watchful eye of ref Franz Schuler

Martin Hess runner-up. The Ruedi Dudli Memorial Cup, contested for the first time, was won by Karen Angell with Terese Weinberger runner-up. Thanks to all those who participated in the steinstossen, and congratulations to the winners. The 'schwingen' (Swiss

style wrestling) soon got underway, under the watchful eye of Franz



Daniel Noetzi on his way to beating Corbin Fuller

Schuler our referee. We had fifteen participants, some juniors and some seniors ... some very young, and some young at heart, eh Paul?!!!! Beating your nephew was well worth the effort, don't you think?!!!! After some tough battles, Toni Hess won the junior event, with Luke Scherrer the runner-up ... well done boys, and we look forward to your participation for many more years ... I'm sure that your mum and dad are very proud of you, Toni ... keep it up!!! The final of the seniors was between two local lads ... Thomas Werder and Erwin Hebler ... with the final being an epic bout!!! In the end, Thomas won the bout; but you certainly put up a good fight Erwin, and you can both be proud of yourselves. Third was Paul Scherrer from Wellington, and congratulations on competing against some young guns and doing well ... they certainly didn't have it all their way!!! The committee would like to thank everyone involved in organising and scoring the schwingen ... you all did a great job ... as always it is a highlight of our picnic, with many people enjoying the sport sitting on hay bales or standing in close proximity to watch the activity. Many thanks to Taranaki Farmers for their valuable sponsorship; we truly appreciate your kind donation. During the schwingen, the tombola tickets were sold ... and they went like hot cakes ... our grateful thanks to the Swiss Deli for donating some wonderful prizes ... we really appreciate your support, and look forward to it

again in the future. During most of the day, Mark Kiser undertook the children's activity ... the ever popular fishing ... and we thank you Mark for your effort ... you do a terrific job!!! The barbeques were again ignited, and many more sausages sold, with the surplus sausages selling very well. People continued to mingle and chat, until tea



Lucy, Evelyne and Oliver enjoying their ice creams

was held ... a delicious 'spaghetti bolognaise' with salads ... many thanks Marlies for your culinary talent, which everyone devoured with appreciation.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank everyone who made the effort to attend the picnic, and for participating in the various activities. We hope that you all had a great time, and we look forward to seeing you again at one of our functions. A big thank you must go to all the committee members and helpers who ensured that everything ran smoothly on the day ... without your sterling efforts the picnic would not be the successful event that it is. Once again, the grounds looked superb, Johnny, and thank you very much for all the time and effort that you put in ... also the petanque area is great, and we hope that many people will enjoy using this facility. THANK YOU ALL!!!

Very shortly the club house will be re-roofed, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Taranaki Electricity Trust** for their very generous donation to ensure that the work can be completed, and our building maintained to the standard that we would like. We truly appreciate your most valu-



able contribution to our club, and to our region as a whole. THANK YOU!!!

**Future Events:**

**March 3: Our Annual General Meeting** will be held at 8.00pm. Come and hear what happened last year, and look forward to the year ahead. We would love to hear some new ideas, so tell us what you would like from YOUR club, and we'll see what we can do!!!

**March 6 & 20:** Keglen will be on from 8.00pm ... come and join Johnny, Franz and team for some fun and a good social chat. We're sure that you'll enjoy the convivial atmosphere!!!

**March 16:** Come along and join Mark in the small bore shooting section of the club from 1.00pm. The Championship and Society Shoots will be held. There are plenty of people to give you some coaching ... and juniors are most welcome. Come and give it a try ... you may like it!!!

**April:** Your committee will have organised a new calendar of events which will be posted to you along with our annual newsletter. Please do make every effort to attend as many functions as possible ... seeing a good crowd at our functions makes your committee happy!! MD

**AUCKLAND**

**Past Events:**

Apart from the Working Bee in February, which was very well attended and contained lots of hard, keen workers, there was a very interesting 2-day Event,

**The Waldfest-Picnic Weekend**

At the Waldfest on Saturday evening, people brought their tents, caravan, sleeping – bags etc. to camp down for the night. Some spent the night in the safety of the shooting hut, others preferred their

cosy car...Eighteen people enjoyed their dinner and other Swiss people's company in the hut and it must have been very pleasant. Some drove home for the night. The next morning, breakfast was provided for the over-nighters, cooked or continental.

Towards midday the Picnic crowd arrived, most of the over-nighters stayed too of course. The lunch, provided by Edith, consisted of Spiessli (kebabs) and many salads. Nussgipfel, Schnaegge and Cremeschnitten and coffee went "wie heissi Weggli", even though there was another dessert to come: Crème caramel mit gmischte Beerli.

After lunch there was Kegeln, air-rifle shooting and many more such things I think. Nelly organised (and I helped) games for children of every age on the lawn below the hut: Sackgumpe (very popular), Stelzelaufe and the prizes were lollies and games. By Sunday the weather had cleared up too. Anyway, everyone had a great time.

**Future Events:**

**2 March: New Members' Day** at the farm, a chance for them and the Committee to get to know each other. Invitations will be sent.

**14 March** at 7.30 p.m.  
**First Evening Jass** (Venue to be advised by email & phone).

**22/23 March: Swiss shooting**  
300m Feldschiessen.

**14/15 April:**  
**Einzelwettschiessen**, Swiss Farm.

**3 May: AGM** of Auckland Swiss Club at Farm.

**Please Note: The Cow Bell Competition** date (Auckland versus Hamilton) is still being finalised and you will be notified soon.

**24/25 May: Shooting 300m,**  
Hamilton Day at Swiss Farm.

**31 May-2 June: Swiss Society AGM** in Auckland (details later).

**CHRISTCHURCH**

**Future Events:**

**15 March: Culture Galore**

Experience the world and celebrate cultural diversity! Over 50 different ethnic groups offer cultural performances and demonstrations, a huge variety of ethnic foods, art and craft for sale and loads of fun activities for the whole family. BYO rug/chairs and make a day of it! Parking available on site. Your Christchurch Swiss Club will again have a stall, selling Raclette and Chocolate Fondue.

When: Saturday, 15 March 2008, 12 to 4pm (cancelled if wet)  
Where: Ray Blank Park, Maidstone Road, Christchurch.

**4 April: Stammtisch with a difference...**

An inbound tour operator in Auckland is bringing a group of people from Switzerland (German Speaking) over to see New Zealand. They are really keen in meeting some Swiss nationals living in New Zealand. This Stammtisch is a great opportunity for us to meet these Swiss visitors over dinner or a drink! They are very interested in hearing about our experiences and what we think and feel about living in New Zealand.  
When: Friday, 4 April 2008, evening. Where: To be advised.

**HOUSE-SITTER available**

For your peace of mind while you are away in Switzerland, I will

- Water plants
- Mow lawns
- Mind pets including dog and cat, etc.
- Generally keep the place in order

I am 51 years old, ex house owner, so I know the responsibilities that go with households including security, cleanliness, rubbish management, warding off unwanted visitors etc.

I am quiet but busy with a fulltime job. I have few but only decent friends. I do not have parties. May have the odd afternoon tea with my lady friends.

I offer to do this for free rent.  
Call Trudi – 0275 300 669 or 09 309 1506.