

Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

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Taranaki

Past Events:

1st August Celebrations

This year we held the Swiss National Day celebrations on the actual day - 1st August - with an excellent crowd of approximately 85 adults and children. Many people wore Swiss costumes, which helped create a great atmosphere and made the hall look very colourful. All our sixty 1st August badges were sold, amid people having a glass of wine or beer with lovely traditional background music. The table decorations were lovely, and brought even more colour to our nice hall. The formalities of the evening commenced, with the speech from the President of the Confederation, Mr Pascal Couchepin, which was short, informative and interesting, fol-



The singing group performing on the 1st August 2008

lowed by our choir singing the Swiss National Anthem. The singing group then sang several traditional Swiss songs for the audience to enjoy ... you could have heard a pin drop ... so you all obviously did a wonderful job!!! Remigi then presented all the 'Karabiner' medals and cards for the year, together with the Joe Dettling Memorial Trophy jointly won by Erwin Kiser and Bryce Kaiser ... congratulations to both of you. Thank you to Remigi for organising the 'Karabiner' shooting which is enjoyed by many of our members, and also members of the Wellington Swiss Club. Erna then pre-

sented the card cups to worthy winners ... the Jassen cup was won by Heidi Seifert, with the Euchre Cup won by Bertha Kuriger ... well done ladies, and many thanks to all the people who supported the card afternoons, which were well-organised by Erna Zimmermann and Heidi Werder ... thank you ladies ... we really appreciate your efforts. Othmar and Mark then presented the Swiss Society Medals to the many worthy winners who participated in the shooting, shot put, keglen and jassen Swiss Society competitions ... with two lucky (or was it skilful???? ... we'll never know!!!) people receiving a triple medal (the only triple medals given out in all of New Zealand ... marvellous effort ladies!!!) to Helen Werder (juniors) and Lisette Benkert!!! Congratulations ladies and we look forward to a similar effort next year!!! Othmar then presented the final trophy ... the Len and Molly Chamberlain Memorial Trophy in recognition of efforts in writing (with of course a "Swiss" theme ... so 'Swiss' family histories, contribution to Swiss magazines etc) ... and this year the winner was Paul Amstalden who wrote the Editorials in the Helvetia for four years ... well done, Paul, you did a wonderful job on behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and we really appreciated your efforts for those years. Paul was both surprised and honoured to receive this trophy ... congratulations, Paul!!! The singing group sang another three lovely songs, Othmar played the alphorn and Mathias did the 'talerschwingen' ... the start was difficult, but Mathias persevered, and played very well. Thank you all very much for your contribution of Swiss tradition to our evening.

We then sold many tombola tickets, and we appreciate everyone's generosity in purchasing these. The tombola is a great fundraiser for our club, and assists us in paying rates, insurance, repairs and maintenance, together with any asset pur-

chases we are required to make. There were several lovely prizes up for grabs with our grateful thanks to the Embassy of Switzerland for donating several of them. We appreciate your valuable support.

A game was then organised ... and everyone waited with much anticipation as Martin Hess got everything organised. A log of wood was brought in ... a chainsaw without a chain ... a cake mixer, but with a 'Swiss' attachment ... papers and pens were distributed ... so we all wondered what was about to happen!!!!????!!! It eventuated that the log had to be cut with a hand saw



Antoinette and Tilly take over the whipping of the cream

(one person at each end of a two-metre blade) and two 500mls of cream needed to be whipped with the contents used to shape the 'Matterhorn'!!! Our job was to guess the time it would take to saw a three-inch slice off the log, whip the cream and then create the 'Matterhorn'!!! Well what a mission!!! I think our job was the most difficult!!! To make it worse ... music would be played, and when the music stopped the persons 'working' were required to find a replacement by taking the hat off their head and placing it on someone else's head ... each time the music stopped, the time-keeper would stop the watch!!! Well, everyone did their best trying to calculate the time to complete all the tasks, with each guess costing 50c. The three times closest to the correct time would receive a prize; with three booby prizes also being awarded ... all would soon be revealed!!! All the competitors did



their very best to do their 'work' in the quickest time ... and I must say the effort everyone put in was great to see ... this soon created a very lively atmosphere!!! Finally the 'Matterhorn' was complete, with a Swiss flag flying, and the timekeeper stopped his watch ... at 10mins 37secs ... must have been a Swiss watch to be so precise!!! All the papers were checked and re-checked ... with Marianne Drummond being the eventual winner with a time of 10mins 35secs ... how close is that??? I consider myself to be lucky ... because like everyone else it was a guess ... a huge gamble really!!! Close behind were Owen Phillips and Lou Butler, with the booby prizes going to Maria Baxter (on the piece of paper was written the word 'ages'!!!), the fastest time was Paul Amstalden (1 minute ... by golly gosh you must have been a quick worker, Paul!!!) and the slowest time was Angela Phillips (over an hour ... well ... the 'workers' weren't quite that slow, Angela!!!). It was a great game Martin and thank you very much for your energy and time in bringing everything along ... it certainly gave some fun and laughter to the evening, and some great discussions were heard afterwards!!! An excellent item, congratulations for your creativity and fun-loving nature!!!

A delicious supper was then had, with further dancing and singing to the wee hours of the morning ... many thanks to our talented musicians, Zeno and Maria, for providing excellent music, and a big thank you to everyone who came along and enjoyed the evening (especially as the weather was not very nice at all). We really appreciate our members supporting as many functions as possible, especially catered events. A huge thank you to the committee members who gave of their time to decorate the hall, man the bar, and clean up the following morning ... without your help, these events wouldn't run as smoothly as they do. THANK YOU ALL!!!

The following morning the committee members that could "turned up to clean up" ... although having said that, there wasn't any mess, but things still need tidying up. After the clean up, a quick committee meeting was held as this is the last major function for our Club until the end of November. During our discussions it was revealed that some of our older cups and trophies need a little attention, as some names are barely legible ... and here is the quote of the century from our very own Zeno (a bachelor) which was heard during the discussions ... "Cups and trophies are like women - high maintenance"!!! We all thought we were hearing things ... this from Zeno ... no, surely not Zeno ... and then ... well, I think the whole hall shook with the sound of our loud laughter!!! What a good way to end the 1st August celebrations!!! We're all waiting for your next words of wisdom Zeno ... and don't worry, we won't hold this against you!!! Those committee members who could stay enjoyed the supper left-overs for lunch, and then all headed off home ... probably for a rest!!! Still laughing at Zeno's quote!!!

Forthcoming Events:

As stated earlier, we don't have many functions in the next few months, but for those of you who can attend any of them, it would be great to see you.

October 2 & 16 - Keglen recommences at 8.00pm. Our leader, Johnny, and his deputy, Franz, would love to see you. Fun is always had, with friendly rivalry in the competition. A good laugh, delicious supper, is a good spring tonic!!!

October 19 - The small bore shooting season starts again under the watchful eye of Mark, with the Trudi Ott Belt and Championship Shoots being contested today. Please make every effort to attend ... Mark has great

patience, so parents please bring your children along too.

November 6 & 20 - Keglen again ... please give this sport a go ... tutors available!!! *MD*

Wellington

Past Events:

On **13 and 20 July** some of the young families within the club came together to work on **homemade lampions** in preparation for the 1st August celebrations. A great range of colourful designs emerged from the piles of pieces of paper and the paste and paint bottles.



All concentration to create a colourful lampion

Some of the group were old hands at paper mache and lampion painting while others were first time constructors. Regardless of experience, each person came up with their own unique design.

Hopefully next year will bring better weather on the night and we'll be able to show off a range of colourful lampions at our Petone Beach bonfire. *Craig*

On **1st August** a bunch of people gathered at the Hikoikoi Reserve at Petone Beach to celebrate the **Swiss National Day**



Peter and Heinz at the Petone beach bonfire



with a bonfire, lampions, hotdogs and hot drinks. Despite the stormy and rainy weather the ones who attended had a great time. Many thanks to Heinz and Peter for setting up and looking after the fire, and for everyone else to contribute to making this event happen.

On 2 August the 1st August dinner was held at the club house in Wainuiomata. A great dinner buffet was served with red cabbage, Knöpfli, broccoli and a roast. The committee would like to acknowledge the kitchen coordination of Theres and Hans Scherrer! Also, the Bundespräsident speech was listened to in English and the Swiss National anthem was sung.

On August 24th we had the Chüechlibache Event at the Clubhouse. The attendees could try making Rosenküchlein and Chnöiblätze with the expert help of Theres and were able to taste various delicious Swiss biscuits like Schlüferli, Schenkeli and Zimsternen. There were 5 children present. The older kids helped with cutting shapes in the dough and sprinkling sugar while the younger ones simply enjoyed a taste of the biscuits. The youngest present was seven months old Riccardo Seiler.

Everybody went home with a bag full of yummy biscuits. Thanks Roland and Theres for organizing and teaching the younger generation! Odile

Berner Abend 6th Sept - Saturday morning, rain, cold and not an inviting day to go out, but by afternoon the sun was shining and blue sky greeted us in Wainuiomata. We arrived early to set up the clubhouse, but the people from Taranaki and some club members from Wellington had the Clubhouse ready for the evening.

Trudi had been baking Zopf since the morning in the big oven of the clubhouse and a delicious smell greeted us. With most of the work done, I saw the opportunity to drive my guests down the coast road to the Orongorongo River.

With limited time available, Sandie had prepared the Glühwein at home. Thanks Sandie, we appreciate your effort. At 6pm the sixty odd guests started to arrive. With a glass of Glühwein in one hand and a slice of Zopf in the other the conversation went very well. Roland and his team worked hard in the kitchen and the meal was superb.

The Berner Platte is always a very special meal with Sauerkraut, Rippli, Zunge, Wurst, potatoes and beans. Because we had some guests from Costa Rica, Roland insisted on explaining how the "Berner Platte" came into existence.



Peter Canziani and Zeno von Hospenthal

We are grateful to Peter Canziani and Zeno von Hospenthal to make their time available and come down from Taranaki to entertain the Wellingtonians all evening with well-known Swiss songs. Peter brought a special surprise, a set of 3 collector's item "cowbells". Their sound was amazing.

After dessert Heinz and Theres guided the group in singing, and Roland encouraged the Costa Ricans to sing some Spanish songs too. It was a real fun evening.

To finish the evening John Jordan handed out some of the Swiss Society medals.

Thank you to the boys in the kitchen, Trudi, Sandie and to everybody who helped to make the evening a success. VM

Future events:

Fondue 4 October - You are invited to join us to a very yummy Fondue dinner, starting at 6.30pm with Glühwein at the Swiss Clubhouse, 21 Moores Val-

ley Rd, Wainuiomata. Please book with Vreni 526 98 41 or Sandie 528 6960 by 30 September and let them know whether you can bring your own caquelon, burner and forks.

Members \$20, non-members \$25; byo

Eurofest 12 October from 9am to 5pm - Come and enjoy some traditional Swiss food the Wellington Swiss Club will be serving at a stand.

Here's in a nutshell what the Eurofest is about: European embassies providing information about visiting, studying, working and doing business in their countries; a rich selection of cultural performances and ethnic European food; a trade show where you will find everything worth finding that is European and available in New Zealand; a European Cartoon Corner for children; European arts and crafts, with people demonstrating their skill at work, and opportunities for the general public to have a go. For more information visit the Eurofest website:

www.eurofest.org.nz

Hutt River Trail by bike 2 November - Craig Press will be organising a bike tour along the Hutt River. Please contact Petra and Craig on 563 8600 for further information.



Past Events:

Film Evening - For the first time in many years, our club decided to organise a film evening. This was held on Wednesday 23rd July at the Victoria Cinema. We had a booking for over 40 people with only 10 spare seats. People arrived at about 7pm and were offered a drink and some nibbles, consisting of home-made Zopf, Aufschnitt and a selection of cheeses. At 7.30pm the film



“Herbstzeitlosen” commenced and everyone was treated to some beautiful Swiss scenery, humour and a wonderfully written story. For those who couldn't understand the Swiss dialect, there were English subtitles. Following the film, everyone enjoyed coffee or tea and a lovely selection of home-baking. Thanks to Ursula for providing the film as well as helping with organising the evening. Also, thanks to all those who attended the function. Next time we will try and have it earlier in the year so as it doesn't clash with calving and isn't too close to the 1st August function.

1st August Function - This year we again celebrated our National Day on the actual day, Friday 1st August. Fifty-four people, some dressed in national costume, gathered at the Genesis Lounge of the Waikato Stadium from 6.30 pm, with an hour to have a drink and catch up with friends.

The room looked cosy and inviting, decorated with flags, pictures and cowbells, with beautifully made up tables in red and white.



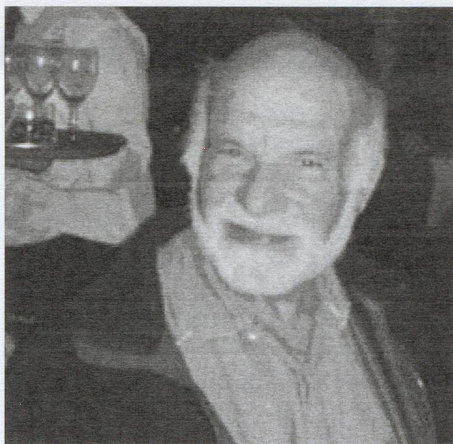
The musicians (from left), Len Schroeder, Kurt Hess and Bruno Epp

The ambiance of the evening was made complete with musical entertainment from Kurt Hess and Bruno Epp (a recent arrival to New Zealand) playing the accordion, accompanied by Mr Len Schroeder playing the keyboard.

At 7.30 pm we were treated to a delicious buffet dinner, which was followed by some further musical entertainment and the sale of raffle tickets.

After dessert and coffee were served, the more official part of

the evening commenced. Our Club President, Herbert Staheli, who this year travelled back to Holland (where his wife, Willetta, is from) and Switzerland for the first time in about thirty years, reflected on some of his personal feelings of returning to his 'homeland'. We then listened to the 1st August message by the President of the Swiss Confederation, which was followed by the singing of a few verses of the Swiss National Anthem.



Congratulations and best wishes to Werner Faessler, who also celebrated his 75th birthday on the 1st of August.

A little later, the raffle draw began, and with the many lovely prizes on offer, everyone was hoping for their number to come up. In total, about 175 raffle tickets were sold, and a prize could be selected after each of the sixteen tickets drawn by one of our newest members, Manuela Windlin, who is the partner of our new musician, Bruno. But despite the random drawing of the tickets, Kurt Scherrer ended up with four of his numbers being selected!! Our grateful thanks go to everyone who kindly donated some very nice prizes for our raffle, and of course to all those who generously bought tickets.

In all, it was a very relaxing function, and a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this function a success - for the organisation, the musical entertainment, to everyone who came along, and to Mon-

tana Caterers for the delicious meal and wonderful service. *BL*

Future Events:

Family Walk, Sunday 2nd November 2008 - Meet at 11.00 am at the start of the Waiorongomai Tracks, from Waiorongomai Loop Road, south of Te Aroha. We plan to climb to the top of Buck Rock, giving spectacular views of the Waikato. According to our local club member, Anna, Buck Rock reminds her of the Chrummhorn on Lucerne's Mount Pilatus. For those not keen on such a steep climb, there are a number of more gentle walks in the Waiorongomai Valley. In case of inclement weather, we may instead meet at the Te Aroha Domain. For further information or if in doubt as to the meeting place, please call Kurt Hess (07) 858 3306.

For further details you can contact Anita (07) 856-2414 or email zuber@xtra.co.nz *AZ*



Dear Club Members,

Even though you have not heard from me through the Helvetia, your committee has been busy providing all kinds of entertainment for you throughout the cold winter, which I must say I survived quite well.

Future events:

10 October - Jassen at Holland House at 7.30pm.

14 November - Society Jass at Holland House. All welcome.

16 November - Coast to Coast Walk in Auckland and Picnic lunch (read Nelly's resumé on the next page).

Coast to Coast Walk 16 November - Join your fellow Swiss



Club members for a hike and a picnic lunch with family and friends.

When? - Sunday 16 November, start around 10am (to be confirmed)

Where? - Coast to Coast walk, Auckland: Viaduct Harbour - Albert Park - Auckland domain - Mt Eden - Cornwall Park +/- One Tree Hill - Onehunga. This walk gives you great insights into Auckland's history, volcanoes, parks, scenery and harbours.

How far? - The walk is 16k (approx 4 hours) in total. You can choose to do the whole walk, or the first part and lunch, or join us at lunch and walk the second part, or to just come for the lunch. It promises to be one of Edith's famous SPECIALS and will certainly be worthwhile.

How much? - The walk is free. There will be a small charge for the lunch.

More info? - Available at the Swiss Club website: www.swiss.org.nz and in the next Helvetia. You will also receive an email with details closer to the time.

Please register your interest in this walk, or part of, any time with Heidi.

Past Events:

Film Evenings - For your entertainment through the cold winter your Committee held three film evenings between June and September. The excellent selection of movies was:

- 1 Vitus
- 2 Erleuchtung Garantiert
- 3 Brot und Steine.

All but the last film had English subtitles and all were delightful. Afterwards we had tea, coffee and cake and a chat in the library of Danish House, Penrose. The second film was combined with a fondue and the attendance was better. It would be nice if more of you came to these inexpensive, pleasant evenings in the future.

Fondue - The mid-winter fondue preceded the second film evening and the attendance was

very pleasing. The venue was Danish House again. After the film we had home-made Apfelstrudel and coffee. The chef in Edith's absence was Marcel Ruedi. All the food was delicious.

Swiss National Celebration at Holland House, 2 August 2008

This was a splendid occasion at a wonderful venue in town. Marcel Ruedi, our chef, even shot the deer we ate! The meal consisted of a big beautiful crown-shaped bread made out of



Wegglieteig made and donated by Franz Mueller from the Swiss Café & Bakery. Then there was pumpkin soup, venison goulash and -taetschli, blue cabbage with chestnuts and Spaetzli. For dessert there was a fruit salad with ice-cream and cream. Tea and coffee were accompanied by some delicious biscuits from the Swiss Bakery. A special thanks to Franz and Evi Mueller for their contributions, Marcel for an incredible effort and a truly delicious meal. Nelly and Heidi made the fruit salad and many people helped. Thank you all.



Later in the evening there was an extended quiz show invented by Nelly with the help of Heidi with questions about New Zealand and Switzerland from a multitude of subjects. The winners

were the Tessin table. It was a warm, fun-filled evening.

1st August: Bonfire at the Farm - On the Friday Evening we were going to have a bonfire at the farm. That was not possible due to inclement weather. However, our President Marcel was there from 5.00 to 6.15. When no-one turned up by 6.15, he drove home again, so if you did turn up later, which some of you did, we are sorry that no-one was there; we did not know you would still turn up.

This is all from me except that we welcome back all you travellers who have returned from foreign shores. *Heidi*

September Jass Results 2008

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	4366
2nd	Annagret Wolf	4183
3rd	Marcel Ruedi	4091
4th	Louis Wallimann	4060
5th	Hilda Iten	3919
6th	Heidi Wilson	3888
7th	Emil Tellenbach	3850
8th	Adrian Blaser	3777
9th	Lynne Dumphy	3561
10th	Verena Ruedi	3485
11th	Nelly Steinemann	3446
12th	Hans Iten	3431
13th	Andrew Iten	3382
14th	Edith Hess	3313

NEW KIWI/SWISS

Sascha Dominik Latham



28.08.2008
06h36
8lb 9oz
3880g
52cm

Born 28 August 2008 in Auckland to parents Tanja and Dave Latham and brother Luca.

Helen Rose Press



Born 15 September 2008 in Lower Hutt to parents Petra and Craig Press and sister Leah.

Congratulations to both families and best wishes for the future.