

# Flowers by the side of the road

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# Taranaki

## Past Events:

On Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>, many members of the Taranaki Swiss Club together with family and friends of Charlie and Doreen, turned up at the Swiss Club hall to help Charlie Schuler, our Patron, celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!!! Unfortunately Charlie had had a fall earlier in the week and had to be taken to hospital, but he made a huge effort and took pleasure in seeing all his family and friends on this very special occasion. We all hope, Charlie, that you get well soon, and look forward to seeing you at our future club functions. Our heartiest congratulations on achieving your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and we wish you more happy and healthy years ahead, together with Doreen.

The Taranaki Swiss Club recently purchased a new ride-on mower as unfortunately the old mower was coming to the end of its life for our big lawns. On behalf of our Club, I would like to thank the **TSB Community Trust** very much for their very generous donation to assist us in purchasing the new ride-on mower. I am sure that Johnny, our caretaker, will enjoy 'his' new toy ... just remember, Johnny, that the catcher needs to be on for you to start the mower!!! Apparently, upon receipt of the mower, Johnny tried for two hours to get the mower started but to no avail ... until he rang the salesman who told him that the catcher needed to be attached to start the mower!!! Hard luck, Johnny ... but I'm sure that you now have the 'starting' under control!!!

## Forthcoming Events:

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

**November 16** - Today the small bore shooting competitors will be vying for the Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and contesting the Championship Shoot from 1.00pm. Please make every effort to support Mark.

**November 20** - *By today everyone needs to have placed their sausage orders to Lisette Benkert (06 7628718) or Marianne Drummond (06 7628757) if they want them by the end of November. Next order will only be done in February prior to the annual Picnic. Please make our job easier by ordering on time. Thank you.*

**November 30** - Christmas Shoot / Keglen ... this starts at 10.00am with a potluck lunch to follow. Everyone is to bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10.00, and of course all participants will receive a prize in return. There are also some mystery prizes up for grabs. This is an excellent social day prior to the Christmas rush ... a Christmas activity for the children will be organised ... please come along and support the Swiss Club, as we would love to see a bigger crowd taking part this year!!!

**December 31** - New Year's Eve is upon us again!!! This event will again be organised in conjunction with the Campervanners ... with the chiefs being Leo and Doreen Zehnder and Ruedi and Lisette Benkert. Happy hour will be from 4.00pm with a BYO BBQ to follow at 6.00pm. Great entertainment is assured ... we just want your participation!!! Everyone welcome!!! MD

*With all the diets we hear and read about, it appears there are more problem eaters than problem drinkers.*

## Flowers by the side of the road

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled. "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

*SO, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!*