

Swiss Club news from around New Zealand

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Auckland

Past Events:

Pub night Friday 01 April

Bar Africa in Albany proved yet another well chosen place. Some 30 people, several of them newcomers to pub nights, had a good evening. Eventually I hope to get better at remembering names, glad that it happens to others too that those names just slip away at the right moment!

You keen pub goers now will have to wait until 03 June, as we have the film evening on the first Friday night of May, see below.

Jassen Friday 08 April

Jassen has had a very popular start this year. Whether it's the convenient locality, or the good company we don't know, I like to think it's the latter. Like last time I enjoyed coaching some of the newer players, it made me realise once more what a complex and fascinating game it is. Do give it a go!

Jass Results April 2011

1st	Martin Wiesmann	4286
2nd	Berta Good	4235
3rd	Adrian Blaser	4075
4th	Hans Iten	4060
5th	Ernst Lanz	4029
6th	Heinz Frei	3935
7th	Anita Steinemann	3934
8th	Annagret Wolf	3899
9th	Louis Wallimann	3869
10th	Nelly Steinemann	3848
11th	Fidel Good	3812
12th	Marcel Ruedi	3763
13th	Neil Kaiser	3759
14th	Andrew Buenter	3746
15th	Melissa Lanz	3729
16th	Fredy Tobler	3728
17th	Matthew Kaiser	3693
18th	Hansruedi Wolf	3634
19th	Franz Krieger	3616
20th	David Kandziora	3591
21st	Martin Blumer	3584
22nd	Heidi Wilson	3498
23rd	Walter Haller	3492
24th	Ernst Meier	3469

25th Hilda Iten 3352
 26th Marie Th Melville 3332

Tree adventure Sunday 10 April

Seven kids and 10 adults met on Sunday, 10th April 2011 at Woodhill forest. While Alex kindly agreed to look after the youngest three boys, the rest of us split into two groups and did the courses 1-4 or 5-8 respectively. Each course contained its fun parts but also the scary or challenging ones. The most screaming certainly came from the several flying foxes.



Erika braves the Flying Fox

After around three hours of fun but also hard work almost everybody was happy to have finished the courses. Marcel Lanz however decided that it wasn't



Ernst high up where the monkeys live



Pia stays attuned even when 10 metres off the ground

enough and so he also did the last course, which for sure was the most difficult and challenging one (good on you Marcel!)

What a great day. Thanks everybody for coming, and I hope your muscles haven't been aching too badly the next day.

*Erika Lanz
 photos by Alex Jung*

Future Events:

AGM Auckland Swiss Club, Monday 02 May, 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Here is your chance to have an input into the running of YOUR club. We promise you won't be

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elected to the committee unless you volunteer. On the other hand it's so much fun to be part of it, I can only recommend it.

The AGM will be followed by an informal get together over a cuppa and some lovely baking. Look forward to seeing you there!

Wähe und Film, Friday 06 May, 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Enjoy home-made Swiss Wähe (Tünne, Flade) for your dinner, and have a good laugh with the cabaret duo 'DivertiMento'. Jonny Fischer und Manuel Burkart, two Swiss guys, make many every-day situations hilariously funny. Unfortunately, and understandably, the film does not have subtitles - a lot of the humour is tied to the language and cannot be translated. Enjoy your dinner and entertainment for only \$20 (members), or \$30 (non-members).

Swiss Market Day, Saturday 07 May, 8am to 3pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

We have had an excellent response to our request for stall holders, and look forward very much to sharing this exciting day with you. Come and try some Swiss and European foods: There will be an amazing variety of cheeses, chocolates, breads and

pastries, Swiss type of gingerbread, Spätzle, Sauerkraut etc. You will also find Swiss art and craft, even genuine Swiss appliances and knives (Victorinox and Zyliss will be there), and much more. Our Yodlers and Alphorns will add to the atmosphere. How much more Swiss could it get? This time we have a food tent, where you can enjoy barbequed Swiss sausages, Raclette, pastries, so why not come for morning tea or lunch?

Jassen, Friday 13 May, 7.30pm, Danish Club, 6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose.

Don't let yourself be put off by the date - you may be lucky like I was last month, and win a giant pumpkin!

Looking forward to June and beyond

Did you know there is a calendar on the Swiss Club Website, where you can see all the exciting outings we have planned? Just check: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland: Here are a few of them:

Friday 03 June: Pub night, place to be announced

Queen's Birthday weekend: 04 to 06 June: AGM of the NZ Swiss Society, and finals of the

Cowbell competition in Wellington. This is always a fun weekend, and very special relationships can be formed; just find out from Fidel and Bertha Good what happened last year in Taranaki!

If you are interested in coming, please contact Marcel: ruedi@orcon.net.nz or 5515830, 0274901836.

Friday 01 July: Fondue evening, at the Danish Club

Welcome to our new members

It's great to see our club growing. We welcome these new and not so new members who have joined the club in the past few months:

Walter & Ulrika Haller
Doris Mattenberger & Ken Coveny

Bruna Roberta Martinoli with Clem and their children:
Yannick & Ryan Noah

Jasmin Caflisch & Eric Felder

Daniel Wiederkehr &
Joanna Crawford
Nelly Steinemann



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Taranaki

Past Events:

On the 9th April 2011 we held our annual Preiskeglen and Fondue Evening, which coincided with the 30th anniversary of the opening of our fabulous Club house.

Unfortunately the Preiskeglen wasn't well attended, and actually started much later than advertised due to the lack of numbers ... this was possibly due to farmers still milking as the function was being held a little earlier than usual. However, the salametti were keenly contested, with children even participating. And there wasn't any problem selling the remaining salametti!!! Actually for me, it would have been far cheaper to buy them!!! But then you don't have as much fun!!! People started arriving early, which was great ... as expected numbers were 130 adults and about 30 children!!! And that's how many people we ended up catering for!!! You might say that the hall was packed ... it was wonderful to see three generations of many families attending!!! And then we had a tremendous surprise ... Laura Hiestand came all the way from Auckland with her son Maurice and daughter-in-law Trish ... it was wonderful to see you Laura, and my goodness you certainly don't look 95!!! Thank you for making the effort to come, and we hope that you enjoyed both the meal and catching up with friends from home. The meals were served as fast as practically possible, with the cooks Leo and Lisette doing a terrific job ... many thanks to Ruedi and Lisette for preparing the cheese for the fondue which is a time-consuming job!!! Our waitresses Heidi, Tracey and Doreen did a great job ... bringing out the fondue and ensuring there was suffi-

cient bread. One of our newbies on the committee, Bryce, did an excellent job with the burners making sure that they were available at the right place, at the right time with meths in them!!! Our biggest thanks must go to the two guys who year after year scrub the pots to the highest standard ... THANK YOU Mark and Markus ... you are absolutely terrific ... and never moan ... well ... maybe under your breath!!! We really appreciate the wonderful work that you both do ... you must get sore muscles!!! With only one 'usable' hand, Erna did a great job giving out the sausages ... we appreciate the effort you made to be a helper, Erna, and hope that the plaster comes off shortly and that you can soon use both hands again!!! I'm sure you're looking forward to the day!!! Thanks to our barman,



Our two one-armed bandits Erna and Zeno... I think this is a conspiracy to not work at the Swiss Club!!! No seriously, we wish you both a speedy recovery!

Adrian, who was kept busy, too. It was also neat to see Zeno at the Club house again, after a harrowing three months ... we hope that your arm and hand come right, and that you will soon be able to play with your girlfriend, the accordion, again. Many compliments were heard about the fondue and salads, and a HUGE THANK YOU must go to the ladies who prepared such delicious salads, the delectable fondue and the bread cutters (including the three youngsters, two of whom managed to cut their fingers!!!). Without the committee members making such a huge contribution, we wouldn't have such a success-



Our past president Walter had an interesting speech about the history of our building

ful evening. THANK YOU ALL!!! In the absence of Othmar who was overseas, Walter gave an excellent speech about the beginnings of the hall, and all the wonderful people who gave time, money, materials and hours of voluntary labour to erect the hall that we can proudly use today. Thank you Walter for the time and effort it took to research the details of your interesting and informative speech ... it was great!!! The hall was opened on the 11th April 1981 and has been used extensively since then. Heidi and Erna created a wonderful display board with photos and newspaper clippings from the early beginnings, and many people took the opportunity to look and read about the history of our building. Many thanks ladies for your great work!!! Three lucky people took away Easter prizes as they had yellow round stickers under their chairs ... Tony Dettling, Peter Kaiser, and our newest member Yvonne Buhler were the winners ... congratulations to you all!!! I had noticed Heidi trying out many vacant chairs, but she only found an old square yellow sticker ... better luck next time Heidi!!! The tombola tickets were then sold ... all 1000 of them!!! This time we had decided to make extra special prizes as a commemoration of our thirty years ... and Heidi, Erna and Lisette certainly organised that very well ... there were



beautiful grocery parcels and flowers amongst other neat prizes ... and many of those who supported the raffle very well took away more than one prize!!! Good on you!!! Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to everyone who supported the tombola so generously. The committee really appreciates your tremendous support. Many thanks to everyone who came ... it was great to see many repeat customers, and really special to see many new faces. We hope that you enjoyed your evening, and that we will see you again soon!!!

Future Events:

May 1 & 22: Cards again ... be there by 1.15pm and have some fun!!! Walter is really looking forward to your support. I notice that Auckland have had much greater jassen participation recently ... let's try and achieve the same!!!

May 5 & 19: Keglen again ... heaps of fun too!!! Johnny and his team run a wonderful night ... go along and support them.

May 15: The Swiss Society competitions will be held from 10.00am. If you participate in at least three of the four competitions (shooting, shot put, jassen and keglen) you will be in the draw for a good prize!!! Children under 16 are in a separate competition ... so come along and bring your children too!!! Keen shooters can take part in the Championship Shoot from 1.00pm. A pot-luck tea will be held at 6.00pm ... so come and make a day of it!!! Great social day, with a bit of keen rivalry!!!

From the 4th to the 6th June we will be heading to Wellington to take part in the final of the Cowbell Competition and to attend the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. We will, once again, be travelling by bus, so if you are keen to go, please

ring Othmar on 06 2786878, Zeno on 06 7646515 or Marianne on 06 7628757. It's always a good, fun time and we look forward to seeing friends and members from other clubs. The Wellington Club members are great hosts, so let's support them!! Please book your seat early!!!

June 12 & 19: Jassen / Euchre 1.15pm. Come and enjoy a game of cards on a winter afternoon. It's a good time to catch up with friends.

June 19: Final Championship Shoot at 1.00pm, so come along and support Mark. Juniors are most welcome, with Mark willing to give some coaching tips. The club is holding its second potluck tea of the year, so come and make a day of it. Preceding dinner, we will have a Happy Hour for people to mix and mingle over the odd drink. Should be a great day and we look forward to seeing you there.

July 2: The very popular Anniversary Shoot will be held on the 2nd July, with people able to shoot or skittle from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. *Please note that due to school holidays changing this year, the Anniversary Shoot is on a Saturday.* The delicious Sauerkraut and Pork meal will be served at 5.30pm. Mark puts a great deal of effort into this day, so please come along and support him!!! MD

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Hamilton

Past Events:

Mountain Weekend 26/27 March 2011

There was a lot of interest in this weekend again and Vitus had a couple of new walks lined up in the Kaimanawa Ranges. As it got closer to the date, it became very obvious that only a miracle could give us anything other than a wet weekend. The numbers dwindled and 14 made it to the Hut on Friday night. As usual, Herbert catered well for us that night. The fire was going and everybody enjoyed a relaxing evening in. There was plenty of room to sleep and snoring was no problem at all. Some of us just got to bed a bit late!!



Vitus, Hans and Belinda

Saturday morning, drizzly and foggy, we had to change our plans. The keener ones left for the Chateau and the plan was to walk in to Wakapapaiti hut and meet up with the other group



Rosa and Neil - the younger generation enjoying hiking

coming in from the top. At least we were below the fog and had a pleasant walk in until we got to the river crossing where we had to call it quits as the water was just too high to cross. About 5 hours later we arrived back at the Hut and the others just got back too from a walk in the fog for 3 hours.

Saturday dinner was successful too with ham, roasted spud cubes, and salad - plus plenty of dessert and wine. We all enjoyed a lovely night of R+R.

After our usual chores on Sunday we made our way home, some of us via the Tokaanu Hot Pools. It was definitely the worst weather we had so far at our Mountain outings but it's always nice to get away and meet up with Special people at Special places!!

Thank you to all the people who helped us make a successful out of a wet weekend.

Hans Vetsch

Future Events:

Friday, 29th April - Annual General Meeting - 8.00pm, at Swisscraft premises, Colombo Street, Frankton. If you would like to come at 7.15pm and have a bowling practice (especially if you are able to participate on the Sunday competing against Auckland for the Cowbell Competition) then we would love to see you early. Otherwise if you would like to arrive about 7.30pm for a drink before the meeting starts at 8pm. The committee would really appreciate your feedback on both past and future events, as well as any other suggestions or comments, so please come along. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. The Ambassador is now planning to come to our fondue evening in September.

Sunday, 1st May - Cowbell Semi-final Competition, Hamilton vs Auckland to be held at Swisscraft premises, Colombo Street, Frankton. It will be a

10am start. The Hamilton Club will this year be hosting this event. If you would like to participate in the bowling, cards and/or shot-put (where we would appreciate some strong participants!), or for further information, please contact Herbert Staheli (07) 847-7220 daytime or 021 962708.

Weekend 14th/15th May - 300 metre Shooting for Hamilton Club Members at the Auckland Swiss Farm Clubhouse, Kaukapakapa. All Swiss and friends of Switzerland over 14 years of age are welcome. As usual, we will stay on the farm on Saturday night. You will bring your own Saturday lunch and drinks for dinner. Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, tea and coffee and lunch will be prepared and costs shared. You will need warm clothing, torch and sleeping bag. There will be a full day's shooting on Saturday and a half day shooting on Sunday. Please book your place now via email: verena_vetsch@hotmail.com or call me on 855 3294 home, or 021 658 733 mobile.

Hans Vetsch, Riflemaster

Card Evenings:

Venue: all five card evenings will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge, commencing promptly at 7.30pm. The four top scores will count towards the overall prize.

Attendance at last year's card evenings was encouragingly higher than the previous few years, so we hope that this trend will continue. We look forward to seeing you again at these popular evenings.

(To avoid delays starting the Medal Jass, no sub payments will be accepted at the First Card Evening. Sub notices will be issued for payment on subsequent evenings. Thank you for your cooperation).

Friday, 6th May - First Card Evening and Medal Jass. Please be prompt to start at 7.30pm.



Friday, 20th May - Second Card Evening

Friday, 3rd June - Third Card Evening

Friday, 17th June - Fourth Card Evening

Friday, 1st July - Fifth and Final Card Evening

If you are able to assist with baking or help in the kitchen to prepare supper, please ring Beatrice on (07) 843-7971 or e-mail bea.leun@xtra.co.nz AZ

Wellington

Past Events:

Sunday 27th March, 2pm: Gesprächsrunde zum Thema Altersschwerhörigkeit at the Clubhouse

I got to the clubhouse a bit early to set things up, to draw an audiogram on the whiteboard and cut my 'language banana' out in the right scale. I had spent my adult years in Switzerland teaching deaf children - and keeping in touch with many as friends, once they were adults. Losing one's hearing gradually over later years is different, but hearing loss will come to all of us if we live long enough, so we better get used to the idea early on.

We learnt about the sense of hearing, the various parts and their function in our ears, what can go wrong - and how we can minimize the frustrations that come with hearing loss. Hearing aids have become much more sophisticated; experiences shared varied greatly.

We had a good afternoon, and I hope the hints will be helpful and make understanding a bit easier. tb

Future Events:

Saturday 14 May, from 6.30 pm onwards: Our first Fondue at the clubhouse.

Come and enjoy our hospitality and bring your friends along; members \$23, non-members \$26 - for Glühwein, mixed salads, fon-

due, dessert and coffee! Please book early as seats are limited. Phone Sandie 528 6960 or mail murray.simons@clear.net.nz, or Odile 586 3095 or mail odile-stotzer@gmx.net. Please tell them whether you can bring your own caquelon, burner and forks; thank you! os

The Swiss Friends of Manawatu and Rangitikei

We have never been a formal club, but just a gathering of expats who wanted to spend the 1st of August together. In the 1990s the Manawatu Swiss met at a cafe in Palmerston North, and the Rangitikei Swiss met somewhere out on one of the farms or places in or around Marton.

But for the last few years we have joined up and usually celebrate the 1st of August together.

Last 1st of August (2010), we had the idea that we could, for the first time ever, take part in the Festival of Cultures here in the Manawatu and sell sausages and Nussgipfel. As we now have a butcher shop in Feilding, called Edelweiss, it was not too hard to organise the food, and a few of us made Nussgipfel. Others made beautiful farmer's bread, Zopf and Gugelhopf.

We met in February for a planning meeting, shortly after the devastating earthquake in Christchurch, and decided that all our proceeds will go towards rebuilding and helping the people down there.

Our friend Raphael made us a chalet front which had to be delivered by truck and located on the square by crane...., we had to bend a few rules, but it was worth it, as we raised \$ 900 for Christchurch, won the price for best cultural stall and had a lot of fun.

Katrin Jones



Istvan Kocsis (deputy Ambassador) mit Partnerin, dann Raphael Knopf, Anuska & Katrin Stroppel-Jones