

Swiss Club news

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Swiss Club News

Taranaki Swiss Club

Past Events

Keglen, Jassen and Shooting have recommenced under the guidance of Heidi Werder, Walter Seifert and Mark Kiser respectively. Please try to attend these events and support our valuable leaders ... they would love to see you. We also hold Karabiner Shooting (big bore) events, so if you're keen to try this out please ring Bryce Kaiser on 06 274 5856 ... these have finished for this year, but will recommence in February 2016. They do many of the Swiss Army and Swiss Abroad Shooting programmes, so come along and give it a go.

On the 30th of April we received our huge sausage order from the Swiss Deli for sorting and distribution. Our grateful thanks to Win Luond who helped Ruedi, Lisette and Marianne with the big job of sorting and pricing the goods ... especially as the order arrived a little later than usual!!! We appreciated your help, Win. And I think we whetted her appetite with a few different products being ordered!!! We really appreciated your help and hope that you will assist us again sometime!!!

On the 2nd of May we held another very successful Fondue Evening with an attendance of just under 150. It was great to see some 'old' faces whom we hadn't seen for a few years back again ... Helen, Bertha, Irene, Agnes ... and anyone else I may have forgotten to mention? ... we loved seeing you again, and hope that you will come again in the not-too-distant future!!! Thanks to our great cheese graters Ruedi and Lisette; to our fantastic cooks Marlies and Vrene with Lisette the hop-along assistant; our terrific waitress Heidi who made sure everyone was served as soon as possible; burner lighters extraordinaire the two Ruedis; our truly amazing kitchen crew of Doreen, Tracey, Margaret, Nita, Marcus and Mark; our 'dab hands at anything' Johnny and Walter; the excellent bread waiters Daniel and Richard; barman Adrian; Zeno for putting up the beautiful purple geranium to brighten up the entrance; Othmar for greeting all our attendees;

Leo for playing some beautiful music ... and ... I think that is about it!!! I'm really sorry if I have missed anyone ... but if I have thank you too!!! We certainly missed Erna, Remigi, Bryce and Mathias who were all unable to come to this function, however Erna still made the delicious bean salad ... thanks so much. Although this is a Fondue Evening, we also serve cervelas and have a salad bar ... the mix seems to go very well. By the steady stream of favourable comments, the mix of cheeses in the fondue was superb and the salad selection was also great. A big thank you to everyone who helped to prepare the meals and serve so many people in such a very short time ... you're amazing!!! Going by the noise in the hall, everyone was happy to chat and catch up with one another ... so neat to see everyone mingling and enjoying each other's company. The many children enjoyed playing table soccer or colouring in and just took pleasure in playing with each other. They were also great in selling raffle tickets ... thank you all so much. Thanks Heidi for organising some lovely grocery baskets and ½ salamis for people to win ... the prizes went down a treat. Supper was then served and people slowly left for home ... except a few hardy souls who continued playing cards until 3.30am!!! No guessing who???! And age certainly isn't a barrier, is it Josie???! What tenacity!!!

On behalf of the committee, a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, and most of all a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported this event. Having a great attendance shows the committee that you appreciate and enjoy the events we organise!!!

On the 17th of May we held our Swiss Society Medals Competition with a very good attendance ... great to see some families with younger children come along - thanks to the Penningtons, Howatsons and Drummonds for encouraging their children to participate and try some new "Swiss" sports. Also great to see some older children take part, in Jakob and Dontay. As there was quite a difference in the age of children we had a midgets and juniors division which evened out the competition a bit. Competition was stiff ... well in some disciplines anyway!!! Walter Seifert blitzed the field of sixteen in the jassen (must be practicing heaps, eh Walter???!!!!) with Albi Schuler second, Marlies Hebler third and Marcus Rufer fourth ... actually most of these played cards at the fondue till the wee hours

of the morning ... so perhaps that's the secret to their win!!! Long stints of concentration!!! And actually the keglen, with 34 competitors, was also a one-horse race with Heidi Werder showing great style (shame you can't come to Wellington!); second was Peter Kaiser, third Adrian Drummond, fourth Bryce Kaiser (must be a family trait!!!) and fifth our President Othmar Hebler. As we had also done some of the Shot put competition at the picnic we were really pleased with 34 competitors who gave it a go ... Lou, you're a legend still participating knowing full well that you won't win a medal ... perhaps tail-end Charlie should be given a medal for effort!!! Men's winner was Thomas Werder, with Daniel Potter second; Ladies winner was Marlies Hebler with runner-up Heidi Werder; Junior winner was Zeno Hess; and midget winner was Richard Drummond with Joshua Pennington a close second. The shooting was keenly contested by 22 shooters with Mark Kiser taking the spoils in the men's; ladies winner was Susie Kiser (accuracy must lie in the Kiser family) with a first time shooter, Mary Ann Whakatutu second ... well done to you and Vonnie for shooting for the first time and doing so very well!!! Top shooter of the competition was a

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junior, Jakob Whakatutu, who got 76 points and earns a medal ... well done, Jakob, you're amazing. Dontay Olliver also shot well to be placed second. Many thanks to everyone who took part and created friendly rivalry ... just imagine how much further you'll throw the shot put next year Joshua, Olivia, Luke, Amelia, Madeleine, Daniel and Richard ... we look forward to seeing the huge improvement!!! It would be great to see more younger children come along and give these children even stiffer competition ... so remember to come next year and participate in these "Swiss" sports!!! Jakob and Dontay would love more competition too, so please parents bring along your older children to make a tougher competition!!! The committee would love to see more competitors!!! We always have a draw for people who enter at least three of the four competitions, and this year's winner was Remigi Zimmermann ... well done Remigi ... now you know why you took part in the shot put!!! Thank you to everyone for coming, and we hope you enjoyed your day.

Queen's Birthday Weekend

With Othmar encouraging many of our members to take the trip south to Wellington to take part in the final of the Cowbell Competition and the AGM of the Swiss Society, we had a great muster of thirty people!!! Thanks to the Canzianis for coming from Turangi to help us out ... we really appreciate your terrific support!!! The bus left on Saturday morning, and after several stops, arrived at the Motel in Wainuiomata in plenty of time. The Canzianis and Drummonds had also arrived, and soon members from the various clubs arrived at the Wellington Club House to enjoy a delicious meal, great company and a tasty quiz!!! The quiz certainly showed up the various levels of knowledge about Swiss food, sports grounds, Swiss lakes, Latin names of Swiss cities and James Bond!!! Thank goodness we got last and the booby prize of Lindt chocolate sweetened us up!!!

On Sunday morning the final of the Cowbell Competition against the Hamilton Swiss Club was held. Fortunately, due to our amazing shooters ... thanks Jakob you certainly helped us out ... we were one up!!! Looking at the Hamilton shot putters, we realised that this event wasn't going to go our way ... unless there was a miracle ... but no, we lost this discipline convincingly!!! Sorry

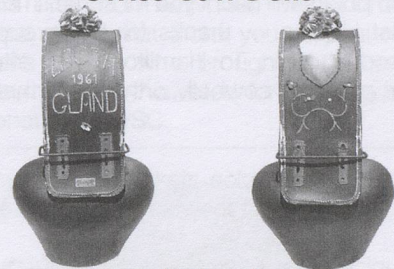
Marcus, Othmar, Bryce and Adrian, but the Hamiltonians outmuscled you this year ... thanks for your great efforts all the same. The Keglen was a fierce tussle ... with Daniel Rust raking up a terrific 55 points, but fortunately for us our average was better ... Marlies outstanding with 52 points ... well done, Marlies. So we were up 2 - 1. Now, down to the Jassen ... with Hamilton only having four competitors, our team of Josie Gillbanks, Heidi Seifert, Albi Schuler and Mathias Seifert tried extremely hard to win ... but sadly fell a few points short. With a draw the end result ... it was down to the "aus-jassen"!!! With Mathias and Abli having done slightly better in the previous round, they took the battle to the Hamilton pairing of Ueli Elmiger and Charlie Waldvogel ... although not a drubbing with only TWO points the difference ... Charlie and Ueli ensured that the coveted Cowbell would head further north than Taranaki for the coming year!!! Even though Mathias counted and recounted and recounted again ... the totals wouldn't change!!! Hope you've got over it, Mathias!!! In time ... we'll forgive you!!! Just kidding!!! Jakob you did a terrific job shooting so well ... and then your Grandad (Albi) lets you down by losing the cards!!! You'll have to give him heaps!!! Thank you to the Hamiltonians for a great fiercely-contested competition, and congratulations on your win ... the smile on your faces, particularly your dedicated President Herbert, was priceless. After this epic battle, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the delicious soup and wienerli!! Soon after, Tania was ready to chair the Swiss Society AGM which went very smoothly. Congratulations to Hans Vetsch who is our new Vice-President, as Hamilton will take over the reins of the Swiss Society at the next AGM. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club, I would like to congratulate the members of the Helvetia editing team for compiling such an interesting, informative issue six times a year. You all do a terrific job, and your dedication is appreciated.

Prior to dinner, a group of our members decided to have a nip of Whiskey ... and another ... then told us that they couldn't get the lid back on ... do you believe that????!!! Of course they had to empty the 1.75lt bottle!!! Just kidding ... a small one it was!!! Next they thought that they would take a "selfie" putting the cell phone on the floor ... what did the picture look like??? ... well ... they had a great photo of the carpet!!! Finally they did get an excellent picture of them all in a circle!!! And no, this wasn't me ... my

talents would never go that far!!! Who was the "selfie" guru ... Marie!!! But the end result was great, so well done!!! The other story I heard was someone paying to stay in a motel bed, but trying to sleep on the kitchen floor due to the excessive snoring by his roommates ... better luck with your roomies next time, Mark!!!

Dinner was organised by members of the Wellington Swiss Club, and this was absolutely divine ... a superb mixed salad with smoked salmon, followed by scrummy roast, mashed potatoes and red cabbage ... and dessert was the most delicious apple strudel!!! Doesn't that make your mouth water!!! On behalf of our members a HUGE thank you to Roland and his terrific team for their splendid hospitality and their delectable, tasty food ... it was certainly something to savour!!! Our ambassador, Dr Vogelsanger, gave an interesting and informative speech, which was also humorous and moving ... the story about the 100 year old lady approving the republishing of her book was truly amazing, as were your experiences in Tonga ... thank you so much for sharing your knowledge and experiences with us, we all really appreciated your enlightening speech.

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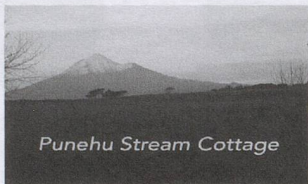
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Swiss Club News

Trudi held a great tombola ... with tickets selling very rapidly ... sorry Daniel and I didn't manage to get tickets to you all!! Musical entertainment was enjoyed by all, as was the chatting to friends and making of new acquaintances. A terrific night came to an end all too soon!!!

On Monday morning at 8.00am the bus returned to the club house ... I bet some didn't have many hours sleep!!! We were all treated to Trudi's delicious "zopf" and homemade jam, with a good cup of coffee to waken us up!!! Thank you so much Trudi ... you must have baked zopf for many a day!!! As we all made our way north, we could only "thank" our Wellington friends for providing us with great food, entertainment and company ... it seemed such a small gesture for such a terrific weekend!!! I hear that Heidi was so VERY naughty she was kicked off the bus in Palmerston North!!! Glad you still made it home safely, Heidi!!!

A BIG, HUGE thank you to members of the Wellington Swiss Club for their terrific hospitality during the whole weekend, and to our wonderful president, Othmar, for organising and driving the bus for everyone to get there and back safely. Othmar, we really appreciate your dedication to our club. Thanks to everyone who came along ... and commiserations to Mathias and Albi for coming so close to winning the cards ... two points will haunt you for some time!!! Just kidding ... thanks for being such good sports. To Hamilton: look after the precious cowbell ... there are three



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other clubs vying to get their hands on it next year!!! Thanks to everyone for their friendliness and great company, and see you next year in Auckland!!!

Jassen Results: I'm sorry that some of these are a bit old ... as I forgot to catch up with Walter for the results. Better late than never!!!

12 April

1st Heidi Werder
2nd Lisette Benkert
3rd Walter Seifert
Booby Berta Hughes
Lucky raffle winners were Erna Zimmermann, Marlies Hebler, Berta Hughes and Berta Sidler.

26 April

1st Walter Seifert
2nd Heidi Seifert
3rd Mathias Seifert
Booby Joe Buhler
Looks like winning was a family affair!!! Well done to the Seiferts!!!
Raffle winners were Marcus Rufer, Josie Gillbanks, Ruedi Benkert and Myrtha Seifert.

24 May

1st Mathias Seifert
2nd Robert Buhler
3rd Maya Stutz
Booby Berta Hughes
Raffle winners were Myrtha Seifert, Joe Buhler, Berta Hughes and Heidi Werder.

14 June

1st Albi Schuler
2nd Marcus Rufer
3rd Heidi Seifert
Booby Joe Buhler
Lucky raffle winners were Lisette Benkert (twice!!!), Berta Hughes and Robert Buhler.

Upon arriving Lou Butler was already there ... I thought ... oh, he's learnt to play Swiss cards ... but ... alas ... it wasn't to be ... Lou thought that there was shooting today ... only to find out that it's next week!!! Well, we'll catch you next week then Lou!!!

After the shooting and cards on the 21st of June we held our annual pot-luck tea. A good number attended and enjoyed a delicious dinner, chatting away to fellow members. This is a very nice social occasion, which would be even better with more people attending.

On the 4th of July we held our very popular Anniversary Shoot with its' delicious dinner of sauerkraut, red

cabbage, peas, potatoes, pork and wienerli. During the afternoon people had the opportunity of shooting or 9-pin bowling to win four cervelas. This is a fun day, culminating with the scrumptious meal. Sadly the numbers weren't as great as other years, with several members holidaying in Switzerland!!! Even one of our cooks, Erna and hubby Remigi, were catching up with family and friends in the old homeland. Our grateful thanks to Heidi, Marlies and Margy for putting the great meal together and to Othmar for undertaking the shooting duties while Mark was away. It was great to have a good bunch of people doing the dishes; thank you all very much. Othmar presented the shooting trophies to worthy winners – Susie Kiser, Bryce Kaiser, Lou Butler, and Jakob Whakatutu. Thank you to everyone who participates in the small bore shooting and congratulations to the winners. Next the spinning wheel raffles were held – thank you, Heidi, for organising the nice prizes, and thank you to all the sellers. A few die-hard rugby followers decided to watch the Hurricanes versus Highlanders game ... sadly our Hurricanes lost, but the spectators thoroughly enjoyed the game ... thanks Max and Daniella for taking the Drummond boys home to watch the game. Peter Canziani and Zeno played lovely music on their accordions and all too soon supper was served and everyone gradually left. Even the card players didn't stay as long as other times!!! Thank you to everyone who came and we hope to see more members next year. It was great to see some prospective members who have recently arrived in Taranaki, Matt and Nadine Gugi with their family of Melina, Amelie and Jayden ... we do hope you enjoyed your evening, and we look forward to seeing you again.

Welcome to new members:

We welcome several young members who have been "Taranaki Swiss Club only" members in the past and whose parents have been very loyal and supportive members ... I'm sure that they are proud that you are now members of the Swiss Society too ... welcome to Erwin Hebler, Andrea Hebler and Yvonne Werder. Our Club extends a big welcome to Vonnie Ngatai whose grandson, Dontay, is an avid shooter and Liz Sinclair who also advertises her accommodation in the Helvetia. We hope that we will see you at one of our future functions, and that you will enjoy the Swiss-Kiwi experience!!!

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If anyone wishes to join our Club, please ring Marianne on 06 7628757 or Othmar on 06 2786878. We always look forward to seeing new members and please remember to look up your calendar of events or the website to ensure that you attend as many functions as possible.

Forthcoming Events

August 1

Our National Day Celebrations will be held on the 1st of August again this year. Once again your dedicated committee and helpers will be selling tickets, and it would be greatly appreciated if you would let them know if you can make it or not when they ring you. This isn't an easy job, and humming and herring doesn't help those selling the tickets!!! There will be excellent entertainment and the ever-delicious supper. Hope to see you!!!

October

1&15 Oops ... last month I wrote see you again in November ... but I forgot about the October functions!!! Keglen recommences under the watchful eye of Heidi Werder. The 9-pin bowling commences at 7.30pm ... this is a very social evening with much chatter and laughter besides the keglen!!! Come along and support Heidi in her endeavours to get more participants!

18 Mark should be back from Switzerland by now, and welcomes you to the small bore shooting programme. This month we will hold the Trudi Ott Belt Shoot (one of our oldest shooting trophies) and the Championship Shoot from 1.00pm. Please come along and support Mark, who is more than willing to help coach members.

November

5&19 Keglen, once again, from 7.30pm. Heidi looks forward to seeing you!!!

15 Small bore shooting again from 1.00pm with the Ted Napflin Memorial Shield being contested, together with the Championship Shoot. Go on, give Mark your support.

29 The Christmas Shoot / Keglen will be held, with children's Christmas activities being organised, a pot-luck lunch and the appearance of Father Christmas ... hard to believe that it was one year ago when we held this event last!!! This is

a great social day to let us know that Christmas is just around the corner!!! More about this function in the next issue of the Helvetia

After the 1st of August celebrations the activities at the Taranaki Swiss Club will cease for a while, and we wish all our farming members a "happy calving" (although many farmers will be well into calving by the time the Helvetia is in their letterbox ... however some of us will just be starting!!!) and we look forward to seeing everyone again from October ... gosh it sounds like we hibernate for a while!!! It truly isn't quite that bad!!!
MD



Past Events

16 May - Fondue

This was our only club fondue planned for this year; the Wellington Swiss Club has so many other dinner events planned, including a raclette, Berner Aabig, and a Tessinerabend. With the coming of winter we got in early for the fondue season, and as always the event was very well attended. The contribution from our Austrian friends of hors-d'oeuvres and Trudi's Gluewein were greatly appreciated. It was particularly pleasing to see many of our long-established families turning up in force with two or three generations represented.

Queens Birthday Weekend

Our hot water unit had been playing up for a while, and we had nightmares: how will we cope if we have to boil the water on the stove for every cup of coffee, for a hundred guests? Members of the Swiss Society from all over the North Island were turning up for the AGM, and the cowbell final between Taranaki and Hamilton. Oliver had taken the water-heater apart and ordered a spare part for the part that was broken – only to find out that a different part was also broken. Just in time the second part also arrived, and Oliver and Peter got it going on Friday afternoon – and our coffee was guaranteed! Thank you very much, Peter and Oliver!

Saturday night saw a delicious dinner prepared by Roland and his team of wonderful chefs, including our Austrian friends Maria and Thomas. Oliver installed a screen and projector in the room, and projected some silent videos from the old days of the club in the "chicken shed". I really appreciated to see these historic videos of club and Society members; so many have not changed over the years! And although I had heard of the "chicken shed" in Ohariu, I had never imagined it would look that sophisticated. Silly me, I was picturing a tiny room with haystacks and wooden ladders, not the comfortable restaurant-like club room I saw on the screen! I am looking forward to seeing more videos of the old days. If you have any video or photos that you'd like to share at a club or Society event, please contact Oli or Odile.

Then came the quiz. Seven teams scratched their heads to answer the five rounds plus the trailing question. Do you know which canton James Bond's mum, Monique Delacroix, hails from? (yes she comes from Switzerland!). Do you know which city used to be called Turicum?

Sunday morning's cowbell was hotly contested, but we (Wellington) had no part in it. In the end Hamilton won over Taranaki.

The afternoon AGM will be reported separately – but thank you very much, Hans Vetsch who brought it up, and the meeting who voted for a generous donation to WSC.

The tombola tickets sold out fast, and the multiple prizes went fast, too.

Sunday dinner saw again a delicious meal prepared from Roland and his team. Thank you so much for the time you spent slaing away in the kitchen, we all really appreciated! That night was especially festive, thanks to the accordion band from Taranaki who contributed so much to the atmosphere, and we enjoyed the flugelhorn and the alphorn playing as well. This was the opportunity for the Swiss Ambassador, David Vogelsanger, to address his compatriots. Of particular interest was the news that Switzerland is receiving net inward migration of 80,000 or more people a year. The demographics of our home country are changing fast, and the question is how the nation will cope. The Ambassador reported a lack of progress on discussions with the

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New Zealand Government in relation to pension payment flows to New Zealand, and the related question of taxation. Watch this space. We welcome to New Zealand also the new deputy head of mission, Juerg Bono, who spent much of Sunday evening in the kitchen washing up. Greatly appreciated, as was the full turn-out at dinner from Embassy staff.

Rumour has it that the card players didn't play quite as late as the previous night. On Monday morning we waved our Taranaki friends goodbye after breakfast. See you next year at the picnic and at the Cowbell Semifinal!

7 June - Jassen

A beautifully mild and calm Sunday in Mahina Bay – almost too good to play cards! Well, in the end we didn't play cards, as we didn't have enough players. The walk along the beach, almost as far as Pencarrow Lighthouse (well, about one third of the way) was nice, too – and the cake didn't get stale, either.

21 June - Club Walk at Trelissick Park

A hardy few showed up for this pleasant walk in native bush and alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream, and the pessimistic weather forecast was held accountable for that. Well, the sun showed up and the rain did not! The trails were a bit muddy, but we had been warned to wear gum boots. The kids and the dog (only one dog that day) enjoyed the walk to the fish ladder. It was there, right under our eyes, apparently, but we could not see it! ... It would have helped to know what a fish ladder actually looks like. At Trelissick Park, it is partly hidden in an old culvert through which water flows. The trail is ideal for families and dogs, and is sheltered from any wind, so we may come back for another club walk, perhaps, in summer this time.

5 July - Jassen

Our little group of intrepid card players met to an enjoyable afternoon again. You'd think having a Chnächt would make life easier; well, it can lead to confusion, too! We had many laughs, quite a few Matches – and Lotti's delicious Zwätschgewähe for afternoon tea. We are so glad your arm has healed and you can bake Zwätschgewähe again!

Forthcoming Events

August 1 – Lampion Umzug – Cortège

This year, there will be plenty of bonfires on Petone Beach, because the Winter Festival clashes with our

traditional bonfire. So we will have a little procession with lampions instead. We will meet at the end of Cuba Street by the seashore, with traditional Swiss lampions or homemade lanterns that the kids will have made at the Movie Day, and walk along the beach. A free event, that kids will enjoy, come and join us, no need to register!

August 8 - National Day Dinner

By now all club members will have been notified. We will meet at the club house in Wainuiomata at 5:30 for drinks and nibbles. Dinner will start from 6:30. Trudi is preparing a delicious surprise dessert! She tried it on the committee members, and we all loved it.

Please email wellingtonswissclub@gmail.co.nz to register. Those who register before Tuesday 4th will qualify for the early bird tariff, and all registrations have to be in by Thursday 6th.

September 6 – Jassen

The regular Jasser will be contacted. Newcomers are always welcome! Please ring Trudi on 56 28 019.

September 12 - Raclette

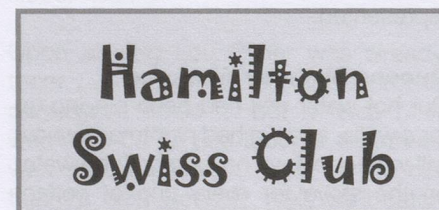
More details to come

October 4 - Jassen

The regular Jasser will be contacted. Newcomers are always welcome! Please ring Trudi on 56 28 019.

October 10 - Bernese Evening

Another of Roland's delicious meals, very popular, so don't forget to register before Tuesday 6 October to qualify for an early bird price. More details will be posted soon. OS



Past Events

300 meter shooting competition

23/24 May in Kaukapakapa
Another shooting event to organize and it looked as if the numbers were going to be at the lower end. As it got closer to the deadline I ended up with 21 participants. Fantastic turnout - a special thank you to the juniors and

newcomers for turning up!

As it got closer to the date it was obvious that sunshine was not going to be on the menu. I think it might have been one of the worst days we ever had with rain driving in so thick we couldn't see the targets. Well, it didn't stop us carrying on with the programme and I do feel a bit sorry for the newcomers experiencing such awful weather conditions. The dinner experience managed to lift spirits for a lot of us. Thank you Pia for an excellent roast and thank you to everyone else for the other contributions towards a successful dinner and breakfast menu! Sunday was only marginally better. Despite these conditions we managed to pull "a couple out of the bag". Martin Fitz was first equal in the overall ranking, taking out the overall silver medal as well as the junior cup. Very well done Martin! Paul Cooper, also a newcomer to this event came 4th in the overall ranking. Great result Paul, I know you had a huge handicap along with all the others who had to shoot at 3.30 on this awful Saturday afternoon.

I think it's appropriate to pass a thank you on to the old timers who just struggled with the light, however it's our support that's so critical to the success of this event. I do appreciate your support.

Thank you to Henry and his crew for running the event, the Hamilton Club for their support and to all the participants for turning up. I will put an order in for sunshine next time!

Have a good year! Hans

Many thanks to Hans for organising this very popular event once again!

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Swiss Club News

Society AGM and Cowbell Competition Finals

A contingent of just over 20 people headed to Wellington for Queen's Birthday weekend and most stayed at accommodation in the Lower Hutt area. Some of us attended the lovely dinner and quiz night on Saturday night and then the rest of us turned up for the competitions on Sunday morning. What a nail-biter – Hamilton just managing to sneak in by a couple of points in the Jass play-off. Congratulations to our loyal Hamilton participants – well done. Never an easy feat against the mighty Taranaki team! Following the competitions we were served a lovely lunch and soon it was time for the formalities of the AGM which was run very efficiently by President Tanja and her team of helpers. We all gathered again for the evening festivities and enjoyed another lovely meal together with some great entertainment and sing along. We also appreciated another very informative speech by the Ambassador Dr David Vogelsanger as well as the highlight for some of us – that is receiving the coveted Cowbell that Herbert proudly accepted and transported back to Hamilton to take to our forthcoming functions and show the rest of our Hamilton membership. Many thanks to the Wellington committee for hosting a great weekend and we all look forward to Auckland next year. AZ

Card Evenings

On the 1st of May, 38 card players arrived at the United Parish Church in Cambridge for another year of Card Evenings. Like last year, to avoid a very late night, we again used the total scores from the first three rounds of the regular Club card competition to count towards the Society Medal Jass, and a stamp on the score sheet showed the 30 players who this year chose to participate in this competition. And also as a repeat of last year, Bruno Rufer became the eventual winner of our first evening with a total score of 4151 points.

The second card evening on 15th May was attended by 40 players, with the first place going to Elisabeth Gaemperle with a very high score of 4338 points.

After a three week break due to the long Queen's Birthday Weekend, we had 36 card players at the third evening on 6th June, where Hanni Frischknecht was awarded first prize, scoring 4230 points. Two weeks later, 34 people attended the

fourth evening on 19th June, with Oskar Reichmuth taking home the first prize after scoring an impressive 4391 points, which also became the highest score of the year.

By this stage, the overall score list showed the top ten players were only about 300 points apart, so there were still a lot of contenders for that top prize of a 10 kg whole ham to take home.

On 3rd July, a very wet and windy Friday night, a lower than usual 28 players came along to our fifth and final card evening, which was eventually won by Hans Vetsch with another impressive score of 4380 points.

After taking a few minutes to tally the final nights' scores, the results of the Overall Competition were soon calculated. Beatrice announced Hans Vetsch as this year's overall winner with 16,535 points, one of the highest ever scores, and presented him with the ham (the trophy will be presented at the Fondue Evening in September). In a repeat of last year's placings, Oskar Reichmuth again came in second place with 16,036 points, (499 points behind Hans), whilst with just another six points less, Pia Russenberger was again third with 16,030 points.

A total of 12 prizes were awarded to the 31 card players who were eligible to participate in the overall competition.

Congratulations to Hans and all the prize winners from both the evening and overall competitions.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in organising and catering for the card evenings, particularly for the regular baking and help in the kitchen. The delicious suppers – sausages, savouries, fresh breads and all the home baking – are as popular as the actual card competitions and always an extra incentive for going out on a winter's night! Grateful thanks once again to Richard and Uli for coming along early every time to set up the tables and chairs, ensuring we can always get started on time; and also to Herbert for always bringing the bits and pieces needed from the Swisscraft storeroom. And, of course, a big thank you to everyone for donating the many extra prizes we received for both the evening and overall competitions.

Finally, thank you to all the card players for coming along to the card evenings

and participating - we can't do it without you and look forward to doing it all again next year!!! BL

Prize-winners of the five card evenings and overall competition are as follows:

First Card Evening, 1st May

| | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|
| 1) | Bruno Rufer | 4,151 |
| 2) | Ruth Waldvogel | 4,067 |
| 3) | Willetta Staheli | 3,987 |
| 4) | Heinz Leuenberger | 3,974 |
| 5) | Uli Elmiger | 3,968 |
| 6) | Marcel Meier | 3,938 |
| 7) | Freddy Walker | 3,933 |
| 8) | Richard Wehrle | 3,926 |
| 9) | Fritz Hasli | 3,901 |

Booby Prize

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Elisabeth Gaemperle | 3,371 |
|---------------------|-------|

I am researching Swiss settlement in New Zealand with a view to writing a history of the Swiss in New Zealand.

To assist with this research I would very much like to hear from you if

- you have access to diaries or letters (preferably translated into English) written by Swiss who arrived before 1945 about their experiences in New Zealand

- your family has lived in New Zealand a long time and a history of the family has been written

- you were born in Switzerland and you are prepared to answer a questionnaire related to your own experiences in migrating to New Zealand. This questionnaire is mainly ticking boxes and takes about fifteen minutes to complete. I can either send it by email or as a hard copy with a self addressed envelope. I will donate \$5.00 to your nominated Swiss Club or charity if yours is one of the first 200 completed questionnaires received.

I would also like to hear from anyone who has done or is doing similar or related research or who knows about the Helvetia settlement in South Auckland.

Joan Waldvogel (Dr)
3 Cardigan Way
Wilton, Wellington

forestbird@xtra.co.nz

Tel: 04 4757667

Swiss Club News

Second Card Evening, 15th May

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------|
| 1) | Elisabeth Gaemperle | 4,338 |
| 2) | Heidi Santner | 4,231 |
| 3) | Roland Rufer | 4,097 |
| 4) | Lina Rufer | 4,045 |
| 5) | Pia Russenberger | 3,997 |
| 6) | Gabriella Burch | 3,993 |
| 7) | Max Schwitzer | 3,973 |
| 8) | Rosli Schurmann | 3,960 |
| 9) | Arthur Matti | 3,937 |
| 10) | Theresa Fitzi | 3,907 |
| 11) | Angus Forsythe | 3,888 |
| Booby Prize | | |
| Freddy Walker | | 3,168 |

Third Card Evening, 5th June

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|
| 1) | Hanna Frischknecht | 4,230 |
| 2) | Hans Vetsch | 4,218 |
| 3) | Rosli Schurmann | 4,128 |
| 4) | Erika Bolli | 4,063 |
| 5) | George Russenberger | 4,046 |
| 6) | Beatrice Leuenberger | 4,022 |
| 7) | Willetta Staheli | 3,977 |
| 8) | Pia Russenberger | 3,961 |
| 9) | Richard Wehrle | 3,945 |
| 10) | Fritz Hasli | 3,933 |
| 11) | Rita Braem | 3,920 |
| 12) | Theresa Fitzi | 3,916 |
| Booby Prize | | |
| Marcel Meier | | 3,271 |

Fourth Card Evening, 19th June

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------|
| 1) | Oskar Reichmuth | 4,391 |
| 2) | Robert Frischknecht | 4,222 |
| 3) | George Russenberger | 4,096 |
| 4) | Hans Vetsch | 4,087 |
| 5) | Heidi Eschmann | 4,034 |
| 6) | Erika Bolli | 4,023 |
| 7) | Heidi Santner | 3,980 |
| 8) | Elisabeth Gaemperle | 3,955 |
| 9) | Pia Russenberger | 3,936 |
| Booby Prize | | |
| Richard Wehrle | | 3,309 |

Fifth Card Evening, 4th July

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1) | Hans Vetsch | 4,380 |
| 2) | Oskar Reichmuth | 4,146 |
| 3) | Pia Russenberger | 4,131 |
| 4) | Hanna Frischknecht | 4,070 |
| 5) | Erika Bolli | 3,994 |
| 6) | Hanspeter Burch | 3,988 |
| 7) | Richard Wehrle | 3,946 |
| 8) | Freddy Walker | 3,918 |
| 9) | Ruth Baumberger | 3,892 |
| 10) | Rosli Schurmann | 3,854 |
| Booby Prize | | |
| Rita Braem | | 3,187 |

Are you interested in the electronic version of the Helvetia ?
Please advise Nelly Steinemann at
nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz.

Overall Competition - 2015

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|--------|
| 1) | Hans Vetsch | 16,535 |
| 2) | Oskar Reichmuth | 16,036 |
| 3) | Pia Russenberger | 16,030 |
| 4) | Hanna Frischknecht | 15,981 |
| 5) | Erika Bolli | 15,956 |
| 6) | Rosli Schurmann | 15,789 |
| 7) | Heidi Santner | 15,756 |
| 8) | Richard Wehrle | 15,614 |
| 9) | Robert Frischknecht | 15,561 |
| 10) | Theresa Fitzi | 15,510 |
| 11) | George Russenberger | 15,489 |
| 12) | Heinz Leuenberger | 15,426 |

A big thank you to Beatrice for attending all five card evenings and organising the entries, scores, overall results, prizes and sausages for sale etc!

Forthcoming Events

Fondue Evening will again be held at the Matangi Hall on Saturday 19th September, 7pm. A newsletter will be sent to all our members a couple of weeks before and it is essential that you return your booking promptly. This function is always very popular and will also include medal and trophy presentations.

Film Afternoon will be held on Sunday 18th October at the Tivoli Theatre in Cambridge. The film will be "Kaeserei Goldingen" and this will be followed by refreshments. Further details in the next newsletter and tickets must be pre-purchased either at the Fondue Evening or by contacting Beatrice or Anita.
AZ



Past Events

AGM Auckland Swiss Club 18 May

30 of us members attended a well run meeting. Fortunately we can look back on another successful club year: Our functions were well attended, and the Market Day was a hit again. Finances are in good order, the shooting section is doing well, and the farm has seen many upgrades, including a new concrete water tank, and improvements to playground. Repair to the flying fox is still to be done.

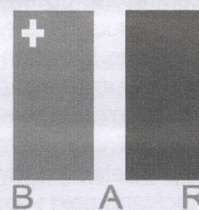
Our committee has seen some changes: Thanks to our secretary Sabine Wyss who left for Switzerland earlier in the year, our long standing treasurer Carmen Fitzi-Gordon, and our committee member Ursula Nixon. Best wishes to you all. We welcome our new secretary Daniela Bossard, our treasurer Tobi Egli, and Maggie Amacher who also joined the committee. Adrian our president, as well as Alex and Martin Beskid our vice-presidents continue in their roles, great to know. Thank you all, we could not do without you!

We look forward to another good year, and hope our members enjoy the variety the club has to offer. Please do give us your suggestions!

AGM Swiss Society of New Zealand, Queens Birthday weekend

A delegation of 8 Aucklanders had the pleasure of attending the festivities of the NZ Swiss Society. For those not in the know, that's the Umbrella Organisation of the four North Island Swiss Clubs.

TAKAPUNA



Expect an intimate, non-pretentious environment with warm, friendly service and a great selection of beers, wines and cocktails!

Whether it's to watch the game, a big night out or a first date, Takapuna Bar is the best place on the shore for it all.

Weekly events include open mic night, live bands with ample indoor and outdoor seating. So whether you want to cosy up on the couches inside or just sit and watch the world go by outside, look no further!

Looking forward to welcoming you
Your Swiss hosts:
Andrea & Peter

Happy Hour Mon - Wed
4 - 7pm
House Wine & Tap Beer \$7.0

2 Anzac Street, Takapuna, 09 486 2666,
takapunabar@xtra.co.nz

Swiss Club News

Wellington put on an amazing welcome for us in their hall in Wainuiomata. I don't know how they managed the catering for such a large group of attendants, and offer us beautiful meals as well as entertainment. The Swiss Quiz was very cleverly thought out and run. Thank you so much Wellingtonians, you are amazing. Other highlights for me were catching up with friends from the other clubs (thank you very much Wellington for giving us name tags – I know so many faces, but the names just hide in an obscure corner of my brain). I never cease to be impressed by the way some of you people have been New Zealanders for two or three generations, but maintain your Swiss-ness at the same time. Of course the AGM was the official excuse for the get-together, and a very valid one too. For me it was particularly interesting to hear Peter Ehrler talk about very pertinent issues of Swiss abroad.

Another good part of the weekend was my accommodation: I chose to stay at an 'airbnb'. If you have never tried this, I can very much recommend it: A more casual and much cheaper version of the traditional B&B. If all hosts are as friendly as mine was, it's an ideal way to meet the locals, and learn about the surroundings.

I do look forward to seeing our friends again at next year's AGM in Auckland, and hope we will give them as many happy memories as we got.

Nelly Steinemann

Film evening Friday 5 June

We were delighted to see 30 members come and join us to see the Movie "Leben auf Kredit". When a young woman with an expensive lifestyle managed to get 2 mortgages for grannies farm but can't pay it back she needs to pull all strings to get it right again. A funny approach to the Swiss Banks and also the financial crisis from 2005. We all laughed and enjoyed some coffee & tea and very nice cakes afterwards. Thanks for coming along, we will do it again.

Jassen Friday 12 June

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|
| 1st | Adrian Blaser | 4220 |
| 2nd | Louis Wallimann | 4083 |
| 3rd | Heidi Wilson | 4047 |
| 4th | Berta Good | 3951 |
| 5th | Lynne Dunphy | 3922 |
| 6th | Andrew Iten | 3918 |
| 7th | Franz Krieger | 3815 |
| 8th | Kurt Binder | 3779 |
| 9th | Heinz Frei | 3764 |
| 10th | Ian Gordon | 3736 |
| 11th | Marie-Theres Melville | 3677 |
| 12th | Hilda Iten | 3618 |

| | | |
|------|------------------|------|
| 13th | Fidel Good | 3617 |
| 14th | Hans Iten | 3615 |
| 15th | Carmen Gordon | 3599 |
| 16th | Edith Hess | 3541 |
| 17th | Nelly Steinemann | 3487 |
| 18th | Barbara Gabour | 3435 |

Pub night Friday 03 July, Takapuna Bar

Unfortunately only 3 committee members turned up for the Pub Night. We spent a very enjoyable winter evening in the warm and comfortable 'Takapuna Bar', with Andrea and Peter who had taken over the business last year. We found it very interesting to get a glimpse of what is involved in running a bar in Auckland - far more than meets the eye. Andrea and Peter do a great job, we warmly recommend for you to have an evening in pleasant surroundings, be it for a quiet chat, or their 'open mic' night on Tuesday, 'international night' on Wednesday, or enjoy a band on Thursday. Or savour a nice meal any time. See web or Facebook for what's on. We hope to see more people at upcoming events. Please let us know what you would like us to do. We don't quite know where to go from here, so please let one of the committee members know.

Jassen Friday 10 July

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|
| 1st | Adrian Blaser | 4083 |
| 2nd | Marie-Theres Melville | 4003 |
| 3rd | Berta Good | 3830 |
| 4th | Heidi Wilson | 3791 |
| 5th | Louis Wallimann | 3726 |
| 6th | Walter Haller | 3713 |
| 7th | Heinz Frei | 3674 |
| 8th | Edith Hess | 3580 |
| 9th | Fidel Good | 3512 |

Forthcoming Events

National Day Celebration Saturday 01 August

You will have received your invitation, and hopefully have reserved your space. By the time this Helvetia comes out, it may well be fully booked.

Pub night Friday 07 August

We will meet at 8pm at Flight 605 Bar in Kingsland. Gary Keller, the owner, is one of our newest members in the club. See www.flight605bar.co.nz for more details. Address is: 605 New N Rd, Kingsland.

Jassen Friday 14 August 7.30pm

at the Danish House, 6 Rockridge Avenue, Penrose
We look forward to catching up over a game or two.

Kaffeekränzli & The Great SWISS BAKE OFF

Sunday, 20 September 2015
2 – 4 PM
at the Danish hall, Penrose

If you love baking you should enter the competition and bedazzle everybody with your creation.

Note this date in your diary.
More information to follow soon.

*

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Swiss Club News

Pub night Friday 04 September

See website for details, or check on your email

Jassen Friday 11 September 7.30pm

at the Danish House, 6 Rockridge Avenue, Penrose

What better thing to do to mark the start of the weekend, than a bit of fun and competition.

Rollerblading Sunday afternoon 13 September

We had this event a few years back and it was so much fun we decided to do it again. Meet at 1.45 pm at the Skateland at 66 Mountain Rd, Mt Wellington.

Cost: Entry charge \$6, Skate hire \$3, Spectators Free! The club will try to book a party room and then we can

have a shared afternoon (BYO food and drinks).

'Kaffeekränzli' & The Great Swiss Bake Off

Sunday 20 September, Danish House
An afternoon of musical entertainment with Emil Tellenbach and the ladies choir, in conjunction with a cake baking competition. Further details will be provided on the website and via email.

Looking ahead further

Friday 02 October – Film
Friday 09 October – Jass
Friday 06 November – Pub night
Friday 13 November – Jass
Saturday 28 Nov – Working bee
Sunday 06 December – Santa comes to the farm

D Hobbygärtner

Wër im Garte Blueme pflanzet
Oder Chabis und Binätsch
Isch au deet gëern wo me tanzet,
Froogemuet, und ohni Lätsch.

Ali wo gëern Grüezi säged,
zfride sind mit Frau und Chind,
sind gwüss Lüüt, wo Gärte pfläged,
vole Fröid – nid nu so gschwind.

Wër im Läbe gleert hät waarte,
hëre staa, und öppis tue,
pflägd dihäime gwüss en Gaarte
won em d Stilli bringt und Rue.

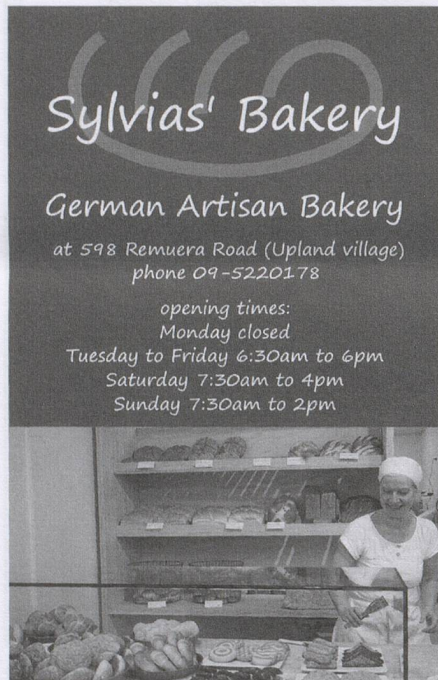
Gaartebou, als Hobby trybe,
Macht äim gäischtig gsund und zwääg.
Isch äim na es Ränzli plybe:
S Gaartejäte bringts ewääg.

Drum, ir guete Lüüt, stönd zäme!
Pflanzed, hacket, läsed uuf,
nämed d Frücht und d Blueme zä me
Und wäns Hërbscht wird – höred uuf.

S Fröid würkt wyters, au im Winter,
wänn der Garte dusse früürt.
Mänge hät dur das vil gschwinder
syni äigni Ryffi gspüürt.

Häsch Du ekän äigne Garte
wo t chasch läbe, anonüm?
Mach dos öppis, statt nu waarte:
Fröi Di doch am Nachbar sym.

By Willy Peter
from Landuuf, Landab (1981-1982)



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Sunday 7:30am to 2pm



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