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be crafts and biscuit decorating for the children followed by a BBQ lunch, Santa, raffle sales and afternoon tea. This is a function for young and old alike so come along and spread a bit of Christmas cheer with family and friends. Donations for the raffle table will be kindly welcomed as well as some baking for afternoon tea. Lunch and presents will be provided by the club.

For further information please contact Beatrice 07 843 7971, email bea.leun@xtra.co.nz or Anita on 0274 985 170 (phone or text) or email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz

Swiss Citizens in South Island

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elisabeth Helm-Rueggsegger for sending us an e-mail and letting us know about the Swiss community in the greater Dunedin area. Here is what she had to say:

Otago Swiss Community Celebrates 1st August 2016

In Otago we operate as an informal group rather than a club and we have 325 registered Swiss Nationals with the Swiss Embassy.

We have been meeting around 1st August for more than 40 years and this year we had 65 people present including children. It was lovely to see how many young couples and young families came along.

The celebration started on the 1st August with pre drinks followed by a children's lantern walk. Dinner was a traditional Swiss meal under the guidance of Otago Polytechnic's Swiss chef, finishing with a stunning Zuger Kirschtorte.

During the evening each family introduced themselves explaining their origins and when they arrived in New Zealand. It was great to see folk from the Swiss French, Swiss Italian and Swiss German areas present.

Later on song sheets were handed out and we all joined in with singing traditional Swiss songs. The Swiss decorations and background music added to another memorable evening.

We here at Swiss Society of New Zealand, and by association "The Helvetia", hope to have more of you as members and regular readers of The Helvetia, a bargain at \$25 per year for 6 issues!!! In the meantime we wish you, our fellow Swiss, all the best on the "Mainland" – Editor Heidi Wehrle

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