

Swiss Club news

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Swiss Club News

Auckland Swiss Club

Past Events

January, Swiss Farmers Visits
The Auckland Swiss Club hosted 3 groups of Swiss Farmers on a guided tour to NZ. On their start to the NZ holiday they visited West Auckland and stopped at our farm to have a chat with committee and club members over some drinks and nibbles. The feedback was very positive and also our members enjoyed the interaction. The committee thanks everyone who turned up and helped making a positive impression on our visitors.

10 February, Monthly Jass

Nelly Steinemann	4243
Emil Tellenbach	4234
Heidi Wilson	4189
Marie-Therese Melville	4070
Fidel Good	3903
Lynne Dunphy	3890
Andrew Iten	3890
Carmen Fitz-Gordon	3864
Heinz Frei	3838
Hans Iten	3634
Ian Gordon	3617
Berta Good	3605
Jane Coughlan	3598
Edith Hess	3586
Franz Krieger	3556
Hilde Iten	3532
Otmar Wyss	3481



This Easter at the Swiss Café and Bakery we have a wide range of home-made, hand-crafted chocolate Easter goodies including bunnies, chocolate eggs filled with loose truffles and our delicious hot-cross buns. **With every purchase from our home-made Easter range you go into the draw to win a giant Easter bunny valued at \$175.** Prize will be drawn on Thursday 13 April.

Café will be closed:

Good Friday, Easter Sunday & Monday

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26 February, Beach Party

The Beach party at Long Bay had a very poor turnout. Apart from our president and his daughter Fiona only 8 more people turned up. Thanks to those who came, but with these numbers it's probably time to stop these beach parties.

Please can we have some feedback what functions members want? Thanks

Forthcoming Events

7 April: Jass; Please note that we have the Jass one week earlier as the 2nd Friday is Good Friday.

8 April: Shooting at the Swiss Farm

30 April: Cowbell Semi Final against Hamilton in Hamilton. If you can help out at Jass, bowling and/or Shot put please let the committee know

5 May: Pub Night at Zookeepers Inn, Royal Oak

6 May: Market Day
8.00 am to 3.00pm
6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Come and enjoy the amazing Swiss atmosphere and traditions such as yodling & Alphorn playing and taste some of the delicious foods that our beautiful country has to offer!

As a special treat, we will have lots of new products this year like the Swiss Laurastar irons, Flauder, "Möhl" apple juice and "Quöllfrish Bier" from Appenzell It will be another amazing and memorable Swiss Market Day!

For further information visit our facebook page

or contact Tanja on 021 101 4432
www.facebook.com/swissmarketday

12 May: Jass

14 May: Shooting at the Swiss Farm

15 May: Auckland Swiss Club AGM
Please turn up and help shape the future of the club

3-5 June: Swiss Society AGM in Hamilton, let us know if you can come and have a strong presence of the Auckland Swiss Club

Wanted:

Your German / Swiss books and anything Swiss, for sale at the Market day.

Give a new life to your old Fondue Set, your Swiss dress, your German books, anything Swiss. We have a stand at the Market day where we sell those items. All proceeds go to the Auckland Swiss Club. If you find anything suitable at the back of your cupboard, contact Nelly: nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz or leave message at 09 4794038.



Saturday 6 May 2017
8am to 3pm
6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Come and enjoy the amazing Swiss atmosphere and traditions such as yodling & Alphorn playing and taste some of the delicious foods that our beautiful country has to offer!

As a special treat, we will have lots of new products this year like Swiss Laurastrar irons, Flauder, "Möhl" Apple cider and "Quöllfrish Bier" from Appenzell

The Swiss Kiwi Yodel Goup, the Guggemusik and the traditional St. Bernard & Bernese mountain dogs will make sure we are entertained.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For further info visit us on www.facebook.com/swissmarketday or call Tanja on 021 101 4432

Swiss Club News

Hamilton Swiss Club

Past Events

50 meter Shooting Competition was held on Saturday 18th February at Elmiger's property in Karapiro. This year's shooting event will go down as the worst weather-wise but one of the best when looking at the shooting results. We set up early on Saturday and enjoyed an hour of good weather. After that we had several torrential downpours making the event a bit of a washout.

My apologies to the people who couldn't shoot due to the conditions and we will have to do better next year. The participation was actually still very good with 24 competitors completing the program and about 8 who decided to turn it down due to the wet conditions. We had 1 junior, 6 ladies and 14 men competing. The top four scores will count for the interclub competition and with a total of 295 points it has to be the best result we've had so far. Let's see if this is enough to beat the opposition!! The shooting champion for 2017 is Walter Zuber with 76 points. Well done Walter.

Also many thanks to Belinda and Paul Cooper for donating the new ladies shooting trophy. This will be presented at our fondue evening together with other trophies.

As usual we were very well looked after by the Elmiger's and I would like to thank them on behalf of all the shooters for opening their home to us and feeding us. Thank you also to all the participants and I do hope the weather will be kinder to us next year.

300 meter shooting - Please don't forget the 300 meter shooting weekend on 27th and 28th of May - mark in your diary now. I will be in touch a bit closer to the event. Hans Vetsch (Riflemaster).

Family Picnic was held on Sunday 19th February at the Newstead School and again one of the worst weather-wise. We had rain all week and the forecast didn't look great but while we had a huge sausage and Zwetschge order we couldn't postpone it. The school is quite

well set up with a bit of shelter so it was a lot of compromise as to where we could set up and cook and serve the food. Lots of people still turned up and some hovered under umbrellas while most were in the school hall. We sold out of sausages and baking so all in all it was a successful day. Unfortunately we only had a few people participate in bowling in between showers and the shot-put didn't even get underway. For those who missed out please come along to our Cowbell Semi-Final Day on 30th April - see details under Forthcoming Events below.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out on the day. For some it was rather trying conditions trying to serve people in rather cramped or wet conditions. We can only hope for better weather next year.

Forthcoming Events

7th - 9th April - Ruapehu weekend of hiking and socialising, staying in bunk-style accommodation at the Tokoroa Hut with a number of walks and tracks to suit various ages and levels of fitness. Please contact Herbert on 021962708 if you would like to reserve a place in the hut or for shared transport options.

Sunday 30th April - Cowbell semi-final and Club AGM. This year Hamilton Club is hosting Auckland with a 10am start at Swisscraft premises, 33-39 Colombo Street, Frankton (behind McDonalds). Participants are needed to compete in the bowling, cards and shot-put (where some really strong men would be appreciated!) - so please contact Herbert on 07 847-7220 or 021962708.

About 1pm there will be opportunity for medal bowling and shotput for those who missed out at the picnic. If time allows we will also do trophy bowling. Afternoon tea will be served around 3pm followed by our Annual General Meeting at about 4pm followed by a light dinner. Please come along and support your committee and maybe even consider helping out in the coming year. Please bring a plate either for morning or afternoon tea. The club committee will be providing lunch and a light dinner.

5th May - First card evening at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge - commencing promptly at 7.30pm. Society Medal Jass

competition is on the first evening only and will consist of the total points from the first three rounds.

19th May - Second card evening, 7.30pm - same venue each time.

27th and 28th May - 300 meter Shooting Weekend in Kaukapakapa. This weekend is set aside for Hamilton members to complete the annual shooting programme. For further information or to book please contact Hans Vetsch - phone 07 855-3294 or 021658733.

3rd and 4th June - Swiss Society AGM to be held in Hamilton. Every four years our club has a turn at hosting this event. Check details elsewhere in this issue of the Helvetia and any Hamilton members wishing to attend either the Saturday or Sunday evening functions will need to register with Anita 0274985170 (text or phone) or email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz

You are welcome to attend the AGM, 2pm at the Matangi Hall without prior booking. Any extra baking would also be much appreciated over this weekend as we will be hosting the finals of the Cowbell Competition as well as providing lunch, two dinners and morning and afternoon tea.

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 AZ

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Swiss Club News

Taranaki Swiss Club

Past Events

On New Years' Eve just over 40 campervans descended on the Swiss Club grounds in Kaponga ... great to see so many 'free-wheelers' arrive (thanks Berta Hughes for promoting our function). Happy hour was enjoyed by all, with chatting, fun and laughter reverberating around the grounds. The entertainment started around 8.00pm with a few Swissies joining the crowd. The varied entertainment was fantastic, with the Swiss singers (joined by Judy) a favourite. A delicious supper was held before the New Year was upon us, and soon the hall started to empty out. Many thanks to the campervanners who helped out ... we really appreciated your assistance. Also grateful thanks to Ruedi and Lisette who organised this function ... it's always well-organised and so much fun!!!

Keglen has recommenced under the guidance of our dedicated leader, Heidi, who would love to see a few more participants ... the more people that take part, the better the competition ... so come along and give it a go. They don't just play the sport; they have heaps of fun and much laughter!!!

On the 11th of February we held the semi-final competition against Wellington, which was quite a timid affair this year. Sadly only six people competed from Wellington ... but wait for it ... they still won!!! We outmuscled them in the shot put (thanks Thomas and Daniel, we appreciate you coming!) and won the cards. Unfortunately our keglers weren't as accurate as other times, and the same can be said for our shooters (the Ambassador making a huge difference ... well done, David!) ... so then there was the 'aus-jassen', and sadly Josie and Heidis' luck and skill must all have been used in the preliminary round!!! Our thanks to the Wellingtonians who came and competed or cheered on their members, and grateful thanks to all the Taranaki competitors who tried their best. We will look forward to the trip south next year, looking for revenge!!! Late afternoon Othmar arrived with a Swiss Tour Group of 44 people, who are touring around our beautiful coun-

try. Happy hour was shared with everyone, and then a delicious dinner of 'aufschnitt', potatoes, a variety of cheeses and salads were enjoyed by everyone. The variety of salads was absolutely amazing, and they all tasted superb!!! Thank you to the ladies for their culinary delights!!! The night wasn't too late, as everyone was going to be back in the morning for the famous picnic!!!

Come Sunday morning we were all hoping for a beautiful day ... and we weren't disappointed ... however people from New Plymouth and East Taranaki were so surprised with the fine Kaponga weather, as they had left home in the rain!!! Approximately 400 people attended this year, with people from Switzerland and America revelling in the Swiss traditions we still uphold ... together with members from the Wellington (including our Ambassador David Vogelsanger who gave an interesting speech), Auckland and Hamilton Swiss Clubs, and our own members from as far afield as Turangi and Hastings ... thank you ALL for coming. What a marvellous occasion to have so many people come to!!! Thank you to everyone who helped set up the activities and erect the gazebos ... you're amazing! Soon the waft of barbequed bratwursts and cervelas filled the air ... amid the sounds of Swiss music played by Peter, Aaron, Zeno and Bernard (you guys are so talented and we're so very lucky to have you ... thank you). Many thanks to those who helped with the barbeque and also the barmen who sold many beverages, ice blocks and ice creams ... your dedication is admirable!!! Huge thanks to Stratford New World for kindly donating the bread for the barbeque and to Silver Fern Farms for allowing us the use of their big barbeque; we do appreciate your support.

The children were entertained by the fishing (thanks so much Mark), the bouncy castle (grateful thanks to Reg and Rose), Larin with the horses which the children all enjoyed, and our new playground (huge thanks to Lou for his extremely generous donation, and to Othmar and his helpers for erecting the playground).

Marcus was meticulous with his measurements in the shot put, with the men's trophy going to Thomas Werder with a throw of 7.55m, and the ladies cup to Chelsea Heal with a throw of 6.1m. Well done!!! Very soon the Schwingen (swiss wrestling) got underway under the guidance of Martin, Silvia and Sonja ... there were plenty of tough battles

out there, and we thank all the competitors very much for taking part, for without you there would be no competition. Unfortunately Jakob Whakatutu landed uncomfortably on his arm, and this resulted in an awful injury to his elbow ... we do hope that your recovery is going well, and that you will soon be able to do everything you did before. We were very grateful to Jan Weinberger whose expertise was invaluable as a first aid officer. The eventual winner in the seniors was Sami Werder who won a hard-fought battle against Erwin Hebler and third was Thomas Werder (glad to see you respect your elder brother sometimes!!!). In the junior section Michael Appert prevailed over Trevor Walker with Ryan Buhler third. A big thanks to Antoni Sherman for providing the hay bales which people love sitting on to watch the wrestling.

The tombola (raffle) tickets were sold, with winners collecting some neat prizes ... thanks to Erna and Heidi for organising the prizes and to Lisette who so diligently rolls up the tickets (a very onerous job). Late in the afternoon it was becoming apparent that we had better pack up otherwise we would get wet ... and once again, many thanks to all those who helped ... it's a pretty big job, and many hands make light work!!! Wonderful to see some of the younger generation helping out too!!!

About 120 people stayed for dinner of lasagne and salads ... well, we had enough lasagne for 200 people ... but we just didn't want to run out!!! Many thanks to all those who contributed to this, and then to the many people who helped with the untold dishes!!! Your help was really, truly appreciated!!! Music was again played and enjoyed, together with the alhorn blowing and tahlerschwingen ... another great night!!!

On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club I would like to thank everyone who came to our picnic, and most importantly everyone who helped out on the day to ensure the success of this fantastic day ... your support is appreciated. Another big thank you must go to Johnny and Mark who are our wonderful caretakers (the lawns looked terrific) and also to Zeno who put up his beautiful hanging baskets which added so much colour ... thanks guys you are truly amazing!!! Good luck to Johnny for his upcoming hip replacement operation; we do hope all goes well!!!

On Monday members from the Wellington Swiss Club, including our Am-

Swiss Club News

bassador, participated in some of the Karabiner Shooting programmes ... by all accounts a good days' shooting, and thanks to Bryce and his team for making this event possible.

Othmar headed south with the group of Swiss travellers and to the South Island where they enjoyed some spectacular weather and scenery. Othmar would like to thank the people who hosted the tour group while in Taranaki, and all those who contributed to make these visitors' stay in Taranaki an unforgettable event. The tourists really had a great time with us and appreciated the Naki hospitality.

We welcome the following members to our Club – Tom and Anne Butler from Hawera – we hope you enjoy participating in our events and we look forward to seeing more of you in the near future. If anyone wishes to join our Club, please ring Marianne on 06 7628757 or Othmar on 06 2786878. We have a variety of activities and functions for your enjoyment, and love to see new faces ... as well as our regulars!!!

Forthcoming Events

We will be holding a Special General Meeting in the near future to pass a new set of rules as our existing ones are now archaic, so please keep an eye out for this meeting. A copy of the new rules will be sent to all members several weeks prior to the meeting.

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April

6 & 20 Keglen at the Swiss Club from 7.30pm ... come along and take part!

9 & 23 Jassen recommences during the winter months under the watchful eye of our Jassen guru Walter!!! Please come along and participate ... there's plenty of fun, and some serious business!!! Please bring a plate for afternoon tea, and then perhaps you would like a few further games of cards!!!

23 Small bore shooting spearheaded by Mark ... you can shoot the Society Shoot and / or the Championship Shoot. Shooting starts at 1.00pm, so come along and participate.

23 This is the last day to order sausages, so please make sure that you have rung Marianne on 06 7628757 or Lisette on 06 7628718 with your list of delectable goodies. We do appreciate your timeliness, as these orders have become huge necessitating good organisation!!! Thank you!!!

May

4 & 18 Keglen from 7.30pm ... enjoy some sport, a chat, and a laugh ... plenty of fun!!!

6 Our popular fondue evening is tonight!!! Fondue and / or sausages and an amazing selection of salads are on offer. The meals will be served from 6.00pm to 8.00pm ... a delicious meal, excellent company and great entertainment awaits you!!! Please remember to book by the 29th of April to Marianne on 06 7628757, Erna on 06 2788476 or Heidi on 06 2734286.

21 The Swiss Society competitions will commence at 11.00am with beautiful medals up for grabs ... try your hand at keglen (9 pin bowling), small bore shooting, shot put and jassen (swiss cards) with the top 20% in each discipline receiving a medal. There is a separate section for juniors, so come along families and support this fun "swiss" sports day!!! If you wish to participate in the Championship Shoot, this starts at 1.00pm. A wonderful, social day for all ... and the children can enjoy the new playground!!!

28 Jassen again ... come and join in!!!

June

3 – 5 Hamilton will be hosting the final of the Cowbell Competition (which sadly we won't be in!!!) and the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. As Oth-

mar will be away, please contact Heidi or Marianne if you wish to attend. This is always a fun weekend, amid friends from our three other North Island clubs, so please make the effort to attend.

The new calendar of events and newsletter for the 2017/2018 year will have been sent out in March ... so please if you have any Swiss friends who may be keen to attend an event and / or become a member, let Marianne know and she will send out the information.

Also if you haven't received the Swiss Club information please let Marianne know. The committee looks forward to your participation in as many events as possible ... it makes our job more pleasurable!!! MD



Past Events

8 January: Jassen

We started the new year well and even had a Dreikönigskuchen. Unfortunately, the König wasn't found. Anyway, we are not used to royalty; but a bit of wisdom – the three Kings were actually not kings, but wise men – is always welcome. We had a good afternoon, though some of our players were away on holiday or had visitors.

21 January: Medal Competition Cards

We decided to hold the Cowbell competition events on the same weekend as the barbequ with Mr André Blattmann.

The usual card players had all said they weren't interested in Medal Jassen, but just to give everybody a chance for a medal, all Jassers were invited to come at 1 pm to compete. Well, at 1 pm exactly one player arrived: Hans Scherrer. Thank you very much, Hans for being such a faithful supporter of our club! We had a cup of coffee – and waited, and waited. No other Jassers showed up. Roland came around 2 pm and was very relieved that Hans Scherrer offered to help with the preparations for the evening BBQ instead of playing cards; maybe Hans should be awarded a medal for peeling carrots? He didn't have many competitors there either.

Swiss Club News

Saturday 21 January- Barbecue with Korpskommandant André Blattmann

The Wellington Swiss Club had the rare privilege of hosting the outgoing Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces, André Blattmann, for a barbecue with the club members.

Mr Blattmann presented a lively and heartfelt account of our national militia in the 21st century. He and his wife were on holiday in New Zealand, and are friends with the Ambassador David Vogelsanger who had served under his command.

At a little more than 100,000 conscripts, the Swiss Armed Forces are a fraction of their former size of 750,000. Lt General Blattmann explained that the focus for the military today is the protection of Switzerland's critical infrastructure drawing on advanced equipment and technology, including drones for surveillance and cybersecurity. To maintain the number of troops every year 18,500 recruits are needed, for nine years of service; expressions of interest are welcome. Of note is that the Armed Forces enjoy a very high level of popular support in Switzerland currently, a reflection of the turbulent world in which we live.

5 February: Jassen

It seemed to be still holiday time! We had a pleasant afternoon though and kept our brains active, playing three against three, with two packs of cards and a lot of surprises! Nice to have a new player; we hope you become a regular, Daniel!

11/12 February: Semi-Final of the Cowbell Competition and Taranaki Picnic

Saturday was the day of the competition. It didn't look too hopeful for us; what could the few of us do against all these young, strong Taranaki Swiss? Once again it was the Scherrer/Jordan family who got us off to a good start: "We" won the Bowling! Actually, the Scherrer/Jordans did it for us – thank you! In Shotput we lost against Taranaki; they won with a big margin. Then it came to shooting. The Scherrer/Jordan family did their very best, but so did the Taranaki shooters. Luckily, our president and the ambassador – though he is the ambassador for all Swiss in New Zealand, he is a member of the Wellington club – tipped the balance in our favour. Cards – well, luck or skill? Taranaki won. So now it was a draw, and the winner had to be decided by Uusjasse. Again: luck or skill? We won – which means we have reached the final, to be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend in Hamilton. We need a strong contingent, as competing in

Hamilton against Hamilton or Auckland won't be easy! After all this effort we had a sumptuous buffet dinner with I don't know how many delicious salads and cold meat and plenty of cheese and the best Gschwelli I had for a long time! After a few games of cards (and a little detour) we got home safely.

After a good night's sleep we were soon back at the hall for the picnic. The flags were flying, Zeno's flower baskets were beautiful; music (and the smell of Bratwurst and Cervelat) filled the air. The sawdust for the Schwingers and the hay bales for the spectators were ready, and there was time to meet old and new friends and catch up, and tombola tickets contained many words of wisdom and valuable and varied prizes. How many Lööslis did you roll, Lisette?

Soon it was dinner time. The Taranaki women, young and old, had prepared lasagne for about 200 guests. How did they do it? They prepared it at home and warmed it up in just about all Kaponga kitchen ovens; hot lasagne arrived miraculously from everywhere. Many guests went back for a second (and third?) helping and there was enough for everybody – and yes, a great variety of salads again! Thank you all for the wonderful food, the great atmosphere – and thank you for all the work you put into it! And you did it all with a smile – no, with many smiles, young and old. We'll be back – and we'll try and learn how it is done...

19 February

Family Day was cancelled

This is the first time it happens since I am in Wellington. The beloved, long-awaited Family Day at Heinz and Trix Jaggi had to be cancelled due to the weather. That Sunday's weather was actually acceptable, compared to the horrible summer we had had so far, but the ground was full of water from the previous week's rain and the playground was slippery, forcing Heinz and Trix to make the executive decision to cancel this year.

Future Events

Jassen Our next Sunday Afternoon Jassen are on 2nd April and 7th May; the usual players will be contacted. If you want to join us, ring Trudi on 56 28 019; we'll be delighted to have more seasoned jassers!

Sunday 9 April – Eggs painting

We will colour eggs the traditional way, with onion peels. Registration is not necessary but it helps to let Odile know you are coming (wellingtonswissclub@

gmail.com) just in case we need to cancel the event unexpectedly. Bring eggs (raw!) and beautiful leaves to decorate.

Sunday 30 April – AGM

An invitation will come soon. The more members present the more new ideas we can explore. We are happy to take suggestions for new events for the coming year and need new committee members.

Saturday 20 May – Fondue

This will be our first fondue of the year! Children and friends curious to try our Swiss specialty are welcome. We will start the evening with a glass of mulled wine and end with some yummy dessert. Please register with Odile (wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com)

Obituary



Mavis Schuler

23 March 1922 – 13 January 2017

Mavis was born in Eltham on the 23rd of March 1922, with her heritage being English and Scottish. In 1939 Mavis married Lou Schuler at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Manaia. They lived for 22 years in Kapuni where Lou owned a concrete business. In 1961 the family moved to Hawera.

Initially Mavis' culinary and card playing skills weren't great. However with the older Swiss ladies at the time giving her recipes and tips, together with Mavis' determination to grasp these skills, she soon became an adept and proficient cook and Jass player. These pastimes she enjoyed for many years.

In 1984 Mavis, with her daughter Margaret, enjoyed an interesting and fabulous trip to Switzerland, and she also appreciated several trips to Australia.

Mavis' Requiem Mass was held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Hawera, and she was then laid to rest with Lou and their son Raymond. Mavis leaves a daughter, Margaret; 5 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren and 11 great, great grandchildren.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to Mavis' family.