

Swiss Club news

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Swiss Club News

Auckland Swiss Club

Past Events

Friday, 10 March, Monthly Jass

1st	Hansruedi Wolf	4283
2nd	Adrian Blaser	4013
3rd	Andrew Iten	4012
4th	Tobias Egli	3979
5th	Nelly Steinemann	3902
6th	FidelGood	3893
7th	EmilTellenbach	3879
8th	Heinz Frei	3870
9th	Annagret Wolf	3865
10th	Louis Wallimann	3794
11th	Othmar Wyss	3784
12th	Hans Iten	3706
13th	Heidi Wilson	3697
14th	Edith Hess	3573
15th	LillianIten	3512
16th	Hilde Iten	3483
17th	Henry Werffeli	3467
18th	Lynne Dunphy	3462
19th	Franz Krieger	3418

Sunday, 18 March, Picnic

We met at the Auckland Swiss Farm on Sunday 18th March and counted 64 adults and 13 children. Many adults were non-members with potential to sign up at a later stage. The weather was fantastic and a lot of thanks go out to all the helpers and the ladies providing some

The Swiss Café and Bakery has been operating in Milford since 1993 and specialises in all things Swiss. All our products are baked fresh daily without the use of premixes. Some of our European specialities include Berliners, Engadiner Nusstorte, Zuger Kirschtorte, Swiss fruit flan and many more! We also offer catering, special occasion cakes and party breads upon order. As well as our baking we offer cabinet food and a full cooked breakfast menu in store. Although we have a wide range of traditional products our bakers are always keen to develop new products to keep up with customer demands. We are proud to now have a **wide range of gluten free sweet and savoury items** which we endeavour to keep expanding! We are also proud to serve award winning coffee from Toasted Espresso.

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yummy home baking. Definitely an event not to be missed.

Friday, 13 April, Monthly Jass

1st	Lynne Dunphy	4273
2nd	Emil Tellenbach	4114
3rd	Andrew Iten	4048
4th	Heinz Frei	4030
5th	Adrian Blaser	3914
6th	Louis Wallimann	3875
7th	Heidi Wilson	3863
8th	Othmar Wyss	3849
9th	Franz Krieger	3735
10th	Berta Good	3725
11th	Edith Hess	3622
12th	Fidel Good	3578
13th	Hilde Iten	3507
14th	Nelly Steinemann	3473
15th	Henry Werffeli	3343
16th	Hans Iten	3339

Sunday, 15 April, Cowbell Semi Final

On a slightly damp autumn morning we gathered at the Kaukapakapa farm for the annual cowbell semi final against Hamilton.

Coffee and cake to warm up and then the bowling began - a win for Auckland. Next came Jass and Hamilton triumphed here. After lunch the Steinstossen was held which was also a win for Hamilton. Shooting done previously gave Auckland a win there and so we were at a tie. The ausjassen began as the decider and Auckland came up with the winning hands 2:1.

We look forward to the final challenge in Taranaki at Queens Birthday weekend.

Forthcoming Events

Friday, 8 June, Danish House Monthly Jass

who will be victorious this month?

Friday, 22 June, Diccon Bewes

travel writer based in Switzerland will be hosting what promises to be a great evening. More details to follow.

Friday, 6 July – Pub Night

relax over a few drinks and yarns with old and new friends. Venue to be confirmed

Friday, 13 July, Danish House – Monthly Jass

join us for an evening of competition. We always look forward to welcoming new members to the game

Saturday, 28 July – Swiss National Day Celebration with a special guest, the Swiss Army Band.

Hamilton Swiss Club

Past Events

Ruapehu Weekend – 23rd to 25th

March – this event took place again this year, thanks to the able organisation of Herbert and Willetta Staheli and other helpers. It was a great success. People arrived at different times on Friday night and enjoyed a BBQ of Bratwurst, wine, catching up with each other and for some, Jass until late in the evening. On Saturday morning, despite the less than promising weather forecast, there were various walks and tramps on offer: to the Whakapapa chair lifts and café, Taranaki Falls, Tama Lakes and on to Desert Rd and the Tongariro Crossing. The mist swirled in earlier than anticipated bringing cold and rain so everyone arrived back at the Lodge soaking wet - nothing that a hot shower, coffee schnapps and a roaring fire couldn't cure! This was followed by nibbles and a deliciously rich cheese fondue with plenty of bread and Aufschnitt, all washed down with some good wines - "Ein recht gemuetlicher Abend!" The card players were at it again that night while others read or turned in early. Sunday morning after breakfast and clean-up we parted our different ways, although 3 car-loads did a walk around the beautiful Lake Roto-toponamu, had lunch on the beach and then a coffee stop in a café on the way back to Hamilton. A refreshing and fun weekend was had by all!

Cowbell Semi-Final 15th April

Thirteen of Hamilton's competitors travelled to the Swiss Farm for competition and a lovely social day in Auckland. We were greeted with morning coffee/tea and delicious baking and the bowlers immediately commenced battle. The volatile concrete alley did the Hamilton Club no favours. We had already lost the shooting on points and duly lost the Kegeln as well. Then it was up to the card players. We were luckier in this event and we won at each table. After a delicious BBQ lunch of bratwurst, cervelat, salad and from memory soup as well it was time for Shot Put. Our three strong men and myself narrowly beat Auckland and so we had a draw of 2-2. "Ausjassen" was the call and there we lost momentum dismally. We thank

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Auckland for the friendship and hospitality and wish them well in the finals in Taranaki over Queen's Birthday weekend. (Herbert, Club President)

AGM 29th April

this was a 4pm Sunday function and seemed a bit more popular than our evening meetings as we had a record number of 30 attend. The usual proceedings took place and we can report that we have no resignations and no new committee members so it will be business as usual. Our club is very fortunate to have so many long-serving committee members and office holders. We also have many of our members volunteer with setting and tidying up as well as providing baking. We are very grateful to everyone. Following the meeting the committee served a light dinner including grilled Cervelat and a great selection of treats supplied by members who kindly brought along a plate.

Forthcoming Events

Card Evenings

Friday, 8th June 7.30pm – Third Card Evening to be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge

Friday 22nd June 7.30pm – Fourth Card Evening – as above

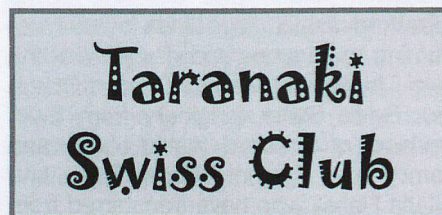
Friday 6th July 7.30pm – Final Card Evening with Overall Prize and Trophy Presentation

First of August Celebration Luncheon

Sunday 29th July at the Matangi Hall. Club members will be sent a newsletter

a couple of weeks before and bookings will be required. Many of our committee will be away in Switzerland during this time so if anyone is able to help out – either on the day or with baking etc please contact Beatrice.

For further club queries please contact Beatrice 07 843-7971 or email bea.leun@xtra.co.nz



Past Events

Cowbell Semi-Final

against Wellington was held on the weekend of the 17th and 18th of March. An enthusiastic group of twenty of us left Hawera by a small bus at 7 o'clock. A stop in Bulls gave us enough time for a cup of coffee and to stretch our legs a bit.

Back on the bus, Heidi had organised a quiz with many interesting questions and the winner was Aaron Boesch. True or false – what is the day after tomorrow called ... overmorrow and it is true!!! And how about women mutter on average 7,000 words compared to men's 2,000 ... hard to believe, it is true as well!!! And so before we knew it, we arrived in Wainuiomata to be warmly welcomed by our Wellington Swiss Club friends. Delicious salads and grilled sausages for lunch and all were ready for the competitions. Our shooters did an awesome job and won this part of the competition easily. Also skittles fell our way, but unfortunately the cards didn't go the same way, and of course, the Wellington shot putters outperformed us again; despite Martin Hess' top score! So a draw we had; this meant another round of cards for Heidi Seifert and Josie Gillbanks. They won us the semi-final with their superb effort!!! All through this our hosts spoilt us with coffee and cakes. And then to top off the day, we got treated to a Gourmet Appenzeller dinner. The entrée was a platter of various cold specialty meats from the Appenzeller butcher, Peter Koller, and was followed by "Aelpler Macaroni" served with "Südwurst". Dessert was a creation made from Biberli, another Appenzeller delicacy. In between the

courses, Maurus Räss, the intern at the Swiss Embassy in Wellington, filled us in about interesting facts about his home canton with a slide show. Music followed and we all had such a good time, the bus only dropped us back to the Motel around 11.30pm! The hardy ones stayed on to enjoy some more Appenzeller Bitter!!! A couple of hours sleep for some of us and we all enjoyed another great breakfast prepared by Trudi Bruehlmann, before we headed back on the bus. Erna entertained us all on the way home with a funny pass the parcel game won by, recently turned 80 years young, Berta Buehler. Another stop and before long and a few more lollies from Lou, our very generous Patron, we were safely back home. A thoroughly enjoyable weekend, with a huge thanks to our friends from the Wellington Swiss Club for their great hospitality!! Marlies

Big thanks must go to Othmar for driving the bus ... without him, these trips wouldn't be so affordable and so enjoyable ... therefore, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, Othmar! Marianne

On the 3rd of April we held a Karabiner Shooting meeting to ascertain the future of these shoots and the range. Othmar chaired the meeting, and was flabbergasted by the amazing turnout of 38 people. This showed that members were still keen on the continuation of the big bore shooting programmes. It was great to have Neil and Kaye Schuler in attendance, owners of the property the big bore shooting range is on. Good discussions were held regarding health

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and safety issues, improvements requiring attention and the number of possible interested participants in these shoots. From this meeting we can now plan our future, with Bryce Kaiser (Karabiner Shooting chair) and Othmar Hebler (Karabiner Shooting vice-chair) leading the way. Othmar thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating in the discussions. It was wonderful to see new faces come along and show a very keen interest. Should you get rung to help at a working bee, please kindly do your best to attend? With the assistance from our Ambassador, David Vogelsanger, we are hopeful to bring the shooting range up to the high standards required in the not-to-distant future.

Jassen results:

Jassen has commenced for the 2018 year, under the professional eye of Walter, our Jass guru!!! He accumulates the points very accurately and we're grateful he continues to organise these card afternoons which everyone enjoys.

8 April

1st	Heidi Seifert (18)
2nd	Mathias Seifert (16)
3rd	Walter Seifert (15)
Booby	Jean Fuglistaller

The lucky raffle winners were Myrtha Seifert, Jean Fuglistaller, Walter Seifert (must have been a very lucky day for the Seifert family!!!) and Alby Schuler.

15 April

1st	Heidi Werder (20)
2nd	Josie Gillbanks (18)
3rd	Edi Fuglistaller (15), as did Erna and Marianne but they graciously lost the cut!!! We respect our elders, eh Erna?!!!
Booby	Jose Buhler

The fortunate raffle winners were Walter (two weeks in a row ... how do you do that?!), Joe Buhler, Erna Zimmermann and Frieda Meier. Congratulations!!!

Small bore shooting was also held on the 15th of April with a good turnout of competitors. There were adults as well as juniors, with the Society and Championship shoots being competed for. Thanks Mark for your dedication in keeping the small bore shoot going.

The new calendar of events and newsletter for the 2018/2019 year was sent out in March; if you haven't received it, please ring Marianne and she will send one out. Also if you have Swiss

friends who you think may be interested in our club, please let Marianne know. We look forward to great participation at our events, so please remember to look at your calendar of events so that you don't miss a function!!!

We welcome the following new members to our Club and Swiss Society:

Alex and Debbie Kuriger and Paul and Lynelle Kuriger (sons of the late Alec and Barbara Kuriger) who both live in the Stratford district; Faye Lines (recently returning to Taranaki and daughter of the late Charlie and the late Doreen Schuler); Sylvia Baker (originally from Switzerland) of Stratford; Astrid Haesli and family from Egmont Village; Franz and Maria Haesli who have transferred from the Hamilton Swiss Club and now reside in Bell Block; John Schicker from New Plymouth; Francis and Melody Kuriger (son of Joe and Rosemarie Kuriger) from New Plymouth; Nik and Michelle Kiser from Hawera (both of Swiss descent through the Kiser and Buhler families), John and Rosemary Mullin (nee Kalin) from New Plymouth and David and Jo Buhler from Hawera (son of Joe and Berta Buhler) ... wow, now this has been a record month for new members ... we welcome you all and hope that you will join us at one of our next functions. We're sure that you will enjoy the Kiwi-Swiss camaraderie in our Club.

Forthcoming Events

May

27 Jassen will be held from 1.15pm. Sadly one of our avid jassen players, Josie Gillbanks, passed away recently ... we will miss her participation; her sharp knowledge of the cards played; her quick, witty humour; and the occasional telling-off when someone played the wrong card!!!

June

2-3 Taranaki will be hosting the Swiss Society AGM and final of the Cowbell Competition. Club house doors will open at 4.30pm on Saturday 2nd of June, with a light dinner at 6.00pm. Drinks will be available through a cash bar. On the 3rd of June the final of the Cowbell Competition will be held at 10.00am between the Auckland Swiss Club and the Taranaki Swiss Club (friendly rivalry will prevail ... but we want to give it our best shot, so please come along and participate and throw your weight behind our efforts!!!), a lunch provided by our club, the AGM of the

Swiss Society at 2.00pm, happy hour from 5.30pm and a dinner prepared by our Club will be served at 6.30pm. We will provide entertainment, a tombola will be held and everyone is invited to have a good catch up, a dance or two, and plenty of fun and laughter!!! Great to meet fellow Kiwi-Swiss from throughout the North Island, so come along and enjoy our splendid hospitality!!!

10&17 Jassen again at 1.15pm. Come along and enjoy!!! The more, the merrier!!!

17 The final Championship Shoot will be held from 1.00pm. Bring a plate for afternoon tea, and then play a few games of cards before a pot-luck dinner is held with the meal at 6.00pm. This is a fun day amidst friends, and perhaps you'll make some new acquaintances ... come along and find out!!! All our members are cordially invited to participate in part or all of this social day.

July

7 The absolutely fabulous Sauerkraut / pickled red cabbage and pork meal will be served at 5.30pm ... but before the meal you will have had time to try shooting or keglen (9-pin bowling) between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. All participants will receive a prize ... so come along and give it a go!!! I know that you will enjoy the friendly rivalry and especially the delicious dinner ... a good wine and great company with a bit of music ... you'll be made!!! Please remember the spinning wheel will be in action, so be ready to buy those tickets from the children who so keenly sell them.

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15&22 Jassen again at 1.15pm ... be there to enjoy a few games of jassen, a good afternoon tea and then perhaps another game or two of cards. Walter looks forward to seeing you!!!

29 The Swiss National Day, together with music from the Swiss Army Band, will be held at the War Memorial Hall in Stratford. All members will be contacted prior to the evening; as this is a catered event (so the committee ladies can have a well-earned rest) we do need confirmed numbers ... please commit to the people selling the tickets as they do not have an easy job! We look forward to a great crowd to listen to this amazing band ... tickets will be available to non-Swiss too so booking your seat early is essential. Further details will be printed on the tickets. MD

Wellington Swiss Club

Past Events

11 February – Small Bore Shooting

The afternoon started off overcast but rain came down once shooting started. Fortunately we are under cover so it made little difference. At least it was not windy!

Nine members competed in the society shoot. The weather and a few people being away may not have helped our numbers but it was good to see the Pledger family and Roland arrive to give the Jordan/Scherrer family a competition making the afternoon most enjoyable.

17 March: Cowbell Competition Semifinal against Taranaki and Appenzeller Abend

On Friday the kitchen brigade was at work already, till very late – though I suspect it wasn't all work for them.

On Saturday morning they were still busy, and there was plenty of work for whoever turned up and was willing to help set up the BBQ lunch, get the competition ready and soon welcome our Taranaki friends. Their bus arrived promptly; they have no problems anymore to find the clubhouse!

The weather was kind to us: We had a veritable Gartenwirtschaft going. The transit to 'hard work' was smooth: The bowlers bowled, the previous bowler set up the pins and sent the bowls back, a volunteer wrote down the results – it worked a charm. Taranaki won; they must have more time for practising than we do! Meanwhile the card players had started playing in the clubhouse; it was all high concentration. The shooters left for the shooting range – only it wasn't quite clear which one, but they made it in the end, and Taranaki won again. And the card players were still playing. Then it came to Shotgun. We didn't have much hope, but to everybody's surprise, **Wellington won!**

Well, that's only possible in Wellington; when the Semifinal is in Taranaki, the local young, strong farmers always win, but they had to stay home and milk their cows; so we are very thankful to the cows. So now it was down to the card players. They finally finished, and Wellington was proud of the result: They had won by one game! So we thought it was 2:2, and we would have to *uusjasse*. Well, our joy and hope lasted till one of our clever Taranaki friends remembered the Jass rules – where it is stated that the winner is the club with more points, not the one with more won games. As there was a confusion about the Jass result sheets, Taranaki generously decided that we should *uusjasse* anyway, and we rightly lost. Thank you, Taranaki, for being so generous and patient!

In the meantime, the Appenzell Evening meal was ready, and the clubhouse was full. Everybody enjoyed the rich salad where you could find all sorts of things – no, no snails, no bugs, just delicious additions! And the dried meat from our Appenzeller Metzger Peter Koller in Blenheim tasted yummy, too. Then came the main meal, *Chäsmagrone* and the Appenzell specialty *Südwööscht* made by Peter, the Swiss Butcher, who came over from Nelson to assist the team. If you don't know what *Südwööscht* is, just remember that in the Appenzell dialect the letter r often goes missing. The Appenzeller Biber-Mousse did finish off the meal.

Maurus Räss gave an interesting introduction into his canton, and we hope the beautiful pictures might have convinced some to venture to Appenzell at their next visit to Switzerland; both Appenzells are hidden jewels, and their attraction goes far beyond cheese. Those who tried their luck with the

tombola could win nice gifts sponsored by different businesses from Appenzell. Maurus had prepared a quiz, but by then it was getting late – so only a few courageous nightowls got to enjoy it! A big thank you to all who made it happen, to Maurus, to Roland and his kitchen crew, to all who helped with the competition, to our Taranaki friends who are always so generous – and to the Wellington club members who made it such a special evening.

On Sunday morning our Taranaki friends arrived bright and early for breakfast – and couldn't be stopped and did all the breakfast dishes; thank you! You are perfect guests, and we hope to see you again soon! We like you – even if you don't do the dishes!

Shortly after the Taranaki bus had left, Oskar and Sharon arrived, the perfect team to tidy up and get the clubhouse spick and span – and ready for the next function. Thank you Oskar and Sharon, I hope whoever uses the clubhouse next notices how clean and welcoming it is!

7 April: Garage Sale

It was a late evening again for some. Heinz and Peter had collected big items for the Garage Sale in the previous weeks, and club members had brought smaller items to the clubhouse in the past weeks and months. On Friday evening Heinz and his crew got the Garage Sale ready; I think they had a good Boys' Evening, too – though the clubhouse floor might have been a bit hard. But it was a short night for them, as they had to get up early, put up the signs, have a cup of coffee – and wait for customers. And the customers came, some only had a look, some bought large. By midday a lot of our treasures had found new owners, and we were tired. We packed up the left-overs and counted the money and decided it had been worth the effort, and we'll do it again next year. Thank you very much, Heinz and Peter, for this great contribution to the Swiss Club coffers! Garage Sales are exciting: You never know what you are landed with. So start collecting for our next one, but please keep the items at home for a while yet...

8 April: Jassen

No, we didn't play cards on Easter Sunday, as was written in the calendar, but postponed the Cards afternoon for a week. We had eight players and played at the clubhouse. Again we welcomed a new player, Nadine Marra – great to have new, seasoned players! Before we

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started playing and in the coffee break the jassers helped with tidying up the Garage Sale. Some car boot loads went to op-shops all over Wellington; thank you very much for your help; you made my job a lot easier. Again we had a great variety of cakes – thank you, Christine and Lotti!

15 April – AGM

Chaired by president Roland Schütz, and with the participation of Ambassador David Vogelsanger and Embassy staff, we celebrated the year that has been.

The Treasurer, Bernie Napp, presented a solid financial position, and the meeting voted to keep membership fees at the same level.

But the AGM was adjourned towards the end of the meeting to provide time to organise a new committee for our club. The new date is Sunday 10 June, to conclude the business. Our new committee will need to consider how the club provides for three or four generations of members.

We have come a long way since 1957 when our branch was founded, and it is an exciting challenge.

Forthcoming Events

Jassen

We will again play cards on the first Sunday of the month where possible. If in doubt, ring Trudi on 56 28 019.

10 June – AGM part 2

Please come join us on Sunday 10 June at 2pm to discuss the few points that we could not complete at our last meeting, mainly the election of a new committee and some suggestions for events for the coming year.

1 August – National Day

Watch this space! This year the celebration will be different. The Swiss Army Band will be performing at the Provisional Residence of Switzerland in Upper Hutt.

Insider tip: try and go see the Swiss Army Band perform jointly with the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band either at the War Memorial, in Upper Hutt on 31 July, or by the Parliament on 1st August if you can!

Are you interested in the electronic version of the Helvetia?
Please advise Anita Zuber at
anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz.

Obituaries



Josephina Emma Gillbanks

29 March 1926 – 23 April 2018

Josie, as she was known to us, was born on the 29th of March 1926 in Kaponga to Josef and Josephina Kaiser. She only had one sibling, her brother Joey, who passed away on the 23rd of April 2008.

Josie married Leslie Gillbanks on the 9th of November 1946 at Kaponga. They were blessed with ten children; Christine, Trevor, Lesley-Ann, Anthony, Lynette, Barbara, Denise, Peter, Paul and Graeme. Josie had twenty grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. They all gave her great pleasure and frequently called in on her or rang her.

Josie led a very full life, not only looking after her ten children but still finding time to be an active community member with so many clubs. She was the Patron of the Kaponga Play Centre, an active member of the Taranaki Swiss Club and a member of the Eltham Old Folks Association. She was custodian of the Kaponga Swimming Pool for a time, even though she couldn't swim! And we all knew Josie loved a good hand of cards, sometimes until the early hours of the morning. Everyone knew never ever to ring Josie before 10 o'clock in the morning and appointments were always needed as she was often gallivanting the countryside. When you saw Josie walking down the street carrying a small book in her hand, you knew it was another cause she was supporting and raffle tickets needed to be sold. She sold raffle tickets with ease and raised lots of money for various community groups.

Josie never locked her door; she had an open door policy. The jug was always on and if you were really lucky she had just made a batch of her famous pikelets; everyone was welcome and made to feel part of her extended family.

Josie's love of jassen (swiss cards) was well-known (she and Heidi Seifert recently won the card game to win us the semi-final of the Cowbell competition in Wellington), she enjoyed many trips away with the Taranaki Swiss Club and always attended club functions sitting in

the back corner often playing cards with her friends. She thoroughly enjoyed musical entertainment and supported our many raffles.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to the Gillbanks family on the loss of their matriarch.

MD



Carolyn Ann Butler

9 October 1956 – 10 March 2018

Carolyn was born on the 9th of October 1956 in Inglewood, the second of three girls, to the late Colin and the late Marge Butler. Angela and Rosemary were her two sisters and they enjoyed a lovely childhood in the rural Taranaki town. After competing high school, Carolyn worked in a local pyjama factory for a few years, before working in several other sewing factories in New Plymouth for many years. During these years she enjoyed many holidays, both in New Zealand and overseas.

At thirty years of age Carolyn was diagnosed with cancer of the thyroid gland. She was given a 15% chance of surviving; however with three radioactive iodine tablets she was cured and enjoyed many healthy years and a few more holidays. After Classic Fashions closed in New Plymouth, Carolyn undertook a chef's course and then cooked at various rest homes. Later she became a caregiver at rest homes and enjoyed this work too.

Carolyn lived with her uncle Lou, our Taranaki Swiss Club Patron, for many years and before working nightshift would often accompany him to Swiss club functions and keglen (9-pin bowling). While participating in the keglen, knitting needles and crochet hooks were never far from her hands!!! Carolyn made many beautiful garments and articles from her handiwork, and these were appreciated by many.

After being unwell for about five years, Carolyn passed away suddenly on the 10th of March. The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their sincere sympathy to the Butler family on the passing of Carolyn.

MD