

Obituaries : Josephina Emma Gillbanks

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Objektyp: **Obituary**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **84 (2018)**

Heft [3]

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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Swiss Club News

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