

# Swiss Club news

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### The Monks Contribution

Barbaric invasions led to the collapse of the Roman Empire and devastate vineyards across Europe. The coming of Christianity as a main stream religion in Europe leads to a renaissance in Swiss wine making given how central wine is to an important Christian ritual. Monks played a pivotal role as a work force in restoring much of the damage caused to Western Europe's vineyards and plant new crops. It is not until the end of the Middle ages that a great many private land owners begin to cultivate wine commercially.

### Swiss Wine Making During The 16th Century

In the 16th century Switzerland burgeoning population had acquired a taste for Swiss wine which drove up demand leading to a boom in wine making. Private enterprises seeing the financial opportunity began to produce new varieties. Wine making was strongly encouraged in Switzerland as it had become an important part of Swiss culture and of the economy to such a point that a bad year could drastically lead to reduction in the overall quality of life for the general population.

What did **Swiss wine** taste like during the 16th century? It was dry, harsh and acidic. Not exactly a "Grand Cru" quality wine at the time. Private estates were continuously trying to improve upon their fermentation methodology/crop production and looking for ways to improve the wine's taste appeal. During the fermentation process they tried adding honey, spices and other various ingredients. It took until 1579 for wine making to take a leap forward with the aid of a scientific journal from Zurich. The journal indicated that wine could be softened by adding a mix of water, salt, oats, wheat and butter. This also meant that the wine could be preserved for longer.



## Auckland Swiss Club

### Past Events

#### Card Evening 12 July

1st	Sonia Fitzi	4360
2nd	Adrian Blaser	4249
3rd	Henry Werffeli	4056
4th	Louis Wallimann	3998
5th	Andrew Iten	3956
6th	Carmen Gordon	3948
7th	Brigitta Rohr	3889
8th	Lynne Dunphy	3745
9th	Heinz Frei	3677
10th	Erwin Steiner	3676
11th	Emil Tellenbach	3653
12th	Edith Hess	3480
13th	Ian Gordon	3351
14th	Hilde Iten	3270
15th	Hans Iten	3212

#### Card Evening 9 August

1st	Berta Good	4260
2nd	Nelly Steinemann	4126
3rd	Andrew Iten	4009
4th	Hilde Iten	3899
5th	Henry Werffeli	3831
6th	Fidel Good	3790
7th	Emil Tellenbach	3765
8th	Lynne Dunphy	3725
9th	Heidi Wilson	3724
10th	Adrian Blaser	3701
11th	Edith Hess	3635
12th	Erwin Steiner	3577
13th	Louis Wallimann	3470
14th	Franz Krieger	3240

### Swiss National Day

This year the 1st of August celebrations took place at the Auckland Swiss Farm and was celebrated with a 'Bure Zmorge Buffet'. At 10 in the morning our event started with Emil and Conrad providing some music. Neil, our president, welcomed 80 adults and 18 children. Soon after we all enjoyed a breakfast feast of bacon, scrambled eggs, a variety of breads and of course Zopf, Birchermuesli, Cheese, Aufschnitt, Fruitsalad, Lebkuchen and many more treats. With our hunger satisfied we all enjoyed the beautiful singing of the Jodlers. Then Neil handed out the medals to the winners for Shooting, Jassen, Kegeln and Steinstossen.

Adrian Blaser welcomed Tatjana Hediger from the Swiss Embassy in Wellington and they then spent some

time with the Jungbürger, 3 young Swiss travelled from the wider Auckland region.

The event was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to all the helpers. See you at the next event.

A small group of around 20 gathered at the farm for our bonfire night on the 1st of August. The weather was cold but thankfully not wet. Everyone warmed up cooking their own dinner around the bbq and the children were entertained with sparklers and small fireworks. The bonfire was lit and what a big fire it was!

### Forthcoming Events

#### Samichlaus at the Swiss Farm

The last big event of the year is our Sami Claus celebration on the Sunday the 1st December. The weather will be great I'm sure, and it's always an exciting day out for the kids and parents alike. The bbq will be under way with sausages to purchase and lots of yummy treats for young and old. If you bring your family to only one event in our calendar, then this is the one to be at.

Santa will again be in attendance, with free goodie bags for all the children. (Please note there is a \$10 charge for goodie bags for those who are not members).

Please complete the registration form on your club email. by Friday, 22nd of October

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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# Swiss Club News

## Jass Evenings

11th October and our Society Jass on the 8th of November. The venue is at the Danish House starting at 7:30pm.

As always new players both young and old are most welcome, even if you haven't played much. After all, the great time had by the players is cause enough to have a go.

## Christmas Carols

Come and join our wonderful ladies choir on the 14th of December, at the Danish house for an afternoon of Carols. Each year our small but dedicated group put on great afternoon for those who want just a hint of nostalgia for a cold, white Christmas in the Alps. We'll let you know more as the time draws near but set aside the date!



## Past Events

### Card Evenings

Despite several card players travelling and again being away this year, we have also been lucky to see a few new players, and we particularly welcome some new and enthusiastic younger players – your continued attendance will guarantee the ongoing success of our card evenings.

We have this year once again be treated to some very tasty and delicious suppers, and offer a big thank you to everyone involved in organising and catering for these functions, as well as for the donations of extra prizes.

Attendance numbers were slightly higher than last year, with 25 card players eligible to compete in the overall trophy competition (competing at least four times). Congratulations to this year's overall winner, Theresa Schicker, as well as to all the winners over the five competitions. Thank you to all our card players for attending – we look forward to another round next year. BL

Prize-winners of the five Evening Competitions are:

### First Card Evening, 10th May

1) Hanspeter Burch	4,237
2) Ling Matti	4,198
3) Anna Blättler	4,169
4) Owen Forsythe	4,060
5) Vern Forsythe	3,966
6) Max Schwitzer	3,895
7) Uli Elmiger	3,844
9) Heinz Leuenberger	3,843
10) Pia Russenberger	3,837
11) Hanna Frischknecht	3,826
Booby Prize	
George Russenberger	3,271

### Second Card Evening, 24th May

1) Heinz Leuenberger	4,170
2) Rita Braem	4,160
3) Bruno Rufer	4,127
4) Karl Waldvogel	4,042
5) Robert Frischknecht	4,000
6) Uli Elmiger	3,988
7) Vern Forsythe	3,974
8) Willetta Staheli	3,970
9) Anna Rufer	3,912
10) Theresa Schicker	3,900
11) Beatrice Leuenberger	3,886
12) Hans Vetsch	3,859
Booby Prize	
Ursula Häfliger	3,243

### Third Card Evening, 7th June

1) Anna Rufer	4,100
2) Vitus Achermann	4,085
3) Karl Waldvogel	4,062
4) Oskar Reichmut	4,019
5) Ursula Häfliger	3,971
6) Roland Rufer	3,946
7) Simon Bichsel	3,904
8) Uli Elmiger	3,877
9) Vern Forsythe	3,867
10) Heinz Leuenberger	3,844
Booby Prize	
Agnes Gaemperle	3,468

### Fourth Card Evening, 21st June

1) Theresa Schicker	4,254
2) Hanna Frischknecht	4,252
3) Beatrice Leuenberger	4,146
4) Bruno Epp	4,126
5) Uli Elmiger	4,065
6) Ruth Waldvogel	3,987

7) Angus Forsythe	3,869
8) Robert Frischknecht	3,824
9) Max Schwitzer	3,778
10) Hans Vetsch	3,731
11) Vern Forsythe	3,728
Booby Prize	
Richard Wehrle	3,517

### Fifth Card Evening, 7th July

1) Angus Forsythe	4,170
2) Oskar Reichmuth	4,160
3) Theresa Schicker	4,127
4) Anna Rufer	4,042
5) Richard Wehrle	4,000
6) Hans Vetsch	3,988
7) Bruno Rufer	3,974
8) Vitus Achermann	3,970
9) Willetta Staheli	3,912
10) Hanna Frischknecht	3,900
11) Uli Elmiger	3,886
Booby Prize	
Bruno Epp	3,088

### Overall Prizewinners and Placings are:

1) Theresa Schicker	16,059
2) Uli Elmiger	15,794
3) Anna Rufer	15,706
4) Heinz Leuenberger	15,684
5) Angus Forsythe	15,664
6) Vern Forsythe	15,621
7) Hanna Frischknecht	15,588
8) Oskar Reichmuth	15,583
9) Vitus Achermann	15,527
10) Bruno Epp	15,517
11) Karl Waldvogel	15,497
12) Robert Frischknecht	15,421
13) Hans Vetsch	15,407
14) Bruno Rufer	15,280
15) Ruth Waldvogel	15,191
16) Ursula Häfliger	15,069
17) Roland Rufer	14,931
18) Max Schwitzer	14,879
19) Owen Forsythe	14,869
20) Ruth Baumberger	14,715
21) Richard Wehrle	14,692
22) Rösli Schürmann	14,671
23) Jonathan Hofer	14,659
24) Agnes Gaemperle	14,603
25) Gina Häfliger	14,314

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## Swiss Club News

### First of August Celebration

We were thrilled to welcome a record number of members and friends who came along to the Matangi Hall on 28th July to celebrate Switzerland's National Day. In total, 130 people, including 20 young children, came along for a traditional Sunday lunch of homemade Sauerkraut, Speck, ham, sausages and potatoes – a delicious dinner enjoyed by one and all. Very soon after, two people busily started selling raffle tickets for one of the many and varied prizes on the raffle table.

Following the meal, our Club President, Herbert Staheli formally welcomed everyone, including several new members: Alida and Cliff Hume, the Rütsch family and the Marx family. He then introduced and welcomed our special guest, Swiss Ambassador, Dr David Vogelsanger, for what was his final visit to Hamilton before his retirement and return to Switzerland. Dr Vogelsanger reflected on his time in New Zealand and at the Embassy, the 'role' of Swiss citizens abroad, and spoke candidly as to how he viewed both the similarities and differences between New Zealand and Switzerland. He then presented Herbert, as well as Society President, Hans Vetsch, with Swiss pocket knives as a thank you for their services. We thank David for his engagement with our Club and members during his time in New Zealand, and wish him and his wife a happy retirement.

We then listened to the Swiss President's annual message to the Swiss Abroad, followed by a reasonable rendition of the National Anthem.

With the day's formalities over, we called on a few children to come forward to help draw the raffle tickets. With much encouragement to the children from their families asking for "their" number to be drawn, about 30 random lucky winners were able to select their prize from the very laden table. Thank you to those who generously donated a prize, and to everyone for supporting the raffle sale.

After so much excitement (!), it was time for a cup of coffee and dessert. The tables were laden with trays containing a huge variety of homemade baking with something there for everyone to enjoy. At this point of the day it was also a chance for a chat and a catch up with friends, before people slowly started heading homewards. We hope you all had an enjoyable day.

A big thank you to everyone involved in making this day a success - preparing and cooking the meal; baking; catering and kitchen; organising and bookings; preparing the hall and cleaning up – and, of course, everyone who came along to make a Swiss National Day in a country hall at the other side of the world a memorable day! BL



### Forthcoming Events

#### Fondue Evening

Our annual Fondue Evening will be held on Saturday, 21st September, from 7.00 pm, at the Matangi Hall. The fondue, together with homemade bread and cold cut meats, will be served around 7.30 pm. Afterwards, we will be presenting annual Club sports' trophies and Swiss Society medals. This will be followed by a tasty dessert – meringues and fresh fruit salad with cream, as well as a variety of home baking.

**A September newsletter** with full details and a booking form will be sent to all members prior to the event.

For any further information, please contact Beatrice, ph 07 843 7971 (if no answer, please do not leave a voice mail) or mobile/text 021 29 28 254.

#### Family Walk

**Sunday, 3 November, 11.00 am.**

An informal day for young and old - bring your lunch along and enjoy an hour or two on a local walkway or track. Full details will be in the September Newsletter.

### Past Events

Sadly one of our members, Sonja Speck, passed away in July. She was pre-deceased by her husband and friend Hans-Ruedi. They had been members of the Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand for many, many years, enjoying the annual Picnics, Fondue Evenings and the Swiss Society medals competitions. We offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends, both here and in Switzerland.

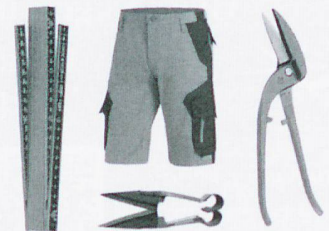
On the 13th of July we held our Anniversary Shoot in conjunction with a farewell for our Ambassador, David Vogelsanger, and the event for 18 year olds organised by the Swiss Embassy. A big thanks to Adrian, Pia and Cederic Blaser, Hans and Vreni Vetsch, Herbert and Willetta Staehli, Peter and Monica Canziani and Roland Schuetz (who was on time ... wow ... we were impressed, Roland!!!) who travelled long distances to attend this function to say their fond farewells to our Ambassador ... we really appreciate the extra effort you made!!!

It was great to have Louis and Barbara Kuriger (our local National Party MP) present too! During the afternoon many participants took the opportunity to shoot or skittle for a small packet of cervelas, and this was followed by the delicious dinner of sauerkraut, pickled red cabbage (kindly made by our wonderful cook, Margie Bishop ... it was scrumptious Margie!!), potatoes, peas, pork and frankfurters.

Many thanks to Marlies and Heidi who were the head chefs and who did an amazing job ... you are truly legends!!! After dinner, Mark presented the small bore shooting trophies for the year, as well as the prizes from the afternoons' competition ... many thanks to everyone who took part. On behalf of the Taranaki Swiss Club we thank Mark very much for organising this day ... we really appreciate you, Mark. We were appreciative of everyone's support in the raffles, and then Othmar, on behalf of our Club, presented David with a

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beautiful print of Mt Taranaki / Egmont as a farewell gift. Many thanks, David, for your great effort with all the Swiss Clubs, for your skills in diplomatic matters and for having the best interests of Swiss at heart. You will be fondly remembered by us all, and we hope that you will return to New Zealand and visit us!!! Everyone enjoyed mixing and mingling with friends and new acquaintances, and listening to music. Winners of the small bore shooting cups and trophies for the year are:

**Presidents Cup:** Jonno Phillippis  
Runner-up: Mark Kiser

**Men's Self-handicap Cup:**  
Jonno Phillippis  
Runner-up: Othmar Hebler

**Ladies Ashleigh Lodge Cup:**  
Helen Freimann  
Runner-up: MaryAnn Whakatutu

**Engelberger Memorial Cup:**  
Helen Freimann (handicap)  
Runner-up: MaryAnn Whakatutu

**Lou Nolly Junior Boys Cup:**  
Daniel Drummond  
Runner-up: Richard Drummond

**Erwin Kiser B Grade Cup:**  
Marianne Drummond

**Fuglistaller C Grade Trophy:**  
Adrian Drummond

Mark thanked all the participants in the small bore shoot, and hoped to see them in the coming season.

On the 27th of July we celebrated the Swiss National Day, listening to the short speech by the President of the Confederation, Ueli Maurer, followed by the National Anthem. The Clubs' various trophies were then presented. The Len and Molly Chamberlain Memorial Family History Trophy was presented to Joan Waldvogel who wrote the very interesting and informative book, "Swiss Settlers in New Zealand". Joan then gave a short speech, thanking people for their support and making many favourable remarks on how the Swiss adapted to life in New Zealand, how hard-working they were and how they were so well-respected by New Zealanders. It was really heartening to hear, and everyone appreciated her well-spoken words. Joan is now writing a companion to her first book, and we look forward to reading it. Thank you so much for coming up from Wellington (although Joan was originally from Taranaki) to the presentation of the award; your efforts were appreciated. Walter, our Jassen

organiser, then presented the Jassen Cup to Berta Hughes ... congratulations, Berta on winning this coveted cup!!! Mark then presented the Swiss Society medals to worthy winners. The Club thanks all participants of the sporting events for taking part ... for without your participation there wouldn't be a competition!!! The family of the late Don Hiestand presented a lovely cabinet with his Swiss Club medals and cups ... it is absolutely beautiful and so fitting that you've donated it to the Club as he was instrumental in getting our Club house built, a committee member for many years, and Patron of our Club.

Thank you to Maurice and Helena for organising this wonderful tribute to their father. The Singing Group sang some lovely songs and the musicians also played some great pieces ... thanks for your valuable input as without you sharing your talents we wouldn't have Swiss culture and traditions at our functions!!! Your efforts are treasured and cherished!! Marlies, Heidi and Silvia organised some wonderful prizes for our tombola (including a beautiful hand-made wooden chair made by none other than Ruedi Kull (many thanks Ruedi ... you're really talented!) which was won by our Patron Lou!!! ... and we were really spoilt by the Swiss Deli donating a huge selection of delicious fine meats which Lisette put into beautifully-presented baskets ... many thanks to the Swiss Deli for their terrific sponsorship!!! We were then treated to an absolutely divine supper ... cold cuts, cervelas, cheese boards, asparagus rolls and a plentiful selection of sweets ... many thanks to Heidi, Sonja, Marlies, Andrea, Margy, Doreen, Lynley, Lisette and Marianne for their sterling effort!!! By all the favourable comments, you did an amazing job making and presenting such a fine selection!!! Many thanks to the people who helped wash the dishes ... especially Vonnie, Leonie and MaryAnn!! It's so nice when the work is shared around, and we're helped out by people not on the committee!! Thank you to everyone who came to help celebrate our National Day, and we hope for a bigger crowd next year!!!

We welcome the following new member to our Club and Swiss Society and hope that you enjoy what our clubs have to offer. Welcome to Victoria Arnold (daughter of Peter and Yvonne) who became a member after attending the 18 year olds function recently. She participates in small bore shooting competitions and the Swiss Society competitions, as well as attending many other functions; we look forward

to your continued support!! Thank you to parents who encourage their children to participate in Club activities, and we would love to see more of the younger generation participate.

## Forthcoming Events

### October

**3 & 17** Keglen recommences after the winter break. Heidi was pleasantly surprised with the bigger attendances last year, so let's keep that up!!! Keglen starts at 7.30pm with plenty of laughter and chatter as well. Please bring along a plate for supper.

**20** Small bore shooting recommences after the winter break too ... the Trudi Ott Belt and Championship Shoots can be shot from 1.00pm. Mark is always willing to coach, so come along and give it a go. Juniors are also most welcome to participate.

### November

**7 & 21** Keglen again ... come along and support Heidi in her role!

**17** The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and the Championship Shoots will be contested today from 1.00pm. Please come along and support Mark ... he would love to see more shooters!!!

**24** Christmas Shoot / Keglen will be held from 10.00am. All participants need to bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10.00, and at prize giving you will receive a present in return!!! Entry fee is \$5.00 which goes towards the Mystery Prizes ... so come along and join in the fun!!! Children's activities will be held followed by a pot-luck lunch. Then Father Christmas will make his much-anticipated appearance (all parents / grandparents are asked to bring a named, wrapped present for their children / grandchildren). Prize-giving will follow. This is a lovely, social day ... always well-organised by Mark. Come along ... let the Christmas spirit begin!!!



## Past Events

Our National Day celebration was held on Saturday 3 August, and Oliver

## Swiss Club News

Waldis started it off with the creation of swede lanterns (Raebeliechtl in Swiss German). He brought with him some special carving tools which made the decorating of the swedes somewhat easier, and some very sophisticated designs were created. The photos show how wonderful they turned out, as we paraded them around the braziere fires which Heinz Jaeggi had organised, as we sang the national anthem and enjoyed a warm mulled wine.

In the meantime the kitchen crew prepared a delicious fondue and salad as an entree. Followed by meringue and berries for dessert.

The obligatory address by the head of the Swiss Federal Council Ueli Maurer consisted of a very short greeting and good wishes for a joyful day.

The very friendly intern at the Embassy of Switzerland, Vivienne, organised a fascinating quiz and the group who won it - a Swatch for each of the group! - was somewhat compensated for being a little short-changed on the fondue I I hope. Thank you, Vivienne, thank you, Embassy.

It was very nice to welcome into our club Nicoletta Regazzi Pfeiffer, Deputy Head of Mission, who is taking the place of Juerg Bono. We look forward to seeing you at many of our events to come.

Thank you to all who ventured out to our gathering, it was a most enjoyable evening. It makes all the organising and preparing worthwhile. To the helpers, Heinz Jaeggi for the braziere fires, Oliver Waldis for the lantern making and tech support, Bernie and his brother Stuart with Paul Scherrer and the people who helped in the kitchen, a warm thank you.

August 10, 2019

Today was the first SwissNest!! We were a small group of seven - Zoë, Clem, Olivia, Trudi, Hans and Bernie, also Odile!! The kids drew while the adults talked and then we all sat at a table and ate Swiss treats such as guetzli, Waayer (Wähe) and Magenbrod (we helped coat it in syrup, we being the kids). Then we listened to William Tell, a nice story about a strong man and a not-so-nice governor.  
by Olivia Napp

*Comments by the secretary:* the SwissNest is looking to take on a nice momentum and the format goes a bit like this: We get together, heat up the clubhouse, cook something nice,

make a cup of tea/coffee, sit together to chat, read a story and discuss a bit of Switzerland. Then we get on and do something crafty, sing a song or listen to a story from someone.

This is good. Thank you all for coming, and thanks for the Schenkeli from Hans Scherrer.

## Forthcoming Events

**Working Bee, Saturday 19 October** from 10am. All helpers will be rewarded with lunch provided by the committee.

*Mark in your calendar:*

**Sunday 3 November 2019:**

**Fete de l'Escalade** - celebrating the defeat of the surprise attack by troops sent by Charles Emmanuel I, Duke of Savoy, in 1601. An annual event in Geneva, a first in Wellington.

**1st Society Competition Shoot**

Sunday 17 November 2019. Call John Jordan for details - 04 528 7846

**Jassen**

Sunday 27 October 2019, 1pm please call Trudi Bruehlmann on 04 562 8019.

Sunday 24 November 2019 1pm.

As above.

I look forward to the next **SwissNest** which will be on

**Saturday 12 October**, at 2pm - 5pm at the clubhouse in Wainuiomata. A contribution of \$5 will help cover the cost.

**Saturday 9 November**, at 2pm - 5pm same as above

No Swiss Nest in December.



## Past Events

Sadly, our last founding member of the Christchurch Swiss Club, Walter Puentener passed away peacefully on 26 July 2019, aged 89. Walter has been a valued member of our club and we will surly miss his smiles and positive energy. His motto "have a garden, have no debts and enjoy every day as it comes" Our thoughts and love are with his family.

The Christchurch Swiss Club held a fabulous **National Day Celebration** on 3 August at the Rangī Ruru Function Centre. It was a pleasure to have our Ambassador David Vogelsanger celebrate with us one last time. The evening started off with gluehwein and specialty breads followed by raclette, salads and desserts. The Tombola tickets were snapped up in no time by our record crowd of about 140 Swiss and friends. A huge thank you to all that made this evening such a success.

On 20 September we are having another **movie night** at Rangī Ruru cinema where we will meet our new deputy ambassador Nicoletta Regazzi Pfeiffer. The evening will start off with a range of delicious nibbles and a glass of Swiss wine. Our thanks to the Swiss Embassy for providing this for our members. We are then showing the movie "Sternenberg" in Swissgerman with english subtitles.

## Forthcoming Events

A **Jass evening** is planned on the 4 October 2019 starting at 6.30pm at the Sydenham Community Centre, 29 Hutcheson Street, off Colombo St, by McDonalds. It promises to be a fun and relaxed evening (not a serious competition) the club will provide tea / coffee otherwise bring your own drinks and maybe a plate to share.

December will see us hopefully again at Little River Camp ground in Okuti valley for our **Samichlaus and summer barbeque**. Date and time to be advised.



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