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News of the Colony

Auckland Swiss Club

COCKTAIL EVENING

Not many people in Switzerland would receive an invitation to a Cocktail Party by a representative of the Federal Government, but just this happened to the Swiss in and around Auckland on May 31st.

Late in April a letter from the Swiss Embassy informed us that our first resident Ambassador in New Zealand, Mr M. Corti, and his wife would be in Auckland on the Queen's Birthday weekend and would like to meet as many compatriots as possible.

Thanks to the fine organising talent of one of us and the Committee of the Auckland Swiss Club, close to 300 people spent a memorable evening at the Newmarket Club's premises.

A firm handshake by our Ambassador and his wife and Mr and Mrs Merz made everyone welcome. Perhaps a few late-comers missed out being introduced to our Honorable Hosts, but Mr Corti certainly had full attention to his speech with his well selected words. So many had a chance to exchange a few personal words in their own tongue, be it in Italian, French, Schwyzerdutsch or English.

After the official party was over it was the guests who entertained the hosts with the traditional unlimited preparedness to make everybody feel at home.

Mr Ambassador used these words the next day at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society — that he had the impression to see all over again the true Swiss as he saw them at the Loundesansstellung.

We wish to thank Mr and Mrs Corti for the most enjoyable evening we were able to spend with them and hope they will have a pleasant term of office here in New Zealand.

— Half Kiwi.

Taranaki Swiss Social Club

A Social Evening at Kapuni Hall on June 6th was attended by about 200 people. Mrs P. Meyer and Mrs C. Gwerder did a grand job with the floral arrangements, adding colour to the evening. Music was played by the Tipler Trio and Messrs R. & E. Wright, P. Amstalden, J. Fohn and L. Kuriger. A novelty dance was won by Mr D. Butler and Gloria and the raffle resulted: Mr E. Chamberlain 1st, Mr W. Yarrow 2nd.

Owing to the absence, through illness, of the President, Mr L. Chamberlain, Mr J. Hermann, the Vice-President, welcomed the Swiss and friends and hoped they would have a very enjoyable evening. —L.K.

Wellington Swiss Club

TESSIN EVENING

“Heissi Marroni!” “Gelati!” “Tombola!” — these were some of the exclamations you could hear on our first function of the current Club Year. Our “old castle”, the Brooklyn Hall, seemed to be transferred into a different latitude through the decoration consisting of many flags, posters, shrubs and candles. The dim light helped further to improve the cosy atmosphere, where over one hundred and twenty patrons (what an attendance for Wellington!) seemed to enjoy their evening. The Boccia court was always very busy and the ice creams served from the improvised carriage — made from a pram — also sold readily.

Music was very well played by an accordionist and the dance floor was constantly crowded. The “Marronis”, freshly roasted in a drum on coal, tasted the same as back home and many more could have been consumed. A small group also performed some Ticinesi songs. Of course, the Chianti was not to be missed out on such an occasion, but unfortunately there was not enough; the bar was only too soon sold out on this. For those who liked it more quiet, there was a chance for a “quick one” in the Grotto, illuminated by candle lights only. Also worthy of mention were the hand-made Tessin-Costume-Accessories worn by the Working Committee.

The gathering went on until the early hours of the morning, and terminated only after some of the “die hards” made their contribution by singing. Everyone arrived home with the feeling of having had a very good time, and the Committee members, together with many helpers, are to be congratulated on this successful evening and thanked for the hard work put into it. We all hope a similar evening will soon be repeated. —E.H.

Christchurch Swiss Club

A “Housie” evening was held in the Appenzeller Coffee Lounge on Wednesday, 28th May. About twenty people enjoyed the fun of gambling (!) and the Club’s funds rose by a small profit. Mr and Mrs Moser kindly donated three chickens towards the evening’s entertainment — one was won during the “Housie” game and the other two were raffled later on. Supper was served and everyone sat gossiping until about 11 p.m. It sounds as though fun was had by all — I only wish I could have been there!—J.F.