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NEWS OF THE COLONY

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

A Trip to Kapiti Island

On Sunday, March 17th, three groups of eight were fortunate enough to cross the water for Kapiti Island. It was the wish of many members to see this beautiful bird sanctuary. Unfortunately the Saturday trip had to be cancelled because of wet weather.

After a choppy crossing the boat slid into a calmer bay and set us off at a lovely picnic spot. Already here, we were greeted by friendly (some even cheeky) kaka birds. Wekas were also curious and wandered out of the bushes. After the Ranger gave us some advice about track conditions, we set off for the track which would lead us to the highest point. We wandered through dense bush, enjoying now and then a glimpse of a rare native bird. Only a few reached the top, as the majority decided halfway to turn back as the track was very steep and after the heavy rainfall in slippery condition. Some of the younger members made contact with this slushy mess and brought home a souvenir on their bottoms!

From the picnic spot, we tried a track in the opposite direction. Through bush openings we had beautiful views over the sea and across to the mainland. At times, we had to cross sheer rock cliffs and mothers would close their eyes when their youngsters would hop across like mountain goats. Before long, our stomachs started rumbling as some of us left the city before 6 a.m.

When returning to the picnic spot we heard that some ladies were tempted by the clear water and had a swim in Maori style! No wonder our skipper returned with a grin on his face, after having a "siesta" on his anchored boat!

We all enjoyed a picnic lunch, which we shared with birds and fowl. One kaka was brave enough to be introduced to "Bircher-Muesli", picking it out of Kim's plate, with best table manners too!

Too soon the skipper was ready to bring us back. Before reaching Paraparaumu, we were bounced and tossed across the waves. Some pale faces were glad to see the shore come closer.

An enjoyable day was rounded off by having afternoon tea at Treschs' weekend house. Thank you for your hospitality and for organising this interesting trip. —M

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, April 6th, 1974, in the Eureka Hall. As usual the attendance was disappointingly small, but those present gave the Club their wholehearted support.

Regretfully, our President for the last seven years, Mr J.

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HAMILTON AND ALL BRANCHES

Villiger and his charming wife Yolanda, resigned with six other Committee Members. In appreciation, Mr Villiger was made an Honorary Life Member of our Club. A special big thank you goes to Mr W. Steiner who served on the Committee ever since the Club started and all the other resigning members who worked so willingly behind the scene for so long.

Election of officers resulted as follows:—

President, Mr E. Staheli; Vice-President, Mr J. Staheli; Secretary, Mrs R. Waldvogel; Treasurer, Mr K. Waldvogel; Auditor, Mr W. Risi; Riflemaster, Mr H. Meister; Committee, Mr and Mrs W. Fischer, Mr and Mrs Bert Fluhler, Mr and Mrs Joe Risi, Mesdames M. Schefer, V. Meister, C. Staheli, H. Staheli, Messrs T. Ammann and Herbert Staheli.

I am sure the new Committee will work as harmoniously and happily towards the smooth running of the Club as was done in the past. —R.E.W.

NOTICES

Mrs Weber, wife of our past Charge d'Affair in New Zealand and at present Ambassador in Kinshasa, has forwarded more copies of her booklet regarding the early Swiss settlers in New Zealand. They are available at the same price of 50 cents (which will be donated to the Swiss Society). Please contact Arnold Biland, R.D. 8, Frankton.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC

The weather was again very kind to us for our annual picnic held at Te Ngutu Park on Sunday, February 10th.

A large number of members, and their families and friends began arriving at the park in the morning and with the Swiss Cantonal flags fluttering gaily, and some fine Swiss music, it was not long before a truly Swiss atmosphere prevailed.

We were very pleased to have with us members of the Wellington Swiss Club, who had come up to compete against members of our club for the "Kuh Glocke" on the previous day. The various competitions held throughout the day were well supported.

The hours seemed to pass all too quickly, and all too soon it was time to depart with happy memories of a most enjoyable time.

Results of competitions were:—

Steinstossen.—For Walter Risi Challenge Cup: B. Muller, 25' 2", 1; Taranaki Swiss Cup for runner-up: V. Gwerder, 22' 7", 2nd.

Shot Put (Junior Men under 18).—For Alex Keeriger Challenge Cup: J. Gwerder, 36' 4", 1; J. Dudli, 32' 7", 2nd.

Ladies' Shot Put: Mrs P. Rowe 1st; Mrs M. Hughes 2nd.

Kegeln.—Men: 1st, F. Schwab, 23 points; 2nd equal, P. Payne,