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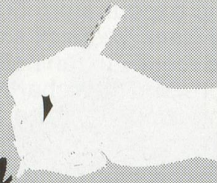
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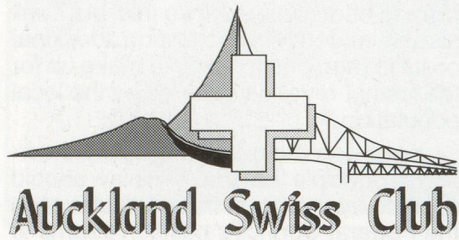
New Zealand's Swiss Club News



Auckland
Christchurch
Hamilton
Taranaki
Wellington

NOTE TO SECRETARIES

Next issue of the Helvetia magazine:
MAY 1997. All contributions must be
in by 15 APRIL. Many thanks for your
kind cooperation.



Dear Members

Unfortunately our Kindertag was a wash out. So let's hope for a sunny day on 6 April, our Wandertag. Details in the March Helvetia. So come along and wear your walking boots. April is going to be very busy.

DATES

6 April Wandertag

18 April Shooting (Society) 9am Farm in Kaukapakapa

20 April Society Games in Hamilton. If you like to represent your club in Jassen, Kegeln or Steinstossen please contact any committee member.

5 May AGM at Oski's 224 Hobson St, City at 7.30pm. Our Vice-President, Secretary and two Committee members are calling it quits at the end of this club year. If you are interested to join for the coming year please let us know.

I would like to thank Arno, Yvonne and Julia for their help and contribution to the running of the Swiss Club.

COMMITTEE

Now is your chance to join the committee!

If in the past you have been disappointed with events and ideas then come along and have some input, make new friends and give the Swiss club

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a wider representation, and then there's no excuse for moaning and groaning.

TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

AGM.

This was held on the 3rd of March with a good attendance and most joined in the discussion. The committee members all offered themselves for re-election. We extend our heartiest congratulations to our new patron, Dominik Hiesland. He deserves the honour for the work he has done for our club over many years.

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Patron: Dominik Hiesland.
President: Walter Seifert Ph. 06 762 8559
Vice President: Remigi Zimmermann
Ph. 06 764 6438
Secretary: Mrs. Doreen Schuler
Ph. 06 764 6533
Treasurer: Marianne Benkert Ph. 06 762 8718
Ladies: Heidi Seifert Ph. 06 764 7526
Emmy Kiser Ph. 06 764 8993
Ladies: Erna Zimmermann
Marlies Hebler Ph. 06 272 2878
Lisette Benkert
Men: Zeno Hospenthal Ph. 06 764 6632
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(continued next page)

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NEW OPENING HOURS

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to our valued Sunday customers for the
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New opening times: Monday to Friday
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Don Luond Ph. 06 764 6622
Mathias Seifert
Markus Rufer Ph. 06 278 6884
Ruedi Benkert

Small Bore
Riflemaster: Walter Seifert
Karabiner Riflemaster: R. Dudli
Kegeln Club: R. Benkert

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

April 3rd. Kegeln - Jassers and Footballers most welcome.

April 13th. Cards 1.15pm. This is the first of ten Sundays afternoon card games from April to August. You are most welcome to join us for pot-luck tea too!

April 20th. Championship/Society shoot 1.00pm.

April 27th. Cards 1.15pm

May 4th. Swiss Society Competition 10.00am

May 11th. Cards 1.15pm

May 18th. Cards 1.15pm

May 24th. Championship Shoot at 11.00am

Preiskegeln at 1.00pm

Fondue/Sausages served from 6.30pm to 8.00pm

On 10th of May, some of us are considering travelling north to the Yodel Ball in Auckland. This is their 30 year Celebration. Would anyone in Taranaki interested in this event please contact Marianne Benkert.

AGM HAMILTON 31ST OF MAY - 2ND OF JUNE

We are organising a bus trip to the AGM for this long weekend. Would all interested members please contact Remigi Zimmermann or Walter Seifert.

Fun-filled trip, guaranteed!!!

The committee has just met to organise the year's programme. This will be sent out to you shortly. I would like to thank Mathias Seifert (junior) most sincerely and gratefully for designing the back and front pages. He did a wonderful job, and unfortunately for him, he may be landed with this job in the future!!!
M.B.

TRIP TO SEMI-FINAL OF COWBELL COMPETITION AGAINST WELLINGTON

It was an early morning start on Saturday the 22 of February for 38 members of our club! Walter worked very hard to convince so many to join in and he had everybody well organised to be in time at the bus stops. Everybody was very quiet (probably half asleep!) until we arrived at Woodlands Lodge in Sanson for morning tea. Before long we were quickly having a stop at the Manor Inn to pick up the keys of our units and organise breakfast. After a windy but beautiful drive down Ohariu Valley, we arrived at the club house for lunch.



Lovely but very steep walk in Wellington



Well earned rest after the walk.



Group to semi-final

So nice to meet up with our good friends from Wellington. Very pleasing to see some new faces helping with preparations. I am sure those young ladies will make wonderful friends in our club too. We very much appreci-

ated your friendliness and all the work you did to make our weekend a pleasant one. We hope that you will come up to Taranaki next year, or earlier if possible.

After a nice barbecue, it was down

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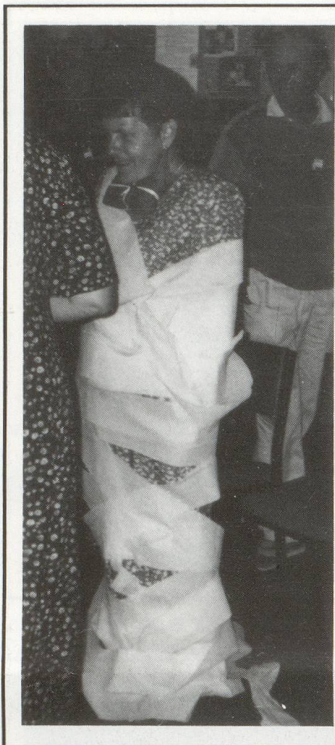
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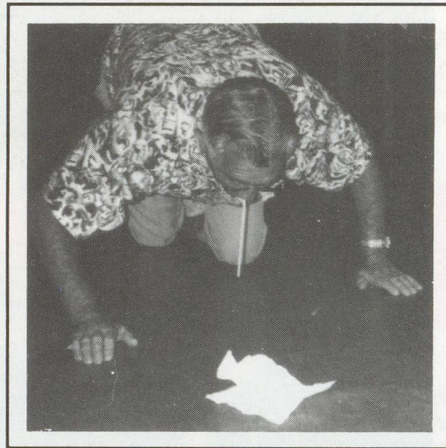


Games organised at night

to work. Our shooters Regi Mathys (ladies first!), Lou Nolly, Lou Buttler, Sepp and Marc Kiser and Sepp Hebler won the shooting with 274 points to 246. Well done folks. Now to shotput. As we did not have many strong young men with us, we lost by miles!!! Lucky for you Markus, you beat all our Senior citizens.

With Kegeln, Wellington made 200 points against Taranaki's 192. The Wellingtonians were far superior, especially Walter Hensch with 56 points. What a great result!

Our four card players went by car to Maya's house to avoid noise! Had a very enjoyable afternoon in very quiet card playing conditions. The luck and of course the skill helped us win the jass! Well done Anna Ribli, Margrit Suter, Heidi Seifert and Lisette Benkert. Many thanks to Ruth Messmer, Walter Hartmann, George Westermayer and



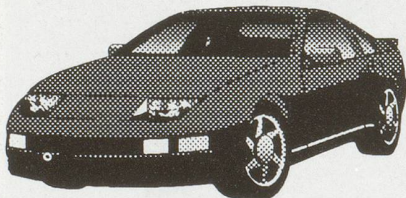
Alf seems to enjoy the game

Frank Renfler for your great sense of humour and sportsmanship. Therefore, after all the competitions were played we had each won two and lost two. So it was back to the drawing boards and we had to play another two games of cards to find out this year's finalists for the Swiss Society competitions. After a delicious buffet-tea, the card-players went to the far end of the skittle alley. George and Frank challenged Heidi and Lisette and again luck went our way... or do we definitely have superior skills!

In the evening, Maya organised games and soon had a lot of volunteers enjoying themselves. A very enjoyable evening and thanks for your efforts to keep people entertained... our members had a ball (look at the photos).

(continued next page)

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Morning tea at Lina's.

On Sunday morning, Maya guided the bus through Wellington (you definitely missed your profession Maya! You are a perfect leader). We enjoyed a lovely walk which ended up in the botanical gardens. Had a look at the seven trees planted in 1991 to commemorate Switzerland's 700 years. We were kindly invited for morning tea at Lina and Ivan Sutherland's home. The view from their house was superb. Many thanks to both of you. It was very much appreciated by all of us.

It was time to leave our Wellingtonian friends and we boarded the bus for our return journey. Some were tired and some were full of energy! I suppose Lou and John's constant supply of lovely lollies kept us going. Many thanks to you all for your participation and Heidi... don't hide in your seat while Walter is counting to see if everyone is on board!

Many thanks to the members of the Wellington Swiss Club for your wonderful hospitality. *L. Benkert.*

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 12 April 1997 at 7.30pm

- 1) Welcome, Apologies
- 2) Election of Scrutineers
- 3) Minutes of last year's AGM
- 4) President's report
- 5) Treasurer's report
- 6) Rifle Master's report
- 7) Election of new Committee and Auditor
- 8) General Business/Suggestions

After the Meeting: Fritz Adams Cup Jassen

The highlight of our summer activities was without a doubt the Cowbell Competition between Taranaki and Wellington.

Wellington intended to retrieve the precious Cowbell. They battled for many



Taranaki Supporters



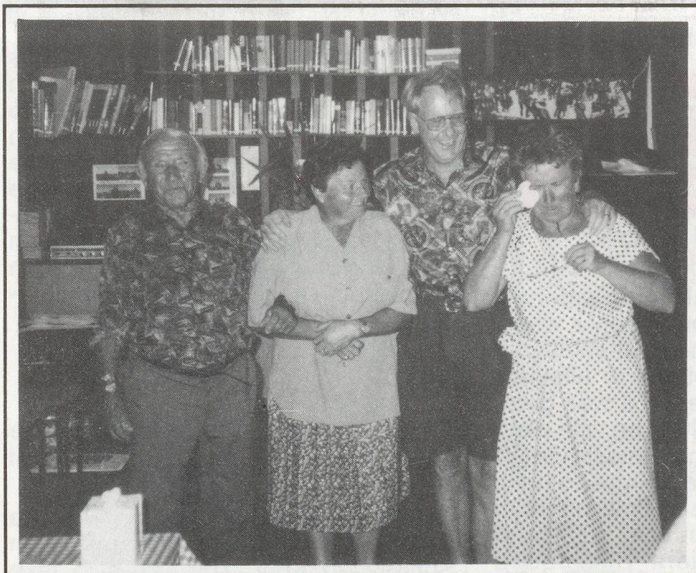
The Taranaki Team is giving a concert

hours! Did they achieve that goal? To know you need to read on!

Rainy weather was forecast for the weekend of the 22/23 of February, but luckily we've got away with only a small drizzle. A cheerful busload arrived around lunch time - our Taranaki friends had already bought their Lotto Tickets and hoped for a win all around... After a drink and a "Wurst" the competitions

started in earnest.

Wellington did extremely well in the "Kegeln". André Schleicher was in charge of the "Kegelbahn" and made sure that the points were written down in correct order. High points were also scored by our team in the "Steinstossen" contest. Hans Buess and Christine Hughes had the measuring tape in hand for the evaluation of the throws. Roland



The crying winners: Heidi Seifert and Lisette Benkert. The laughing losers: Franz Rempfler and George Westermayer.



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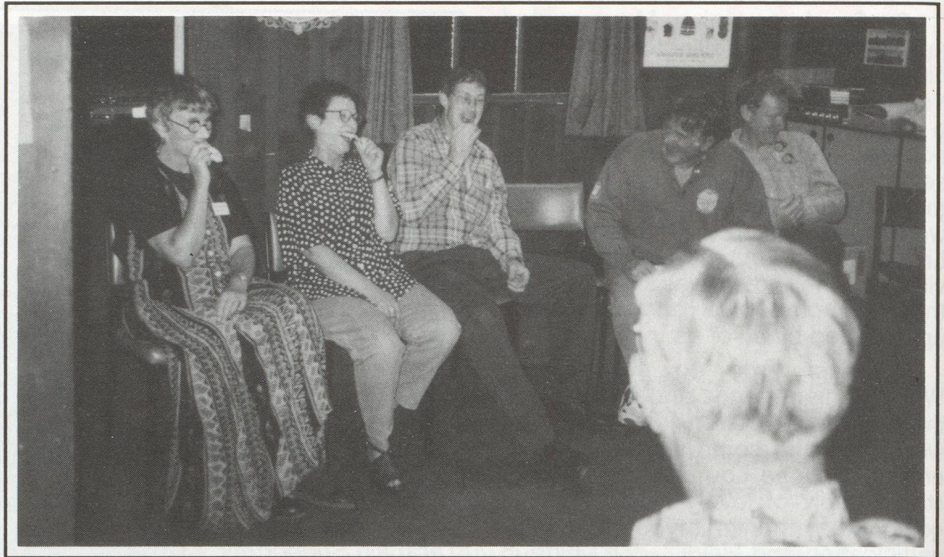


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Schütz guided the shooters to the Trentham Rifle Range, were our Taranaki Champions won. The same happened to the "Jassers", the Taranaki players always had the better cards!

During a delicious Dinner, served by Denise Nassenstein, Peter Fischer and Team, all the players and supporters could recover and spin a yarn. Then some friendly games between the teams finished the day of heated activities. But what happened behind the curtains? George Westermayer and Franz Rempfler struggled against the Masterjassers called Lisette Benkert and Heidi Seifert in the "Ausjasset". Would you believe it or not, once more we had to hand over the Cowbell to the tough and sturdy Taranaki Team. Congratulations to the Winners and thanks to all who participated.

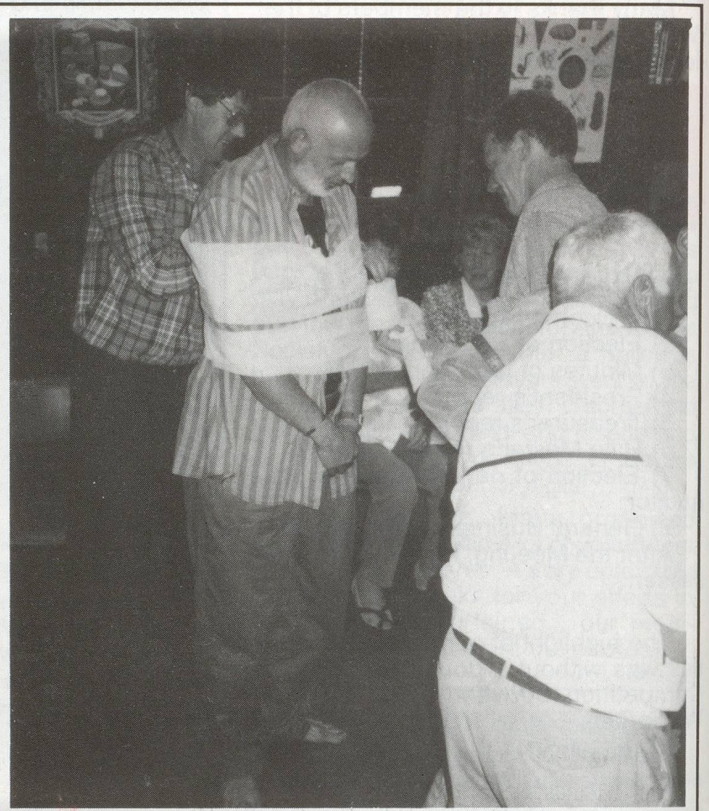
The next day Lina and Ivan Southerland spoil the guests with open-



The Wellington Team has fun....



Mummy No.1



Mummy No.2

ing up their home above the Wellington Harbour and inviting them for a special morning tea. Everybody enjoyed their hospitality... A strenuous walk followed through historical Thorndon: Prose, Piety and Power. We looked through the windows of two prime ministers' residences and admired Granny Cooper's Cottage, the first Kindergarten in the Wellington region. It was interesting to see the seven trees planted in the Botanical Garden during the 700 year celebrations in 1991. After admiring the roses, it was time to stop at the Ferryman, where Marcel Jäggi and Karl Signer served us a delicious meal. Then it was time to say good-bye and "Auf Wiedersehen" to our friends in June in Hamilton and in October in Wellington. The friendly games have come to an end, a well spent weekend. MBG

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

PICNIC

The Club's annual picnic was held on 23 February. Unfortunately it was a hot sticky day, and the brief shower in the afternoon did nothing to alleviate the discomfort. However, it was great to see everyone catching up with each other and enjoying the atmosphere of the day. People had a chance to have a go at the shotput and bowling, both alleys always being in use. Well done for your participation! Barbequed Bratwurst and Cervelas were once again enjoyed, along with a large variety of

home made baking. There were games for the children, followed by the much loved lolly scramble. A big thank you to the committee for all the hard work on the day, organising and making sure everything ran smoothly. There were also many other people beside the committee who volunteered their time both in helping on the day and in preparation for the day. Their help was much appreciated and we also thank them.

AGM

A reminder that the AGM will be held at Swiss Craft on Saturday 19 April at 8.00pm. Everyone welcome.

The interclub competition with the Auckland Club will be in Hamilton on Sunday 20 April. This will also take place at Swiss Craft and of course supporters are welcome.

CARD EVENINGS

The first two card evenings will also include medal Jass, so playing will begin at 7.30pm sharp.

1st evening: 3 May Eureka

2nd evening: 17 May Tirau

JASS FUN!

*Yes it can be done
Against three Professionals
Three amateur Ladies won!*

*The Professionals being males
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Got beaten in three straight games
We won't mention any names.*

*We shouted for joy
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For all those snowbound Swiss, a cafty inventor came up with a novel idea how to get rid of the snow in front of your house. Instead of the old shovel which was real hard work, he built a board with a wheel at its base. The contraption is called Snowmaster Snowscoop. It removes snow ten times faster than a shovel and it is fun rather than a back-breaking job.



CUSTOMS SELLING PROPERTIES

The Swiss Federal Department of Customs is getting rid of some 900 properties, houses, huts, border guard posts and blocks of flats it no longer requires. Most properties are situated in villages close to the border, but some guard houses are in such remote areas that they have neither water nor electricity. Some have even been erected in areas where no building permits are normally being granted which, of course, causes now quite a legal problem when these constructions are being sold on to private purchasers.

Amongst the properties for sale was even a guard post in the Engadin at the altitude of 2600m. Like most other properties, it easily found a buyer. In order to obtain the best prices and quick sales, the properties are put on the marked through auctions.

STRIP SEARCH

Now the last thing anyone would want is to be stopped by Customs and subjected to a total search which includes stripping down to your birthday suit and inspection of your most intimate body parts.

So would you believe it: a whacky Swiss guy, Alain Erni of Niederhelfenschwil (SG) made this request at a national Coca-Cola Christmas show called "Wünsch Dir was" as a special Christmas present for his friend Christian Huber of Niederutzwil (SG) who's fondest wish had always been to be strip searched by Customs (weird!).

Contacted on the matter, the Customs Department agreed to co-operate and Christian Huber duly went through a 3rd degree search at the border post of Kreuzlingen and loved every minute of it. Some people really get thrills out of the most peculiar situations!

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