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NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Around fifty members assembled at the Ohariu Swiss Clubhouse to celebrate the festive season. The Clubhouse being tastefully decorated as always with the Christmas trimmings and marvellous Christmas tree. Obviously the committee had been busy behind the scenes for some time. Once again it was a chance to renew acquaintances and chat with friends in an almost smokefree atmosphere.

An excellent and plentiful buffet dinner was served and presented by Karl and Theresa Signer with our Club president doing a sterling work on the delicious Christmas ham. Thanks to them both and also Fred and Christine Flühler for their gift of succulent trout.

Samichlaus came briefly by way of the roofwindow. He refused to appear in public in order not to be caught and sold as a state asset to the highest bidder. He announced he would continue this policy until the Finance Minister would be replaced by another "Chlaus".... "Schmutzli" was not evident. Perhaps the Club members have been so good and supportive that there was no need for his appearance? The evening was rounded off with the singing of favourite carols for which we have to thank Ivan Sutherland for the accompaniment.

S.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

March 11: Swiss Jass Competition.
April 15: Annual General Meeting.

Please send your contributions for the Helvetia and the Swiss Review to Lotti Napp, 61 Pembroke Road, Wellington 5. The repetitive deadlines for 1989 are:

SWISS REVIEW: April 30, August 7th, October 28.
HELVETIA: March 20, April 20, June 20, July 20, September 20, October 20.

AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB
Childrens Christmas Party

The Auckland Swiss Club was very lucky weatherwise with regards to the Childrens Christmas party held up at the Swiss farm at Kaukapakapa on December 4th. Right up till the night before, there was heavy rain, but on the day it was bright and sunny, which was really welcomed by the sixty or so children who had come along with their parents and friends to share this traditional and annual club event. All the excitement of the occasion was seen in their young faces as they waited patiently (some not so patiently) until the moment came when Santa made his appearance.

In past years, he has arrived in some novel modes of transport and this time it was by helicopter. What joy this produced as the children watched him leave the helicopter and come striding up the hill towards them. Once up outside the hut, Santa was given a chair to rest his weary self on, and his heavy sack containing presents was put

down beside him. All the children gathered around him, and very patiently, but with infinite kindness each child and family group of children was called to Santa, and he talked to them about whether or not they had "behaved themselves" during the past year. Some of the children were quite mystified as to how Santa "knew" so much about them, but all promised much better behaviour in the coming year. Each child received Chlaus-sackli filled with goodies including a Lebkuchen Samichlaus from Santa. After a short rest he said goodbye to everyone, and said he would return next year again. With Santa's departure there was still plenty of time for a good lunch from the barbecue, plus soft drinks and coffee etc. The etc included strawberry tart with cream and traditional Guetzli. As the afternoon progressed it seemed it wasn't just the children who were enjoying the relaxed atmosphere. It was pleasing to see and meet several elderly visitors from Switzerland who told me that they were having such a pleasant time they didn't want to go home. Such comments from overseas visitors says it all I think, for this is what Christmas is all about. Before I conclude let me not forget to thank, and it is a great big thank you to all the Committee members and their helpers for their tireless efforts to make such an occasion so successful. D.B.

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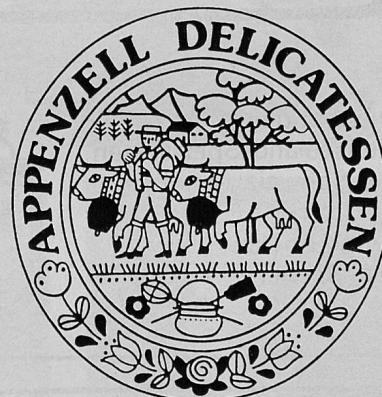
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16. Nov. 88 – 19. Dez. 88	4. Jan. 89 – 6. Feb. 89
7. Dez. 88 – 9. Jan. 89	11. Jan. 89 – 13. Feb. 89
14. Dez. 88 – 16. Jan. 89	18. Jan. 89 – 20. Feb. 89
21. Dez. 88 – 23. Jan. 89	1. Feb. 89 – 6. März 89
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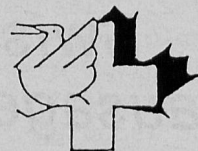
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