

News of the colony

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NEWS OF THE COLONY

HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

1st AUGUST CELEBRATION

The Riverlea Cabaret, where compatriots gathered on the 1st of August, was filled to its very limits with Swiss from the Province, and with some visitors from Auckland. Up to supper time there was non-stop entertainment of a very high standard.

The President, Arnold Biland, welcomed guests, especially so our guests of honour, His Worship the Mayor of Hamilton, Dr. Rodgers, and Mrs Rodgers (who was presented with a beautiful bowl of flowers). Starting with "God Save the Queen" and a patriotic song, the stage was set for Joe Egger's flag throwing. This was followed by items rendered on accordion and violin by Hedy Biland and Henri Oettli. Mesdames Studer and Baumann and Messrs Studer and Hans Oettli had formed a quartet and gave much joy with harmonised Swiss songs.

The patriotic address was this year given by one of our younger members, Rinaldo Rust, who pointed out the obligation to keep the good name of the Swiss alive. He also read the "Bundesbrief." The speech was ideally framed by superb jodelling from a new arrival, Mr J. Arnold, and one of his young sons who blew the Alphorn in a masterly fashion. We feel indeed fortunate to have this fine and gifted family amongst us. Songs by Joe Risi were much appreciated, as also were duets by Harry Schuler and his daughter, and the jodel songs by Agnes Reichmut, who looked equally as charming as she performed.

Dr. Rodgers spoke very appreciatively about the programme given and about the Swiss community in this town in general. Supper consisted of an excellent "Bernerplatte" with "Apfelwahe" and cakes to follow. After supper, dance music was provided and it was around 3 a.m. when the last revellers left for home.

We are most indebted to our helpers in the kitchen who so valiantly handled their terrific work. Last, but not least, mention must be made of the hall decorations, consisting of coloured glasses with burning candles inside, also similarly lit table lanterns. There were baskets of red and white paper roses, and flags and lampions completed the picture.

—H.B.

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TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

The Taranaki Swiss Social Club 1st August Celebrations were held on the 1st August in the Kapuni Hall. A large crowd of over 200, many of them in National Costume, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Music for dancing was played by J. Fohn, R. Buhler, A. Engelberger (accordions), Mrs G. Schneller and Mrs L. Chamberlain (piano). Jodelling items were given by J. Kaiser, F. Gwerder,

P. Zimmeran and T. Napflin. Len Chamberlain was M.C. Monte Carlo prizes were won by Mr & Mrs D. Hiestund and Mrs W. Schuler and Mr M. Kalin (Napier).

The hall was decorated with red and white flowers and flags representative of each Canton.

—M.J.S.

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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

Wellington produced some of its worst weather on Saturday, August 5th, but this did not deter members of the Wellington Swiss Club from attending in force the National Day Celebrations in the Brooklyn Community Hall. The total attendance of over 100 members was most gratifying to the committee who had put much time and effort into preparing the programme and decorating the hall and tables. The Club was pleased to welcome the Consul-General and his wife—Dr and Mrs Rossetti—and the evening began with a speech from Dr. Rossetti. This was followed by a most impressive film of the 1958 Defilee at Porrentruy and then supper was served. A four-piece band supplied music and a very pleasant atmosphere for dancing, which continued until a late hour. At one stage in the evening a cake, especially baked for the occasion, was auctioned and was finally sold most diplomatically to one of the Christchurch visitors.

There is no doubt that the success of the evening was due in great measure to the wholehearted support of the members and the committee hopes that this encouraging response to its efforts will continue in the future.

—C.S.

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CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

The Christchurch Swiss Club was honoured with the presence of Dr. and Mrs Rossetti on the occasion of our National Day Celebrations on the 29th July. Dr. and Mrs Rossetti were entertained by some of our club members.

The celebrations went quite well after a few initial ups and downs, and everybody very much enjoyed the company of our Consul-General and his wife. It gave many of us a chance to ask him questions which he was only too pleased to answer.

The Berner Platte was a big surprise and was enjoyed even by our N.Z. friends.

The evening was brought to a very happy close at the home of one of our members at Yaldhurst.

The President of the Christchurch Swiss Club wishes to extend his thanks to all those who helped to make the evening such a success.

—E.G.

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