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NEWS OF THE COLONY

Auckland Swiss Club

"Bundesfeier" of the Auckland Swiss Club, held on Saturday, 31st July, 1965, at the Edendale School Hall, Sandringham.

At 8 p.m. lovely Swiss music was played to open the evening for members and guests. Soon all seats were taken and people enjoyed the decoration with the little Swiss flags, fir-cones and flowers on each table. On the walls we could see the different escutcheons and many coloured pictures from our home country.

The President welcomed the people present and gave an interesting speech about history, bringing us the time back from our ancestors, which refreshed our memory. He also gave us a chord for the National hymn "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" and the song of the "Gruetli."

A committee member helped us with his guitar to sing some other Swiss songs and presented a few famous tunes. The words for all these songs were printed on sheets of paper, so that nobody could have an excuse not to sing, saying: "I can't remember the words."

Everybody was enthusiastic when a man of our orchestra, looking handsome in his "Sennechutteli," blew the alphorn, especially since we hadn't heard it for ages. Two ladies in their Swiss National Costumes, yodelled for us. After that, our music played again and we danced — this time Laendler were highly appreciated.

At 10.30 p.m. a delicious supper was served by the committee. Later on somebody unknown extinguished the lights and we started a Polonaise all round the big hall. After being out of breath, we hurried to the bar to get a few bottles of beer and Chianti to quench our thirst.

Isn't it a pity that the night went too quickly and we had to leave, but we will keep this nice evening in our memories until next year at the same time!

—M.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

In spite of unfavourable weather over 100 of our members gathered in the Rugby Hall to celebrate our National Day. The President welcomed everybody and the evening started with the National Anthem. Rinaldo Rust, in his talk, mentioned our gratitude to our Homeland and referred to Bundespraesident Tschudi's message that they are proud of the Swiss living abroad and that we are not forgotten.

A well thought out programme consisting of jodel, folksongs, violins, fahnenschwingen, accordeons and choir made the even-

ing well worthwhile. The excellent buffet supper was much enjoyed. Many thanks to all our helpers.

Wellington Swiss Club

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

In spite of the wintry conditions of strong southerly winds, rain and sleet, more than one hundred and twenty people managed to find their way to the Brooklyn Community Hall on 31st July for the Wellington Swiss Club's National Day celebration. The beautifully decorated hall, full of flowers and greenery very generously donated by Mr J. Fischbacher, made one forget the weather outside.

The evening was opened by two accordeon duets by two charming ladies, Mrs Homberger and Miss G. Muller, followed by a welcome speech in Baselduetch by our president, Mr R. Storz. Mr W. Frick then showed great talent in gymnastics with his team of nine young Swiss chaps, producing two pyramids, gaily lit by red and green flashlights. The applause from the audience showed these were much appreciated.

The Bundesmessage to the Swiss abroad was read by Mr H. Schærer, who also gave an address on the history of Switzerland from the Ruethlischwur to the present time, which was of much interest to all.

The evening then continued with two more items by Mrs Homberger and Miss Muller, followed by a choir of twenty voices singing Swiss folk songs in German, French and Italian with the audience joining in, and it was very nice to hear Mrs T. Trachsel yodel again. A special mention here must be made of Mr H. Schlatter's excellent work in training the choir and also accompanying them on the piano. Special thanks also to Mr and Mrs A. Tresch, who allowed the choir to practice in their home and provided as well such an excellent supper.

A buffet dinner was served of potato salad and assorted sausages with creme schnitten and coffee for dessert, by which time the El Greco band had feet tapping to Latin American rhythms and soon nearly everyone was on their feet, dancing. Later, a snow-ball dance was organised, followed by a statue waltz which ended unexpectedly with four "mummys" standing on the stage, lovingly wrapped in a common household commodity.

At one o'clock the band packed up to go home, but this was too early for the young Swiss who kept the National Day spirit going by singing Swiss songs for at least another hour.

This cheerful evening ended all too soon and the committee must be congratulated on one of the best "first of Augusts" ever.

—F.W.