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WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

National Day Celebrations in Wellington:

Swiss living in the Wellington district were very privileged to be invited to a cocktail party given by our Ambassador, Mr Corti and Mrs Corti at the International Lounge. After everyone had renewed old acquaintances, chatted to friends and greeted new arrivals from Switzerland whilst enjoying the delicious savouries provided, Mr Corti gave a most interesting and informative speech, followed by a taped speech from the President of the Confederation. I'm sure all Swiss present would join with me in thanking Mr and Mrs Corti very much indeed for this very enjoyable cocktail party.

The ball which followed was held in the recently renovated Otto's Cabaret which provided an ideal setting for wining and dancing. Guests of honour were our Ambassador, Mr Corti, and Mrs Corti. Nearly 200 people were present and kept the evening "swinging" until 2 a.m. A small choir trained by Mrs M. Katz, sang Swiss songs and a Maori song during the evening and tombola tickets were quickly sold to those eager to win a prize. The buffet supper was excellent, as always.

P.W.

CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

We began our 1st August early this year. The Cathedral Square rang with the music of Alphorn playing from Rainer Kuprecht, supported by enthusiastic cowbell carillon from other members. At 10 a.m., then during the lunch hour this attracted several hundreds of interested onlookers.

We gathered to watch the T.V. news presentation of our "Swiss National Noises" (quote from Christchurch Press, 2nd August), up at the Sign of the Takahe; our Christchurch "Schloss". Free wine, gay Landler music greeted a record attendance. It was a "something-for-everyone" evening. After a truly gourmet buffet dinner and coffee, dancing and singing commenced. We had quieter firelit corners for friends to talk about old times, gay bright areas for dancing and yodelling etc., with wine freely provided for all. A more reflective time came with the Swiss President's address, a recitation from Mrs S. Nussbaumer and the medals presentation. More dancing, singing and yodel helped the evening go too fast and coffee at midnight was too soon.

Our thanks to Mr Gottini, our President, our committee and the staff from the Sign of the Takahe for a memorable 1st August.

Gwyneth Schibli.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ERMANO TECH CO. LTD. at Feldbrunnen (Solothurn, Switzerland) will supply the People's Republic of China with two big watchmaking assembly lines. Their highly developed automation will make it possible to assemble and check nearly 10,000 watches a day. (SODT).