

# New Zealand's Swiss Club news

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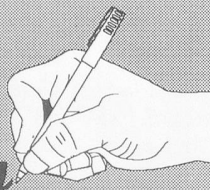
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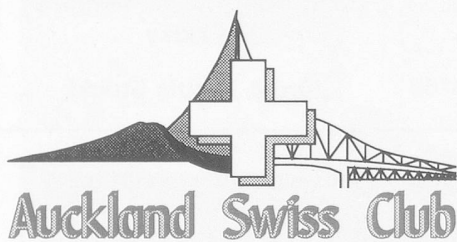
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# New Zealand's Swiss Club News



**Auckland  
Christchurch  
Hamilton  
Taranaki  
Wellington**



**Ein Esel bleibt ein Esel,  
auch wenn sein Sattel  
aus feinstem Leder ist.**  
*Türkisches Sprichwort*

## JASSABIG - 20 MAY

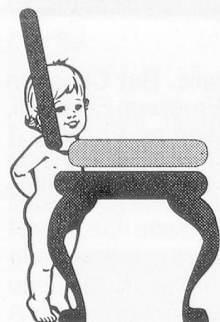
First of all I was very pleased so many of you turned up for the first card evening of the season. It's quite an achievement for Auckland!! Our current champion and cup holder, Toni Manser, dominated the game again with a remarkable total of 3532 points.

1st prize **Toni Manser**, one bottle of wine. 2nd prize, 3442 pts. **Julia Moors-Roth**, one packet of Sauerkraut. 3rd prize, 3383 pts. **Hanna Manser**, two sets of Jasskarten.

This time the prizes have been sponsored by the organiser Hans Iten. If any of you would like to be a sponsor and come up with a prize donation no matter how small or big just give Hans Iten a ring on 620-9208.

## THANK YOU...

A small word of thanks to the folks of Taranaki from Auckland for being so generous and hospitable to us on the Swiss Society's AGM. It was well worth it to drive all the way to see the Mt. Egmont in its full beauty and experience the Taranaki life style. We are all looking forward to seeing you soon again.



*P.S. Rita & Mario Brändli would like to take this opportunity and return Ruedi Benkerts dining room table seat. We hope that you will enjoy it for many years to come.*

**Ein Weiser fürchtet sich  
und meidet das Arge;  
ein Narr aber fährt trotzig hindurch.**  
*Salomon 17, 12*

## 3RD, 4TH & 5TH JASSABIG

On **Friday, 15 July, 19 August & 16 September**. Be there at **7.00pm** so we can start playing **7.30pm** sharp. A prize can be won every card evening held plus the '**Schüpbach Cup**' for the lucky overall winner at the end of the season. Any sponsors coming forward with a donation, no matter how big or small, will be very much appreciated. Any information concerning the Jassabig please ring **Hans Iten on 620-9208**.



Also available again on these nights is **Hans's Swiss style Sauerkraut** for only **\$4.00/kg**. Don't hesitate and phone the order before you come and play cards.

**Note:** In the June issue of the **HELVETIA** we have printed the wrong information regards the dates of the 2nd & 3rd Jassabig. Our apology if we have caused some inconvenience. The Jassabig is always on the third Friday every month till October.

## SWISS NATIONAL DAY

Its that time of the year again... **1 August**. This year club members will organise everything, dinner, bar, music, entertainment, raffle etc. etc. Be there and enjoy a real NZ-Swiss evening.

**Date:** Saturday, 30 July  
**Venue:** Croatian Cultural Centre, 161 McLeod Road (off Te Atatu Rd), Te Atatu South

**Time:** Doors open 18.00 for apperative. Dinner will be ready at 19.00 o'clock.  
**Food:** Swiss style cuisine by Edith Hess - simple but good.

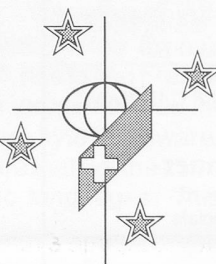
**Drinks:** Wine, Beer, Soft drinks, Cafe Schnaps...

**Music:** Auckland's one and only Swiss Band is guaranteed to get you on to the dance floor.

**Entertainment:** Swiss music, activities and a floor show by the famous Children's Dance Group.

**Raffle:** Lucky door price and quick fire raffles to win drinks.

**Tickets:** Members \$20, Non-members \$25, Kids from 3-15 years of age pay \$1 per year. *To order tickets send cheque with self addressed & stamped envelope to Chris*



Hochuli, 30 Mawney Rd. Henderson, Edi Brändli, P.O. Box 40-152, Glenfield, Annegret Wolf, 14 Ruarangi Rd. Mt. Albert, Erwin Knechtle, 107 Cascades Rd. Pakuranga or contact any committee member you know.

## DATES

- 15 July** 3rd Jassabig (7.00pm...)  
224 Hobson Street, City
- 30 July** 1. August, 6.00pm...  
Croatian Cultural Centre,  
161 McLeod Road,  
Te Atatu South
- 19 Aug.** 4th Jassabig (7.00pm...)  
224 Hobson Street, City
- 16 Sept.** 5th Jassabig (7.00pm...)  
224 Hobson Street, City

## LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER...

My name is **Christine Hochuli**. I was born here in New Zealand, and married to **Christian** who is from Mettmenhasli which is between Nieder- and Oberhasli, Zürich. He has been in New Zealand for 20 years. We have been married for 16 years and have four daughters, **Melissa** (15), **Rebecca** (12), **Olivia** (10) and **Daniela** (7). Our family has lived at 30 Mawney Rd for 14 years. Chris has been involved with the Swiss Club for many years serving on the committee for 8 years, the farm trust for 8 years and is now serving his 6th year as president of the Auckland Swiss Club. Chris is fitter/welder by trade but can turn his hand to just about anything including making his own beverages and sausages. I enjoy sewing and like to try my hand at a variety of craft work. I work part time at a local retail outlet selling women's clothing and fabric. Melissa and Rebecca are involved in the local St. Johns Cadet Force meeting with children of their own ages and learning first aid at the same time. The kids all enjoy bike riding and roller blading and they also deliver the local paper. We are in the process of setting up a food caravan in conjunction with the Swiss Delicatessen Butchery. We can be contacted by calling 09/838-9894.



Let's get to know of you... Please send your details and if possible a photograph to the **Auckland Swiss Club, P.O. Box 40-152, Auckland 10.**

## MAGENBROT BY BETTY BOSSY

From time to time I get asked for the recipe for "Magenbrot". So here it is for those who haven't got it yet.

- 250gr Honey
- 250gr Sugar - warm in saucepan to 60°C
- 500gr Flour
- 25gr Bread crumbs
- 1 Teaspoon Cinnamon
- ¼ Teaspoon Ground Cloves
- 100gr Mixed Peel
- 50gr chopped Hazelnuts - mix all in a bowl

1½ Teaspoon Baking Soda  
1¼ dl Milk - mix milk and Baking soda

Mix all together. Leave covered by room temperature over night.

Form 8 rolls 2cm thick. Lay on trays 4cm apart. Bake ca. 15 min. in middle of oven at 180°C. Cool, then cut diagonal 2cm strips.

#### Glaze:

300gr sugar  
10ml water - cook for two to three min, stir all the time  
35gr chocolate - add and melt in sugar syrup.

Put ¼ of Magenbrot in a bowl. Spoon ¼ of glaze over it evenly. Lay on paper to dry. Do the same with the rest of the Magenbrot. Keep in airtight tin.

*Än quete, Annegret Wolf*

## CHRISTCHURCH SWISS CLUB

Welcome to another month's news from your Christchurch Swiss Club. For any suggestions, comments, or contributions, please contact your Secretary of the Chch Swiss Club, **Jürg Hönger, 58 Hackthorne Rd, Christchurch 2, phone (03) 332-6211.** Thank you and happy reading!

### THANK YOU

Werner Schibli and Walter Püntener wish to thank the Wellington and Taranaki Swiss Clubs for their part in making the AGM of the Swiss Society such a pleasant occasion for both of us. André Schleicher brought us to Kaponga and back to Wellington in his car. The hospitality from Charly and Doreen Schuler at their home at Palmer Rd was outstanding. We wish to thank those people especially. The Taranaki Swiss Club gave us a wonderful time, supplying us with a generous lunch and dinner, and real Swiss folk music.

### PROGRAMME

Here is the new year's programme. Make a note in your diary of the events you fancy going to right now. We will provide more details on the events planned closer to their respective dates.

**Friday, 29 July** Swiss National Day Celebration, at the 'Old Stone House', Shalamar Drive, Cashmere, at 7:30pm. See below for details.

**August ?** Shooting Competition. Exact date, time and venue to be advised.

**Sat, 17 September** Ten Pin Bowling. Exact time and venue to be advised.

**Weekend, 15 & 16 October** Day Walk and/or Two Day Weekend at Hanmer Springs. Day walk on the 16th. Exact meeting time and place to be advised.

**Sun, 6 November** Waimakariri Walk. We will meet at Spencer Park beach at 10:30am.

**Sun, 4 December** Christmas/Sami-chlaus Party, at Othmar & Noeline Kenel's place, Sutherlands Rd, Christchurch.

### FURTHER ACTIVITIES

On the **1-4 September 1994** the Fourth National Conference on Community Languages is being held here in Christchurch, at the ChCh College of Education. Registrations are now being accepted. For further details and a Conference Programme, please contact myself.

I am regularly getting requests from all sorts of organisations for us to take part in their celebrations, festivities conferences, or whatever. If you would like to become an active Swiss in a cultural, political, social, etc. group, why not contact me. I would be delighted to pass some of the contact names over to you.

### MEMBERSHIP FEE

The new fees are **\$20** for the Swiss Society (incl. HELVETIA Magazine), and **\$5** for the ChCh Swiss Club membership, and are now due. Please forward your membership/subscription fee to our treasurer,

**Werner SCHIBLI, 72 Hawford Rd, CHRISTCHURCH 2 Ph 3325 525,**

a.s.a.p., to ensure that you do not miss any editions of the HELVETIA. If your address and/or phone number has changed, please tell Werner, so that our records can be updated. Thank you.

### JASS COMPETITION

Recently, on Saturday the 11th of June, a Jass Competition at Werner and Gwynneth Schibli's home was enjoyed by all who participated. Many, incl. myself, played this most famous of all Swiss games for the first time in years, taking some time to remember all the subtle rules, and funny ways of scoring points. Some even played it for the first time ever (incl. some Swiss -unbelievable eh!?). The competition was proudly won by the Othmar Kenel & Jürg Hönger team, closely followed by runner-up hosts Gwynneth & Werner Schibli. Thank you all for an enjoyable evening (and I am not just saying this because of winning!).

### SWISS NATIONAL DAY

We invite all members and friends to our very special 1. August Celebration at the "Old Stone House", Shalamar Drive, Cashmere, Christchurch 2. This year we will celebrate our National Day on Friday, 29 July 1994, starting at 7:30pm with an aperitive. As in past years, this evening promises to be an exciting and cosy occasion to meet other Swiss and friends over a lovely dinner, a glass of 'Glüh Wein', fireworks for all kids big and small, and much more!

Don't miss out! Get your ticket(s) at the earliest opportunity, as places are definitely limited! For bookings and tickets contact Matthias Damm, c/- HAMCO Ltd, (P.O. Box 1803), 162 Tuam St, Christchurch, before 16 July 1994. You can ring him at work to reserve - phone 366 3667 - but you need to collect, and pay for your tickets for the booking to be accepted. Please bring any tapes you may have of your favourite Swiss Dancing Music!

*I am looking forward to seeing you all at the National Day Celebration. Please mark your diary, and organise those tickets promptly. See you there!*

Regards, Jürg Hönger

## HAMILTON SWISS CLUB

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Card evenings:

**Saturday 2 July** 7.30 pm Tirau

**Saturday 16 July** 7.30 pm Eureka

**1st August:** Saturday 30 July 1994, 8 pm. A reminder to our members and friends that our 1st August Celebration will be held at the Tirau Memorial Hall, Tirau.

**Queens Birthday Weekend** saw some 20 members of the Hamilton Swiss Club make the journey to Taranaki for the Society AGM and to compete for the coveted Cowbell.

Saturday dawned clear and fine and some of us wrapped up warmly and braved the freezing conditions to explore a couple of the many beautiful walking tracks around the Mountain House.

We all met for a most enjoyable meal at the Mountain House on Saturday evening. The atmosphere was relaxing, the decor had a decidedly Swiss influence and was set off by a spectacular floodlit bush backdrop. The service was efficient and unobtrusive, and the food out of this world. The menu provided most of us with a dilemma - how can you choose only one from a selection of such exquisite dishes? From Flädli Soup to Roast Tarragon Rabbit in a beer mustard sauce, Stratford smoked Eel or Honeyed Quail in Port wine to Fillet Mignon in a Mushroom Sauce, the variety was endless...

And then there was the dessert trolley to consider! To those who have not yet had the fortune to experience the Mountain House - gastronomically - you haven't yet lived. And where else does one get COMPLIMENTARY tea and coffee in the 1990's!

So to business. We were coming into the cowbell competition already one down, having lost the shooting. However, a strong Hamilton Steinstossen team easily won, putting us back on a

par. The Kegeln did not go so well for us (we will blame the *home-alley advantage*) and the Jass produced a nail-biting finish with Hamilton winning by points, each side having won four games. The result - a play off in Kegeln, which Taranaki easily won, so unfortunately the cowbell must stay put for another year. However, it was a close competition and an enjoyable one.

Our thanks must also go to the **ca-tering team** which provided lovely hot soup, and plenty of sausages and Fleischkäs, washed down with the help of an open bar and plenty of coffee and cakes to follow.

By now we had been joined by members from the Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch groups and the AGM followed.

Business over, and it was time to relax and socialise. More food, a few rounds of Jass, still more food (thanks to the **Dutch ladies** who put on a splendid fare for dinner) and a Swiss band providing plenty of music for dancing and games.

Thank you Taranaki for your tremendous hospitality.

Finally, the highlight of the evening for me was the presentation of the cowbells. In the absence of a Rifle-master, the presidents of the respective clubs, Ruedi DUDLI and Herbert STAHELI presented each other with the winner and runner-up cowbells. A nice symbol of Swiss unity and sportsmanship. Long may it continue.

*Anna Rufer.*

#### 15 MAY 06.30 HOURS

Once again if was time for all Hamilton's keen-eyed marksmen (and some not so keen-eyed) to dust off their rifles, load up their magazines and head for the Bombay Hills.

Now don't get me wrong, Hamilton has not declared war on Auckland for trying to steal all the water out of our river. No, it was time for the Hamiltonians to see how good they could perform on the 300m rifle range.

Thankfully for us, all the rain filled clouds that threatened to ruin the shooting managed to side-step around us. Although I had a feeling that a few of our Auckland hosts were hoping that these clouds would drop their loads and refill some of their depleted reservoirs.

Many rounds of ammunition and a few sore shoulders later, we eventually came to the end of all the required targets. Now all that was left to do was pack up all our gear, load up Walter's van and Niki's car and wave good-bye to our Auckland friends.

Thank-you to all the members of the Auckland club who came out and helped with scoring and organising the day. Without your help the day could not have been as enjoyable as it was.

Congratulations to all of last year's

contenders who managed to win medals, especially to Franz MORGEN-THALER and Heinz LEUENBERGER who both got the maximum of 3 medals each. Well done guys.

*John Unternährer, Hamilton Rifle-master.*

#### HAMILTON CARD EVENING RESULTS.

**Prize Winners** for the first 3 Jass Evenings of 1994 are as follows:

##### First Evening, Tirau 14th May.

1 Bert Fluhler	4277,
2 Oskar Reichmuth	4245
3 Louis Steiner	4204
4 Theresa Fitz	4123
5 Joseph Arnold	4109
6 Klara Graf	4084
7 Margaret Hayward	4083
8 Lina Rufer	4058

##### Second Evening, Eureka, 28th May.

1 Emil Bosch	4113
2 Mike Fitz	4092
3 Erika Bolli	4076
4 Jack Dünner	4060
5 Erika Clarkin	4038
6 Uli Elmiger	4033
7 Margaret Hayward	4020
8 Oskar Reichmuth	4000

##### Third Evening, Tirau, 11th June

1 Helen Staheli	4390
2 Heidi Leuenberger	4342
3 Lina Rufer	4223
4 Otto Fitz	4211
5 Karl Waldvogel	4170
1286 Oskar Reichmuth	4124
7 Peter Rust	4066
8 Fritz Haesli	4032

## TARANAKI SWISS CLUB

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

**Shooting:** June 19 at Clubhouse.

**3 July:** This is an important event, namely the **Anniversary Shoot Championship** and of course the "**Suurchrutabig**". If you are a bad shot, try your luck in the skittle alley. Everybody gets a prize and a meal of Suurchrut, Ham and Spuds. Don't forget this date: it is JULY THE 3RD.

**30 July: Swiss National Day** (in Clubhouse or Town Hall). Members will be contacted, no door sales. If you are interested and nobody has telephoned you or tried to sell you a ticket, get in touch with any member of the committee. You are welcome to bring a friend along.

12, 26 June and 10, 24 July are "card afternoons".

The **Kegelclub** goes into *hibernation* during the winter months. It will start again in September.

Fondue Evening and Prize Kegeln.

With this event the Kegelclub closed its championship for the season. Winners and runner-ups of the Lau Nolly cup were:

**Men:** 1. D. Hiestand 197 points.

2. M. Rufer 195 points.

**Ladies:** 1. L. Benkert 173 points.

2. M. Seifert 171 points.

The skittle alley was very busy during the afternoon. 70 times the lucky winner of a group of three walked away with a sausage made by our butcher R. Dudli. And I am sure in our families they had a feast of sausages the day after, while some stayed "hungry" (gäll Matthys).

At the conclusion of the day, the winners walked away with a cash prize: **Highest score:** Ladies: L. Benkert 17, F. Meier 16.

Men: M. Seifert 20, R. Zimmermann 18.

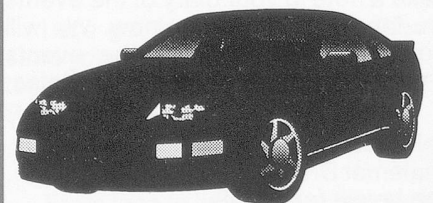
After six o'clock, people started to turn up for the Fondue. The smell of cheese and wine greeted them and made them hungry. Thanks to the well organised kitchen gang, nobody had to wait too long before their rumbling stomachs got their fill. For the "non-fondue eaters" there were sausages and potato salad available. After the meal our "band" started to play lovely and "lüpfige" Swiss music. It is a little bit disappointing to see so few people dancing. I am sure Zeno would appreciate it if more couples would swing their "Tanzbein" on the dance floor. A couple of games loosened the atmosphere while the many children were happily colouring-in their drawings.

Thank you to all of the committee who helped to cook, clean and help in any other way. V.K.

#### COWBELL COMPETITION FINAL

Before ten o'clock, members of our club gathered at the Clubhouse, ready to go into battle against the Hamiltonians for the honour of the cowbell. And not long after, the Hamiltonians turned up in full, easily distinguished by their Club-Jerseys.

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**We will not be beaten.**

While the card players retired into the quietest corner of the hall, surrounded by heaters, it was very cold indeed, and *fortified* by a strong cuppa (no Schnaps, mind you), the strong men pushed the big stone and the skittle players threw the balls. By lunchtime the games were even, shooting and skittles to Taranaki, Stein-stossen and Jassen to Hamilton.

Hot soup, sausages from the BBQ and hot slices of meatloaf were welcomed by competitors and supporters alike, followed by a nice cup of coffee and home-made sweets.

Then the competition became serious as the four best players of each club battled again for the cowbell. A big roar of applause rose as Taranaki claimed the bell again for another year. A big thank you to Hamilton for a fair fight.

V.K.

### AGM OF THE SWISS SOCIETY

The president Hans Fitzi welcomed about 75 members to the AGM. What was discussed during the meeting, I will not describe, only saying that things got quite hot at one stage and all the talking lead to really nothing conclusive.

A cup of coffee and some refreshments awaited everybody after the meeting. And then it was time to socialise, mingle with friends (and foes?) and play some more cards before Rita and her crew called us to a lovely buffet dinner.

And then it was Peter and Zeno's turn to provide us with lovely Swiss music. A raffle was also run during the evening, from which half the profit was donated to the Swiss Society.

On behalf of our President I would like to thank the committee for helping to run this event so smoothly. Thank you to all the members who turned up for the AGM. And I hope our visitors enjoyed their time in Taranaki as much as we did.

V.K.

### RESULTS FOR THE COWBELL-COMPETITION

Final (Hamilton vs. Taranaki) held on the **5th of June 1994** which ended in a draw.

**Shooting** (4 shooters from each club):  
Hamilton scored 295 points (lost)  
Taranaki scored **311** points (winner)

**Steinstossen** (5 men from each club, the 4 best scores from each club counted):  
Hamilton scored **111.75** metres (winner)  
Taranaki scored 105.15 metres (lost)

**Kegeln** (13 players from each club, the 4 best scores from each club counted):  
Hamilton scored 147 points (lost)  
Taranaki scored **163** points (winner)

**Cards** (4 card players from each club, played 8 games of cards):  
Hamilton scored **7623** points (winner)  
Taranaki scored 7507 points (lost)

As you can see, each club won 2

games each. So we had to have a play off! We took the 4 best Kegeln-players of the day from each club and let them have 4 shots each at Kegeln again.

### Final result (Hamilton):

Karl Waldvogel	18 points.
Heidi Leuenberger	14 points
Herbert Staehli	26 points
Peter Rust	14 points.
<b>Total</b>	<b>72 points.</b>

### Final result (Taranaki)

Markus Rufer	30 points
Mathias Seifert	20 points
Edi Fueglistaller	23 points
Othmar Hebler	32 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>105 points</b>

The **winner** of the cowbell for 1994 is **Taranaki**, which probably had a small advantage by playing on their own "turf".

On behalf of our members I would like to congratulate them for their good effort. The Hamiltonians I would like to thank for their fair and friendly competition and we wish them better luck next time. And many thanks to everyone who took part in the competition. W.S.

## WELLINGTON SWISS CLUB

### NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday 30 July**, 7pm sharp at the Clubhouse. We will start the special evening with a glass of Glühwein, followed by an exquisite buffet dinner. During the evening there will be a Tombola and also the presentation of the medals for the Society's competitions. Please bring your own drinks.

Price for **members \$22.00**, **non members \$25.00**. Please make your bookings by Monday, **25 July** (latest). Phone Christine on 232-3078.

### BONFIRE AT THE BEACH

Monday, 1st August, 6 pm. We will meet at the children's playground on the



Emmi and Sepp KIESER with Lotti NAPP

eastern side of Petone Beach, opposite the toilets on McEwan Park. Hot drinks and sausages will be provided. Lampions for the children are available. If the weather is **doubtful**, phone Maya after 3 pm on **479-7503**

### Reminder:

**20 August**, 7 pm, craft evening with Trudi Brühlmann.

**3 September**, 7 pm. Society competition Jassen.

### AGM OF THE SWISS SOCIETY IN TARANAKI:

Eight Wellingtonians managed to participate at the AGM of the Swiss Society, which was held over Queens Birthday in the Swiss Clubhouse in Kaponga. After a few games of Jassen, we settled down to business. For two and a half hours we argued, examined and thrashed out the pros and cons of an increase of five Dollars for the yearly subscription. As a relative newcomer I was totally surprised of the length of time it took to come to the conclusion that the subscription should stay at **\$20.00**, but a reliable source told me, that this type of dialogue has been taking place over the last 40 years! And that it was part of the bliss and the delight of the AGM.

The Taranaki Swiss Club spoil us with their delicatessen: sausages and cheeses from their region, plus mouth-watering hospitality! And after a fabulous dinner we took great joy in listening to the polished Alphorn performance of Ruedi Dudli. We relished the games on the dance floor...

Later, warm beds were waiting for us, provided by wonderful hosts. We stayed at a large farm and in a very few



Sepp KIESER explaining the milking machines to his guests.

short hours I had learnt such a lot about the joys and difficulties of life on a farm. Thank you Taranaki Friends for an amazing weekend! See you all same time next year in Wellington! MBG

### COLONIAL KNOB WALK

Sunday, 29th May saw us keen trampers taking to the hills above Porirua and Tawa. The name of Porirua is thought to be derived from Parirua meaning two harbours. The area was first settled in the 1820's when whaling stations were established on Mana Island and on the coast. The city now has 40,000 dwellers. Tawa is named after the grove of tawa trees that once grew there.

It was the first time that we walked on the remnants of a peneplain - an eroded land mass - that existed 30-40 million years ago! Earthquakes have since raised the peneplain and erosion has modified it to form these hills.

After a steep track through kohekohe/

tawa forest, we arrived at the summit and enjoyed a most majestic view over Mana and Kapiti Islands, the drowned river valleys that make up Porirua Harbour and in the south the Kaikura Ranges. And this all under a perfect blue sky and astoundingly warm sunshine!

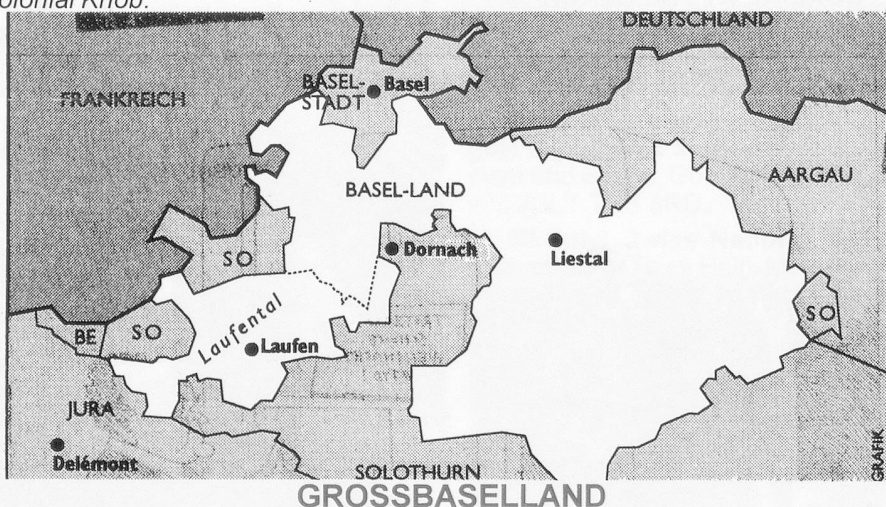
On our way back we passed two idyllic reservoirs, full of ducks, which were built in the late 19th century to supply Porirua Hospital, but became redundant when the hospital was connected to the Porirua City water supply.

The Colonial Knob Track took us four and a half hours in a moderate walking tempo. The top section was exposed to strong winds, so it paid to carry warm clothing, food and drink.

To crown off a special day, we were invited to Christine Staudenmann and Murray Hughes place for coffee and Gugelhopf. With Champagne we toasted Theres Hartmann who celebrated her birthday. MBG

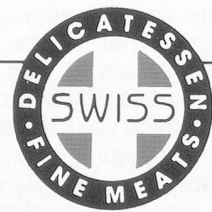


Murray Hughes with Sonya, Mr. and Mrs. Ammann, Christine Staudenmann with Nico, Vreni Madgwick, Monika Sörensén, Lotti Napp and Peter Graf on top of the Colonial Knob.



With the incorporation of the Laufenal into Baselland, this half-canton, with typical "Baselbeppi" tongue in cheek, calls itself now "GROSS-BASELLAND". The half-canton has now grown from 428 to 518 square km and its population increased by 15,337 to 248,500 inhabitants.

But looking at the map, there are still pieces of land belonging to Solothurn and Berne totally isolated from their own cantons. Obviously tradition and fierce Swiss stubbornness still prevails in Switzerland over logic and economical realities.



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### GREEDY DOCTORS

The Bernese association of health insurances has taken action against doctors who deliberately overcharged them for services rendered to their members. So far 13 doctors were requested to refund to the insurances a total of one million SFR in overcharges. Recently a doctor in Neuenburg was required by a court to refund 41,000 SFR to one insurance company alone. And, according to the association, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Like in New Zealand, doctors are amongst the highest paid professionals in Switzerland and it is appalling to see that some of them have to resort to fraud to even further increase their income.

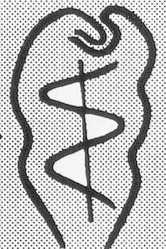
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