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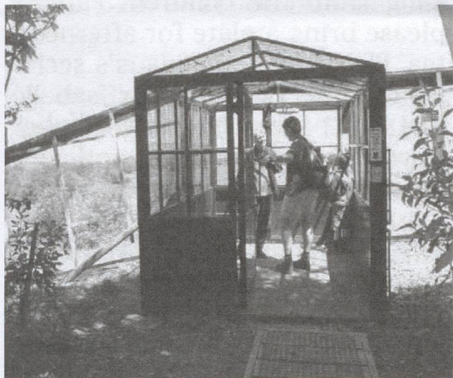
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Hamilton

Past Events:

On Sunday November 1 close to 40 keen walkers of the Hamilton Swiss Club met at the parking lot at the Southern enclosure of the Maungatautari Scenic Reserve. For those who do not know about this unique reserve in the heart of the Waikato: Maungatautari is a forested, extinct volcano



Sandrine Smith with her children and Elisabeth Hess in the access gate

where 3,400 hectares of land are being restored through the installation of a 47km long pest-proof fence. Entrance through the fence is via electronic gates, almost like at a high security prison. Only one of the doors can be opened

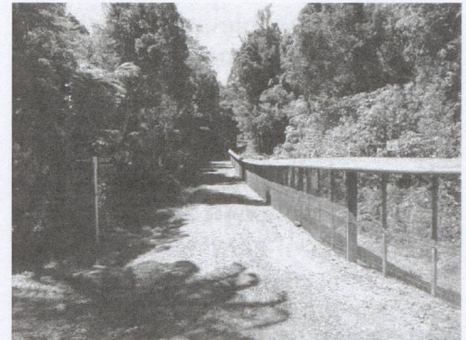
at a time. This is to prevent rodents and other animal pests sneaking into the enclosure. Moreover, the park volunteers present on the day asked us to



The Smith family basking in the sun

search through our backpacks, just in case a mouse had hidden in one of them.

After we all successfully completed this inspection - no mouse found! - we entered the park and the walkers, among them many families with younger children, tackled one of the loop tracks. Later we all met at the viewing tower in the centre of the enclosure for lunch. The sun was out but in the shade of the forest it actually felt quite chilly. Luckily, there was sun at some spots and also on top of the viewing platform so those without a warm sweater could bask in the sun like lizards.



The fence

After lunch and some more exploring of bird feeding stations and nest sites we all made our way back to the parking where it was time to say goodbye. Thanks to all who made their way out to Maungatautari that day. It tells the committee that there is a demand for such family events. *KH*

Future Events:

The **Family Christmas Party** will be held on **Sunday 6th December**, 11am at Newstead School. We will have some crafts and activities for children to participate in. If you have something you would like to share with the children, please contact someone in the committee. Sausages and bread, cold drinks and then baking and coffee will be provided. Families are asked to bring a plate of baking to share. Ursula will present a story in which all

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children are able to participate, and Santa will make an appearance and bring a parcel for the children, courtesy of the club. Bring along some change and support the raffle - donations to the raffle table will also be appreciated. *AZ*

Annual Swiss Picnic and Society Shooting Competition - Our annual Picnic will be held on **21st February 2010** at Newstead School, preceded by the 50m Society Medal Shooting Competition on Saturday, 20th February 2010. Further details will appear in the February Helvetia, as well as in our next Club newsletter which will be sent out early next year. *BL*



Past Events:

Fondue evening 17 Oct - The Fondue evenings seem to be the runner at the Wellington Swiss Club, at least when it comes to participant numbers. This time the committee decided to set a cap at 100 guests, and the places filled quickly. Thanks to Roland's idea to set up the tables in a slightly different way there was enough room for everyone to move around. The evening started with Glühwein and vegetable sticks served with a dip. About an hour later, the fondue was served. We're not sure what exactly made the difference, but based on feedback it tasted even more yummy than in May, and it seemed that it was served faster. Maybe people involved in preparing the fondue gathered good experience in May in catering for large fondue fan numbers and were able to show off their expert fondue preparation skills. Fondue was also accompanied by a tasty mixed salad. The meal was rounded off by a lovely dessert. The evening was also en-

joyed by a remarkably high rate of younger customers. The committee would like to thank everyone for their contribution, notably Max Fuhrer for organising and preparing the cheese, and the many busy kitchen hands. I'm already looking forward to the next Fondue, presumably taking place some time in late May next year, even though I may not be able to attend because our third baby is due at around that time too. *IR*

Garage Sale 7 Nov - I am always amazed by the quantity of treasures that arrive at the clubhouse for the garage sale. Our two faithful organizers, Heinz Jäggi and Peter Hynes, stayed in the clubhouse overnight (not to guard the treasures but to get the display ready for the next morning!). The dealers usually arrive well before 7.00 am, and this year was no exception. They packed up what they knew they could sell and were gone by 7.15am.

There were not as many clothes as in other years and our regulars were a bit disappointed.

Barbara displayed a table with all sorts of knick-knacks, jewellery, watches, vases, glasses, dishes and more in real Swiss "Flohmarkt" fashion. Thanks Barbara, I am so pleased you enjoyed the garage sale!

Midday arrived quickly. There were quite a few items left; however, the Garage Sale is still a good fundraiser for the clubhouse roof. Thank you, Heinz and Peter for your effort, and Barbara for your help - and thank you to all the club members and friends who contributed towards the garage sale! *V.M.*

Future events:

Christmas Dinner: 5 December - We'll have our traditional Christmas Dinner from 6.30pm onwards at the Clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata. The Christmas tree will be decorated to set the atmosphere,

we will hear the Christmas story and sing some well-known Christmas Carols. Please come and join us for a glass of sangria and enjoy our sumptuous buffet dinner, followed by coffee and biscuits. BYO drinks; \$22 for members, \$25 for non-members. Please book by Tuesday 2 December with Vreni 526 9841 or Isabelle 384 73 73.

Samichlaus: 6 December - Samichlaus will come to the Clubhouse, 21 Moores Valley Road, Wainuiomata at 2pm. He will be happy to hear a poem or a song from the children. Parents please bring a plate for afternoon tea. Please let Samichlaus's secretaries Vreni 526 9841 or Isabelle 384 7373 know by 30 November if you intend to come and give Samichlaus some information.

Carol Singing: 13 December - Carol Singing will take place from 7pm at the Sound Shell at the Botanic Gardens. A group of keen Swiss Club singers have already started practicing lovely Swiss Christmas songs they'll sing at the Carol Singing. You are welcome to participate by just listening to the lovely tunes, or by ac-

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tively joining the choir and singing. Please contact Verena Madgwick 526 9841 if you are interested in joining the singers, and for further information. *IR*

Steinstossen and BBQ: Sunday 31 January - Come and enjoy the relaxing backyard atmosphere at the club house, bring something to throw onto the BBQ, and give throwing big rocks and bricks a whirl. This is also an opportunity to practice the art of shotput/Steinstossen for the Cowbell Competition on 28 February. For more details contact Vreni 526 9841 or Isabelle 384 7373.

Medal Shooting Competition: Sunday 14 February - The Medal Shooting Competition is taking place on Paul Scherrer's farm at 146 Mangaroa Valley Rd, RD1, Mangaroa Valley. For more information contact our Riflemaster John Jordan 528 78 46.

Family Day: Sunday 21 February - The Family Day will take place at Heinz and Trix Jäggi's place, 23 Crest Road, Akatarawa in Upper Hutt, starting at 11.30am. The ones who have been there last time know that this event, held in the beautiful garden of Heinz and Trix (so-called "Jäggi Park"), is the perfect venue for a lovely summer gathering and a chat while enjoying a BBQ and other nibbles. Please bring your own picnic and/or BBQ food. The Jäggis have created a wonderful playground for the children, and also things to enjoy for the adults. For further information and booking so the organizers will know how many people to expect and cancellation if the weather should be marginal, please contact Sandie 528 6960 or anyone from the committee.

Cowbell Competition: Weekend of 27 and 28 February - Wouldn't it be great to have the Swiss Society Cowbell back in the Clubhouse?! We need everybody, competitors and supporters, to

help. There will be BBQ sausages for lunch, from 12.30 pm onwards. The competition - Shotput, Bowling, Shooting and Jassen - will start from 2 pm onwards. If you are willing to be a competitor, please ring John Jordan 528 7846 for shooting, Roland Schütz 568 6772 or Isabelle Richter 384 7373 for Shotput, Bowling and Jassen. Afternoon Tea will be ongoing; any contributions to afternoon tea etc. would be most welcome. *IR*

Taranaki

Past Events:

Keglen recommenced in October with average attendances, but those attending enjoying great games and camaraderie. These are fun evenings, with plenty of laughter, together with an enjoyable game of keglen. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please ring Johnny Bishop on 06 274 8764.

Future Events:

December 12 - Zeno is coordinator of our float for the **Christmas Parade** celebrating the 125th jubilee of the Eltham district. We are intending to have a 'cheese' theme, as Eltham is the 'Cheese Capital of the World'!!! If Zeno rings you for help, please don't let him down, as many hands make light work!!! We are looking forward to attending this parade with a terrific float!!! Please ring a committee member to find out more details of where the parade starts and what time.

December 31 - Of course this is New Year's Eve. As has been the case for many years, this function is combined with the Campervan Club. We always have a fun-loving crowd with great entertainment and skits.

Everyone is most welcome to attend ... please bring a plate for supper. We look forward to seeing you there!!!

February 4 & 18 - Keglen recommences after the summer holidays ... Johnny looks forward to a great attendance, and much more fun. Come along and see for yourself the fun that this crowd enjoys.

February 14 - This is the day of our **Annual Swiss Picnic** held at the Clubhouse in Kaponga from 11.00am. Always a terrific day (providing the weather plays its part!!) with plenty of action, together with catching up with friends and acquaintances that you may not have seen for a while ... please make the effort and come along. Last year we were fortunate to have helicopter rides; children's activities are organised; the highlight of course is the "**Schwingen**" and food and beverages are always available. We look forward to seeing you there.

February 27 & 28 - These are days set down for the **semi-final competitions in Wellington** ... yes, although we travelled to the capital last year we are going again!!! This has been done to avoid one club travelling to the other club twice in a year ... and anyway we love going to Wellington to lap up their wonderful hospitality. If you have never been on one of our bus trips you are missing out on something!!! Great fun, plenty of laughter, good company, delicious food ... all at an affordable price!!! Would all those interested in this bus trip please ring Othmar on 06 278 6878? *MD*

Auckland

Frohe Weihnachten - Joyeux Noël - Buon Natale - Merry



Christmas to all our members and their loved ones. December is going to be a busy month for us all. We do hope you have some time to sit back and enjoy - and to join in with some of the Swiss Club festivities.

Auckland Swiss Club in December:

Friday 4 December from 8pm: Pub night, Swiss and Knusprig. The next pub night is at the BELLINI BAR (at the Hilton) Princes Wharf, 147 Quay Street, Auckland. www.bellini.co.nz
Hope to see lots of you there!

Sunday 6 December 11am: Santa will arrive at the Swiss farm. Please note change of time from previous years.

Program: 11am: Santa arrives and talks to the children; all children receive a goodies bag. Approx 1pm: Lunch (Barbequed Swiss Sausages, Swiss baking) Approx 2pm: Kasperle (puppet show): 'Gretchen needs Christmas Ribbon' for the young and young at heart.

It is essential that Santa has some inside information about the children when he arrives. Complete form on line, see Swiss Club Website www.swiss.org.nz/auckland. If you don't have the internet, Phone Adrian Blaser at 09 832 0366, he will send you a copy of the form. Cost: Santa's visit to the children including present is free for Swiss Club members. Non-members pay \$5 per child. Barbequed sausages and desserts will be available at bargain prices. Swiss Christmas cookies, lovingly hand made, will be sold for \$10 a bag.

Saturday afternoon 12 December, 2.30pm Swiss Christmas and Carol Singing. Rothesay Bay Ratepayers Hall, corner Rothesay Bay and Beulah Ave, Rothesay Bay. Please join us for an afternoon of celebration, music and socialising. Afternoon tea and Swiss Christmas goodies will be served. Donation: Suggested \$ 5.00 per person to cover ex-

penses If you like a lift to the venue, phone Heidi at 478 9751.

Past Events:

On the 10th and 11th October we had the yearly "Any Sights Any Rifle Shooting Competition". This has been an outstanding success with more than 50 shooters turning up to participate during the weekend.

This is the only day where we invite Non-Swiss to shoot on our range. Once a year shooters can try out all their weird and wonderful rifles, i.e. Target Rifle, Hunting Rifle, Army Rifle with Open-Sights or Scope or any other sights available.

Full results on: <http://www.swiss.org.nz/clubs/auckland/any09> MR

Beach Party Sunday 1 November - Our Beach Party started rather grim and drizzly, but come lunch time the clouds disappeared and we enjoyed the



Beach party at Cornwallis Beach

most gorgeous afternoon at Cornwallis Beach! The barbeque lunch was yummy and we all had a great time catching up and getting to know a few new faces. The kids loved running around and had a wonderful time playing. Thanks to everyone who made it a special day!

Pub night Friday 6 November at Sales Bar, Auckland. What a great opportunity this was to chat to some NZ Swiss that we don't see regularly. Amazing venue. Thank you all for coming, and thanks to the Swiss and Knusprig Team for organising it.

Rock Walking with Bernhard Spörli, Sunday 15 November. 40 members and friends enjoyed a fabulous and very interesting



Fit youngsters enjoying a break

day, walking from Army Bay across the Whangaparaoa Peninsula to Tiri Channel, Pink Bay, and around Whangaparaoa Head back to Army Bay. Thank you so much Bernhard Spörli for your excellent introduction to the fascinating geology of the area. All these lines now suddenly mean so much more. It made me feel rather unimportant to hear about the amazing forces that have been around tens of millions of years ago, and still are.

Jass evening 13 November: Some had to be lucky!!

| | | |
|------|-------------------|------|
| 1st | Verena Ruedi | 4171 |
| 2nd | Heidi Wilson | 4158 |
| 3rd | Hans Fitz | 4117 |
| 4th | Hans Iten | 4005 |
| 5th | Lynne Dunphy | 4001 |
| 6th | Hansruedi Wolf | 3870 |
| 7th | Emil Tellenbach | 3865 |
| 8th | Adrian Blaser | 3853 |
| 9th | Marcel Ruedi | 3843 |
| 10th | Annagret Wolf | 3810 |
| 11th | Louis Wallimann | 3794 |
| 12th | Franz Krieger | 3793 |
| 13th | Ernst Lanz | 3745 |
| 14th | Nelly Steinemann | 3700 |
| 15th | Paul Steinemann | 3659 |
| 16th | Amelia Fitz | 3597 |
| 17th | Fidel Good | 3591 |
| 18th | Andrew Iten | 3578 |
| 19th | Hilda Iten | 3452 |
| 20th | Toni Manser | 3427 |
| 21st | S. Neuenschwander | 3111 |



| Final 2009 Jass Results | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 1st Fidel Good | 25,376 |
| 2nd Hansruedi Wolf | 25,115 |
| 3rd Annagret Wolf | 25,336 |
| 4th Andrew Iten | 24,576 |
| 5th Nelly Steinemann | 24,543 |
| 6th Hans Iten | 24,519 |
| 7th Marcel Ruedi | 24,707 |
| 8th Verena Ruedi | 24,425 |
| 9th Emil Tellenbach | 24,082 |
| 10th Hilda Iten | 23,886 |
| 11th Adrian Blaser | 23,882 |
| 12th Franz Krieger | 23,561 |
| 13th Louis Wallimann | 23,251 |
| 14th Lynne Dunphy | 23,174 |

THE AUCKLAND SWISS CLUB LOOKS FORWARD TO 2010

Picnic at the Swiss Farm, Sunday 14 February: Lunch, Games, catch up with your friends.

Beach Party: The Swiss and Knusprig Team will be organising another beach party probably in February or March (details to follow) and we hope to get a great amount of people joining us. We will be doing games and fun stuff for all the kids with prizes for everyone, so watch out for this future event!

Pub nights: Our aim is to have our pub night at a different location every month so that we all get to know new places and also so that the travel times vary from time to time. If you have a great pub round the corner from where you live or know of a lovely bar to meet, why don't you let us know and we'll organise a monthly pub night in your area? Please email swiss@zurbruegg.co.nz for any suggestions you may have, would love to hear from you!

Jass coaching! Did your grandmother teach you how to play Jass, but you are not quite so sure now? A bit worried about all the 'professionals' in the Swiss Club? Your chance is coming: We will have a coaching session early next year for beginners and rusty players. If you have any particular suggestions

re time for coaching, let one of the committee members know.

The Swiss Club Year plan: 2010 promises to be another great year, with many events for the knusprig and the runzlig, the bald and the hairy, the sedentary and the sporty ones, the shooters, jassers, and all the rest of you. See Swiss Club website and mark your diary.

LIKE TO ENJOY A WEEKEND AT THE SWISS FARM?

Why don't you take your family to the farm for a weekend out? An ideal place to let the kids roam, and have a rest; it feels like miles away from the bustle of the city. You can take your tent, or just a bit of foam and sleep in the hut. Water and the toilet are available, but no kitchen facilities. All your rubbish must be taken home.

Free for Swiss Club Members and immediate family. There is a charge for larger parties.

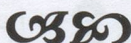
Booking is absolutely essential: Contact Marcel marcel@igrin.co.nz or 09 4135338.

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR A FAMILY MEMBER?

Why don't you give your adult children / elderly parents / brothers and sisters a gift membership for the Auckland Swiss Club? Join them now - you will get a Gift Card for them, and 16 months membership for the price of 12, as the Swiss Club year finishes end of March. Complete Membership Application form on website, or contact Heidi heidi.wilson@hotmail.com 4789751.

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