

President's message

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and has in many instances already been replaced by a "nurse-cow regime" (**Ammen-Kuh-Haltung**), producing meat (veal) only. And the height of the irony is that some Swiss dairy farmers (of traditional stock) have to *buy* their milk for home consumption!

Swiss shop prices for most dairy products, I understand, are still well above EU shop prices, and most people living near Switzerland's borders cross regularly into 'foreign lands' to purchase their daily needs of such products.

Cynical Swiss people are making fun of the situation, and are trying to belittle their farmers' problems by pointing out that farmers have traditionally been bemoaning their plight since 'time immemorial'. The following new joke is currently making the rounds: *New regulations for Swiss dairy farmers announce a two month training course for all...during the first month they will be trained to improve their ability to fill in forms for subsidies, and in the second month all Swiss dairy farmers will visit the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem in order to improve their 'moaning abilities' !!*

So you can understand that besides a lot of Swiss chocolate, we returned to New Zealand from our Swiss trip with lots of 'food for thought', especially as one of my Swiss mountain-farmer friends remarked that *his* plight is all due to the overproduction created by America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand....!

How would you have answered him in my position ??



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Cultural Exhibitions and Festivals from Switzerland

(As advised by the Swiss Embassy)

Why make Prints ? This Exhibition shows the development of printmaking in Switzerland, since 1960, in over 70 works by 51 artists. The works document developments from screenprinting, to the experimental woodcut, engraving, lithography and, finally, the involvement of the computer. (See also *July / August Helvetia*)

Auckland 25 October - 17 November 2000
at University of Technology and University of Auckland, Fine Arts and Architecture Departments, 22 Symonds Street, Auckland.

Nelson 3 February - 4 March 2001
at The Bishop Suter Art Gallery, 208 Bridge Street, Nelson

Timaru 23 March - 29 April 2001
at Aigantighe Art Gallery, 49 Wai-iti Road, Timaru

Dunedin 14 May - 24 June 2001
at Otago Museum, 419 Great King Street, Dunedin

Festival of Europe - From 1-7 November, the **Bazin Streichquartett** from Switzerland will be in New Zealand for the **Festival of Europe** in Auckland, and also to perform in other main centres. Concert details will be advised by the Embassy and published in the *Helvetia* when known. If members of the quartett can be billeted by members of the Swiss Community in Auckland and other centres, please contact the Swiss Honorary Consul, Peter Deutsche, (09) 366 0404. For other centres, contact the Embassy directly - Mrs Louise Beale, (04) 472 1593.

A **Festival of Europe** will be running in Auckland from 27 October - 18 November. This will focus on trade conducted between New Zealand and the European Union and its neighbouring countries. The **'Best of Europe'** will be exposed promoting Europe's key features of products, services, culture, and foods and beverages, with the aim of increasing awareness and interest in Greater Europe, as well as providing participating countries with bilateral trade opportunities and the opportunity to increase sales as a result of the Festival's marketing exposure.

Switzerland's contributions will be with the **Why Make Prints?** exhibition (details above); participating in both a seminar on Tourism and in a trade-related Catalogue Show; performance by a yodelling group; and showing of the Swiss film **Fourbi** in the European Film Festival at Village Cinemas. The dates for the film showings have not been completely finalised (at time of writing, early October) but are provisionally scheduled for 1st and 8th November.

The **Festival** will provide Aucklanders and visitors with a virtual "window on Europe". The Embassy greatly appreciates the co-operation of the Swiss Community.

President's Message

A few months ago, I was very anxious at the prospect of our Editor going overseas for ten weeks, being left with the task of compiling three *Helvetia* issues. Well, this is my third and last - and I am quite happy to hand the job back to Rinaldo! Thankfully, there were no major problems, although one particular 'faux pas' with last month's issue did have me worried. For some reason, on the front cover, I wrote November, when it was, of course, only October - perhaps it was in the hope that my E.E. ("Editing Experience") would come to an earlier end!! By the time I'd noticed what I'd done, the magazine had already been printed, leaving me wondering what I'd call the 'real' November issue - "Volume Two", perhaps? Now imagine my surprise when I saw the finished product on the morning of packing - the month on the front cover actually *did* read October.

To my great relief, someone at Rosetown Print noticed the mistake and corrected it for me - so it did become the October issue after all !

The latest Newsletter from the Swiss Abroad Association arrived recently, and it is once again offering new Youth Holiday Programmes, entitled "Discovering Switzerland". The Winter programme includes skiing and snowboarding camps; language courses; visits to businesses; 'home-stays' with Swiss families; and educational seminars. All activities are designed for young Swiss, aged 15 - 35, living abroad, to provide contact with local young Swiss compatriots. For anyone interest, just contact me for further information.

Once again, I'd like to encourage members to visit the cultural events happening around the country, both in conjunction with the Embassy, as well as the Christchurch Club (pg 9). Have a good month everyone, with kind regards to all
Beatrice