

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 62 (1996)
Heft: [7]

Artikel: Wallis' white elephant
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944913>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 21.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>



YOUNG TALENT

They call themselves the "Sörenberger Alpentrio" and wherever they appear, they take the audience by storm.

Manuela Wicki (13), Marianne (13) and Barbara (11) Schneider (from left to right), three farm girls from the Entlebuch who love to play and sing traditional Swiss songs are already in great demand to perform at weddings and birthday parties. It probably will not be long before they will appear on TV and in bigger concerts.

HÖLLOCH

Although you may not be a speleologist, you certainly must have heard of the Höllloch in the Muotathal (SZ), the largest cave structure in Europe which extends over 170 km underneath the Alps.

Last year over 8500 people visited the caves and for this year some 12,000 entries are expected.

In the face of this increasing popularity, the locals are getting concerned that the over-commercialisation of the caves could endanger them as well as the 50 odd living species which inhabit the caves.

A move is now under way to try to legally limit the number of people allowed to visit the Höllloch to some 12,000 per year. So it may well be that in future you will have to put your name on a waiting list several years ahead if you want to visit the famous Höllloch of Muotathal.

WALLIS' WHITE ELEPHANT

In 1984 the canton of Wallis bought from the famous hotelier family Seiler the company Immobilien Gletsch AG (IGAG) for 4.5 million SFR. By this it acquired an area of 37 million square meters of land which includes the Rhone Glacier with its ice cave and the Gletsch area together with the hotels "Rhonegletscher" and "Belvedere" on the Furka pass road.

The canton made the purchase at that time mainly on patriotic grounds to preserve an area which is dear to all Wallisers. The aim was also to protect the canton's water rights and to prevent the whole area from perhaps falling into foreign hands.

However, the canton soon found out that it had bought a white elephant. The two hotels were in such need of repair that IGAG was forced to sell the Belvedere and to ask the canton for a loan to renovate the Rhonegletscher. Up to now IGAG owes the canton some 4.4 million SFR on which it has never been able to pay any interest either. These outstanding interests alone amount by now to over one million SFR.

The canton of Wallis is now in a real quandary. By law it is not allowed to invest any more interest free money into its own company, but if it does not, the company has to go into receivership.

So the authorities of Wallis have decided to make an "advance" (Vorschuss) of funds to IGAG equivalent to the money it owes. Although this may solve the problem (on paper at least) for a short while, it is hard to see

IMMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND

Obtaining a New Zealand permanent residence permit or a work permit has become much more difficult since the immigration policy changes introduced by the Government in November of 1995.

If you already hold a residence permit you may be eligible to sponsor a family member to obtain a residence permit.

For specialist legal assistance with any residency/temporary permit/citizenship application, or any other legal matters, please contact:

MR PAULO WILHELM KÜNDIG



IMMIGRATION LAWYER LANE NEAVE RONALDSON
119 ARMAGH STREET, LEVEL 15
P.O. Box 13149 CHRISTCHURCH
PHONE: (03) 379-3720 FAX: (03) 379-8370

how this move will in the long run change anything to the financial situation of IGAG. But by then, local elections may well have taken place and so the present concillors probably hope to be able to off-load this tricky problem onto the shoulders of the next local government.

What is quite certain is that in the end, it will be the taxpayers who will have to carry the burden.

CHRISTMAS IN SWITZERLAND

BOOK NOW,
FLIGHTS FILLING FAST

SPECIAL FARES FOR SWISS MEMBERS.

CONTACT

HENRY SIGERIST at

TRAVELAIR

347 Parnell Rd. Auckland
P.O. Box 37-335 Parnell
Auckland

Phone: **09-377 3285** (work)
or 09-473 9011 (home)
Fax: **09-302 1099** (work)
or 09-473 2966 (home)