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Upcoming Swiss Cultural Events in New Zealand

(as indicated by the Swiss Embassy)

The Swiss Embassy, in co-operation with 'Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland', is pleased to announce the **Photographic Exhibition of 'The Patient Planet / So Many Worlds'** for 1999:

The Patient Planet/So Many Worlds is an exhibition of 255 photographs telling the story of the major political and human events of the second half of the 20th century. Many renowned names of humanistic photojournalism are represented, including Switzerland's Werner Bischof, together with Henri Cartier-Bresson, René Burri, Robert Frank. This important exhibition is brought to New Zealand by Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland, and should be of great interest to every age group - it is a photographic history of the world that is ours.

Wellington Dowse Art Gallery (Lower Hutt), **21 Aug - 21 Nov 1999**
Auckland Auckland Art Gallery, **11 Dec.1999 - 23 January 2000**

Your Corner....

We have 3 recipes for you to try out
 - one is a traditional Swiss recipe, and the other two are of 'Kiwi' origin.
 - All three are very nice !

Birnbrot (Fruit Roll)

Soak 500 gms prunes in 1 cup water. Add 3 peeled sliced apples and simmer until fruit is soft.

Puree and add grated rind of lemon, sugar to taste, 1 tablespoon 5-spice powder, splash of kirsch, handful of chopped nuts and a cup of sultanas. Mix well to a soft, spreadable consistency.

Dough

100 gm melted butter
 100 ml cold water
 1 tsp salt
 250 gm flour

Mix all ingredients quickly with a knife to avoid over-handling the soft dough.

Wrap and refrigerate for approx. ½ hour.

Roll out thinly into rectangles approx. 30 x 40 cm. - spread fruit mixture in a thin layer to within 2 cm of all the edges. Fold in the ends slightly and then fold over the dough lengthwise two or three times to produce a flattish roll.

Place on greased trays and brush with beaten egg. Prick well and bake at 180° C for approx. 40 - 50 mins till golden brown.

FAMILY FAVOURITES..

Caramel Oat Slice:

175 gm butter
 ¼ cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
 1 ½ cups flour
 ½ cup rolled oats

*FILLING; 50 gm butter (melted)
 ¾ cup sweetened condensed milk
 1 tablespoon Golden Syrup
 (combine and mix well)!*

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in vanilla essence. Add sifted flour and rolled oats. - Mix well - Put ¾ of mixture into a greased sponge roll tin, (20 cm x 30 cm). - Press firmly. - Spread the *FILLING* over the base. Sprinkle the remaining base mixture over the filling. Bake at 180° C for about 30 - 35 min. - Leave to cool, then cut into squares

Peanut Squares

(Jeremy Coney's and Tony Wilson's favourite recipe)

175 gm. butter
 ¾ cup raw sugar
 1 tablespoon Golden Syrup

Melt these ingredients in a pot or microwave. Take saucepan off heat. Add 1 cup mixed fruit or sultanas or dried apricots. Add one cup peanuts or walnuts or sesame seed. Then add a pinch of salt, ½ teaspoon baking powder and 1½ cups white flour. - Mix well ! - Spread into a greased sponge roll tin. - Bake at 180 ° C for approx. 30 min. - Cut while still warm -

Enjoy !

"En guete" ; from Trudy and Doris.

Remember your French??

Il faut souvent du temps pour apprendre à devenir jeune.

Jean Cocteau

It often takes time to learn how to be -
 come young again.

THE SWISS-KIWI YODEL GROUP, AT THE 1999 YODEL-FEST

Hurrah!! On 23 June, a total of 27 yodelers, family and friends depart New Zealand, arriving in Kuala Lumpur 12 hours later. We now travel by bus through the city, up into the hills, to the Genting Highland Resort, 2000m above sea level. We stay here for three days, and perform our folklore show twice daily. There isn't much time for much else after performing and practising. Strangely, it is our Swiss folklore show which is promoting NZ food. There are speeches by the NZ Trade Commission and also by Swiss Embassy staff.

On 26 June we have one hour to spend in the city, where it's very hot, before heading to the airport and our flight to Zürich. On the plane, we meet up with Yvonne Bühler, with Stephan and Claudia, and Beverley Hirzel, who have come on the direct flight from Auckland.

At 6.00 am on 27 June we arrive at Kloten airport, Zürich. What a welcome at this early hour! The Adliswil Yodel Group, lots of family and friends, and officials of the National Yodel Association are all there to greet us. Paul Roth, known as the Alphorn guru among us, and obviously the organiser of this great reception, is playing the alphorn, and speeches are given. The Ladies of Honour, in their colourful costumes, serve drinks and snacks, and both choirs sing. We are thrilled and overcome by all this, and thank everyone who comes to meet us. Finally we all part, leaving with families and friends.

On 29 June we meet again - now also joined by Bruno and Liz Eberle coming from England - at the Restaurant Starckenmühle, in Gais (AR). This is Fitzi country, where Heidi, Hans and Otto grew up. We travel up to Schwägalp, where Uli Fitzi, their nephew and manager of the Sântis Schwebebahn, shows us the gondola set up. We then take the gondola to the top of the Sântis to enjoy the majestic view.

That evening we perform in the new Panorama Room, which is full, with yodel songs and music. We are joined by the Urnäsch Yodel Choir, dressed in their colourful Appenzell costumes,



*Competition Jodelfest Frauenfeld 1999
The Auckland Swiss/Kiwi Jodelers in action*

thrilling the audience with their distinctive Appenzell yodel songs. The singing continues in the gondola, as strong as ever, on the way down!

The following day we head to Frauenfeld and meet at the 'Kaserne'. Our accommodation here with local families has all been organised by Ursula Arnold's sister-in-law, Susan.

In the morning we meet at our Stammtisch at the Restaurant Murgbrücke to practise. Now it's serious! Building the float for the parade is seen to by Peter, Menk, Kurt and Max - by evening 'Ruapehu' is progressing well. Everywhere there is much activity in preparation for the big event. The inner city is transformed into the 'Jodler Städtli', with stalls and eating places.

The official opening of the Yodel Festival is on 2 July. The locals have complained about the recent bad weather, but now it's fine and hot - 34°.

Near our 'Stammbeiz', opposite the 'Rathaus' and castle, is an arena for the official functions. Ursula takes us through one last practise, and then it's up to us! At 9 pm we line up, all dressed in our costumes, hot and nervous, with competition in full swing. Every four minutes a new choir comes on, sings, and then leaves the stage - and this in ten different locations simultaneously. Our bell rings at 9.20 and we march on to the stage. The theatre is packed. We are introduced and applauded, sing our song, 'Us de Berge', and it's all over. Suddenly, a guy jumps onto the stage and shouts, "let's hear some more, they've come a long way!". Breaking strict competition rules, we oblige with our NZ song, 'Pokare kare ana'. Once again the audience is delighted, and we also feel happy with our performance. Now we can relax, and outside mingle with the crowd and stroll around the 'Jodel Städtli', singing here and there.

The next day begins with all the various Alphorn competitions, followed by the yodeling. The very large hall is full of people. Peter sang superbly. Back in town we join other choirs singing in the streets - in every corner there is music - Alphorn, Ländler, Yodel.

Earlier in the day a reception was held at the 'Rathaus' for the Swiss Abroad. We met two other groups coming from overseas - from Calgary and Johannesburg.

The final day of the festival begins with the 'Feldpredig' (Outdoor Service). The heat doesn't stop the people coming. 12 Alphorn players sound their horns, and large yodel choirs participate. The sermon stirs the people on this solemn occasion - an unforgettable experience.

Afterwards, the festival ceremonies and speeches begin, including a humorous address by Federal Councillor Ogi.

And then the 'Rangliste' (result list) is announced.

Our achievements are: Choir - 1; Yodel (solo) Peter - 1; Alphorn (solo) Oscar - 1; (duo) Oscar and Kurt - 2; (duo) Martin and Reymer - 3; (trio) Menk, Reymer and Albert - 4.

Back at our 'Stammbeiz' we celebrate and are very happy with the results. We also truly appreciate Ursula's efforts in teaching and conducting us, which is not an easy task. She too is happy with us.

In the afternoon the parade begins. The streets are lined with spectators, smiling and waving. We are the 28th of 97 floats. Ruapehu is fully active, with smoke belching out the top. Menk, Hans and Rösli sit in front dressed in their costumes, while we march in our green Kiwi outfits. We march 5km, it is very hot, and the crowd loves it - what a great way to finish this festival!!

*Competition Jodelfest
Frauenfeld 1999*

*The Auckland Swiss/
Kiwi Jodel group taking
part in the traditional
float parade !*



Swiss Chef Berta Kiwi Host Keith

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On 5 July we leave Frauenfeld by bus for a three day trip to South Tirol, travelling through beautiful scenery and picturesque villages, on our way to Bozen and tour of the magnificent Dolomite mountains. Back in Bozen, we stroll through the old town, along the narrow lanes and into the medieval Rathaus square. Here the strains of alphorns and choir fill the air and the puzzles spectators seem to enjoy the entertainment. After leaving Bozen, we have a short stop in Innsbruck, and in the evening return to Frauenfeld. But where are the crowds, the stalls, the stages? All is gone - maybe it was all a dream?

We meet again on 17 July at the Pilatus aeroplane plant in Stans, where the manager welcomes us for a tour of the plant. Following a lunch, and a rendition of Pokare kare ana, the manager invited us to return in three years.

From here we went on to Root (LU), as guests and to provide the music at the wedding of Chantelle, daughter of Joe and Maria Arnold (NZ) to Oliver Küttel. In a beautiful cathedral church, the alphorns replace the organ, and there is yodeling instead of hymns.

And it is here where we end our journey together as the Swiss-Kiwi Yodel Group in Switzerland in 1999. We all now spend time with family and friends, and travel back to New Zealand individually, where we will continue our music with much enthusiasm.

A big thank you both the Hans Fitzi and Henry Sigerist for organising this most enjoyable and successful tour.

(contributed by Albert Ryter)