

Zeitschrift:	Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber:	Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band:	67 (2001)
Heft:	[8]
Artikel:	Here we see last years Swinger-King Abderhalden wrestling with this years champion Forrer both from Toggenburg canton of St. Gall [...]
Autor:	[s.n.]
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945143

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Here we see last years 'Schwinger-king' Abderhalden wrestling with this years champion Forrer, both from Toggenburg, Canton St.Gall.

see also colour photo of Forrer Nr. 1 and Grab Nr. 2 on page 16

Sunny Nyon celebrates wrestling and Swiss diversity - weekend 26.8.2001

The lakeside town of Nyon, bathed all weekend in glorious sunshine, became a melting pot of Swiss cultural diversity, as people from all over the country came to watch the Federal Wrestling and Alpine Games Festival - one of Switzerland's biggest traditional sporting events.

The final was won by 23-year-old St Gallen cheese-maker Arnold Forrer. In the tightest finish for more than 50 years, Forrer drew his final with former champion Jörg Abderhalden, but was crowned "Schwingen king" having won half a point more than his opponent in the preceding bouts.

Some 120,000 fans of Swiss-style wrestling, most of them from German-speaking cantons, descended on the Lake Geneva region for the festival, which is held only once every three years, and which has grown into one of the most important gatherings to celebrate Swiss alpine culture.

"Only once every three years do we get to see all of the best wrestlers together. It's really special to meet up with people from all over the country," one fan from Bern told swissinfo. "I'm from central Switzerland, and it's a fundamental part of our culture," said another, from canton Schwyz. "It's a great sporting event, but also a great social event." The organisers have made no secret

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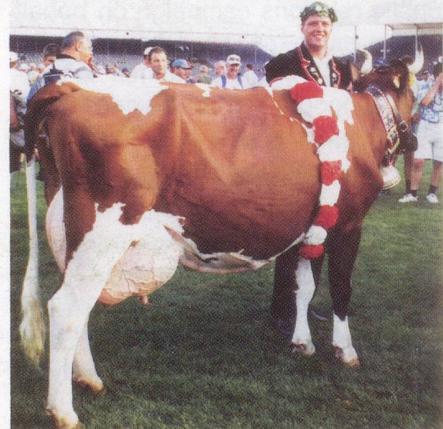
Permit Post

New Zealand
Permit 93966

(Registered at the G.P.O. Wellington as a Magazine)
Monthly Publication of the Swiss Society of New Zealand (Inc.)
Group New Zealand of the Helvetic Society

The 'Mystery Tour 2000' of the Auckland Swiss Club ended with a delicious lunch at the "Art of Cheese Café" at Puhoi / October 2000. Photo supplied by T.Fill

↙ See article 'Member's Profile on p.5



'Schwingerkönig Arnold Forrer' in his traditional costume of the Toggenburg. He received a breeding bull as first prize at the 'Eidgenössische Schwingfest' at Nyon

Vreni Vetsch
with one of the Masai
Guides

See article on page 9/10 -
Four Swiss-
Kiwis on Safari
in East Africa

← Photo by
Rae Achermann.

Second prize-getter
Martin Grab of Rothen-
thurm received a
'Simmental dairy Cow'
at the
'Eidgenössische Schwing
and Aelplerfest' at the lake
side town
of Nyon in the region of
Geneva!
See article on p. 13/14

Photo by E. Rust

