

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 73 (2007)
Heft: [7]

Artikel: 1st of August - Swiss National Day
Autor: Brühlmann, Trudi
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944331>

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: 25.01.2026

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

HELVE^{IA}



Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc
Helvetia is in its 73rd year

August/September 2007

1st of August - Swiss National Day

Since the end of the nineteenth century, the first of August has been celebrated as National Day.

The date refers to one of the first agreements made between the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden, who constituted the

public figure from political or cultural circles, accompanied by instrumental or choral performances, light athletic presentations, and the community singing of the national anthem are all traditional aspects of the celebration. Wealthy

majestically descending more than 20 metres to the Rhine below.

So, how do the Swiss in New Zealand celebrate the first of August? Well, the Wellington Swiss have a proper first of August fire. Though it is on Petone Beach, instead of a hilltop. Because, in New Zealand August is in winter, the warmth of the fire is very much appreciated. Do you remember how we used to try to persuade our parents that it was dark enough to light the lampions at nine o'clock? Here it is definitely dark enough at six! The children have started their own tradition: they roast marshmallows on little fires nearby. tb



Bonfire ready to be lit with Schilthorn in the background

focal point around which present-day Switzerland was built over the next 500 years. Men from these three cantons "at the beginning of the month of August" swore eternal allegiance to one another, promising mutual help and assistance. The alliance was formed against the Habsburgs, who at this time were trying to strengthen their position in the area leading to the Gotthard Pass.

In Switzerland, August 1st is celebrated exclusively in the communities; only a radio or television broadcast made by the President of the Confederation is an exception to this esteemed federal principle. Appropriate words of a prominent

communities, or tourist offices, sometimes provide a fireworks display.

Bonfires, mainly on hills or elevated ground, recall the expulsion of foreign bailiffs in the fourteenth century, which was signalled in this way. Children carrying lighted paper lanterns walk through the streets at night. Public and private buildings are decorated with national, cantonal and community flags, and the bakers bake bread rolls with a little Swiss flag on them.

A special kind of celebration takes place at the Rhine Falls at Neuhausen. The cascading water, rushing among the rocks before

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial/President's report	2
Bodensee Bulletin	3
Club News	4-6
Children's page	7
National sausage loses its skin	8
Die Schwarzen Brüder	9
Tracking down the scents of the natural world	10
Disability Insurance in Difficulties	11
Bears must stick to rules - or risk to be shot	12
The first Swiss emigrants/ Poetry	13
Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi	14
Obituary/AHV	15
Solar power in Switzerland	16