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fun-loving campervanners. I am sure that the entertainment will be out-of-this world!!! If you have a skit or musical item that you could provide, please don't be shy ... the more varied the entertainment, the better people like it!!!

#### February 7 & 21

Keglen recommences after the summer break. If you would like to know more about it, please ring Johnny on 06 274 8764, and he will be more than happy to tell you all about their antics!!!

#### February 10

The second Sunday in February is the date set down for the Taranaki Swiss Club annual picnic, and we always hope for a beautiful, sunny day. This day is great for socialising, as many members (and non-members) only attend this one function ... come along and reminisce with some old friends, and make some new acquaintances. Everyone is welcome, and barbequed cervelats and bratwurst, together with liquid refreshments

are available for purchase. Top your lunch off with an ice-cream, and watch the entertaining schwingen ... with young and not-so-young giving their best efforts in this typical 'Swiss' sport. Other activities are organised for your enjoyment, and as always, there will be a terrific tombola ... just waiting for you to purchase tickets in an effort to win some lovely prizes. The committee make a lot of effort in organising this wonderful day, so please make their day by attending this event with family and friends. Swiss music is always provided 'live' by our talented Zeno, aided by his terrific selection of CDs. We look forward to seeing you there. *MD*

#### SAUSAGES SAUSAGES

Club members, please be reminded that if you wish to purchase some sausages with our next order to the Swiss Deli, you must ring by the end of January either Ruedi or Lisette Benkert 06 7628 718 or Adrian or Marianne Drummond 06 7628 757. *MD*

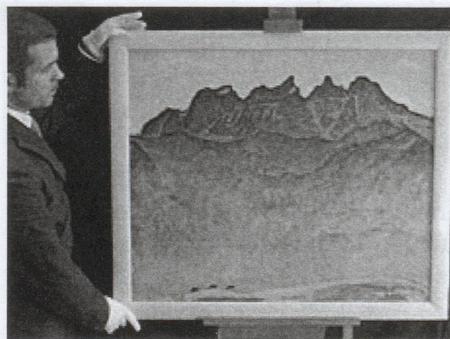
## NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

### Hodler climbs to new heights

Ferdinand Hodler, one of Switzerland's best-known and most widely admired artists, continues his inexorable rise among collectors of 20th century art. Over the past few years there has been a surge of interest for the Bernese artist whose figurative landscapes have repeatedly smashed Swiss auction records. Last week Sotheby's unveiled his latest masterpiece to go under the hammer on November 27. "Les Dents-du-Midi" is a view of the spectacular, jagged chain of mountains that Hodler painted in Champéry, canton Valais, in 1916. And it's a mere snip – with an estimated price of SFr5.7 million.

Hodler is regarded as the most important painter in 20th-century Swiss art. Hodler's prices were always high – even during his life-

time – but now there is a bigger market with new buyers so prices are going up.



Hodler painted over 700 landscapes during his long career, drawing inspiration from the Bernese Oberland and Lake Geneva. He developed a unique approach to landscape painting through his knowledge of nature, mineralogy and geology, which he studied at

## CHRISTCHURCH

#### Future Events:

##### 9 December: Samichlaus

Let's pencil this date in your diaries - Rumours are going around that Father Christmas will make it to NZ again this year!

When: Sunday, 9. December 2007, 2 pm onwards.

Where: The Groynes (Area 1A), off Johns Road, on the way to Belfast. For more information phone Jürg Hönger.

##### 12 Februar: Stammtisch

Let's meet for the first Swiss Club event in 2008 at the popular Café Torenhof for a chat and a drink, hopefully outside enjoying a warm summer's night!

When: Tuesday, 12 February 2008, 7:30pm onwards (date / time to be confirmed).

Where: Belgian Beer Café Torenhof, 88 Armagh St, Christchurch.

university, and by making thousands of sketches, which he then developed in his studio using his memory and imagination.

Why has this particular painting, which remained in the hands of the same Swiss family for around 90 years, suddenly surfaced? No doubt the anonymous owner has been watching the rising market for Hodler with great interest. In June 2007 a Hodler oil painting of Lake Geneva, "Lac Léman vu de Saint-Prix", sold for SFr10.9 million at an auction in Zurich, a record price for the artist. The painting had been expected to fetch SFr4.6 million. The previous Hodler record was SFr5.7 million, set by "Thunersee mit Stockhornkette" also in Zurich in December 2006. "Les Dents-du-Midi" belongs to a series of four paintings of the mountain range but is said to be the most accomplished.

*from swissinfo*