

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 77 (2011)  
**Heft:** [8]

## **Titelseiten**

### **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:** 09.02.2026

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



# HELVETIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc  
Helvetia is in its 77th year

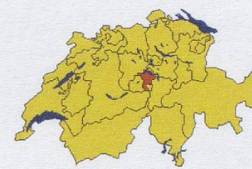
October 2011

## Nidwalden

Nidwalden is in the centre of Switzerland. The population is 40,287 (in 2007), of which 10% are foreigners. To the north it is bounded by the Lake Lucerne (Vierwaldstättersee), to all other directions by mountain chains. The area of the canton is 276km<sup>2</sup>,

Many of these soldiers died, and some stayed on in foreign countries. This helped to lessen the pressure of a growing population.

Under the Helvetic Republic, imposed in 1798 by French Revolutionary troops, Switzerland be-

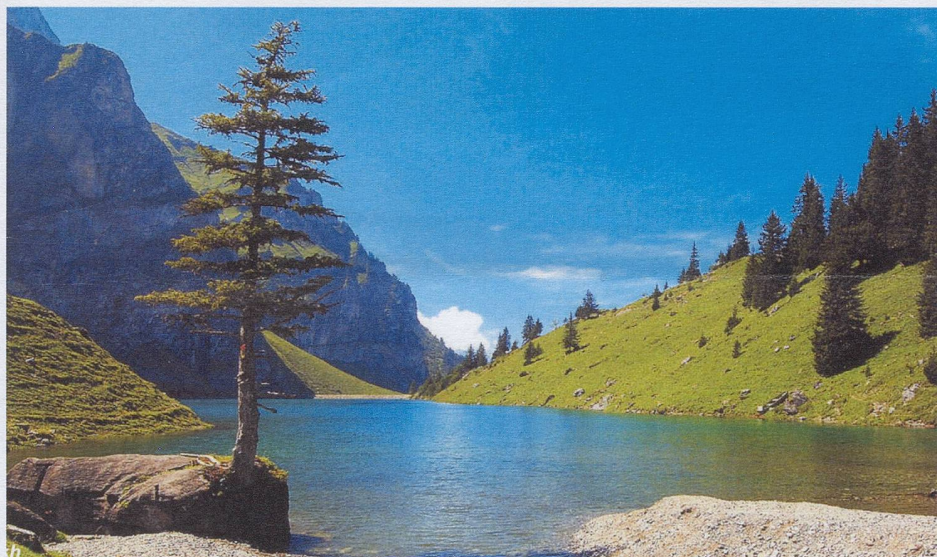


middle-sized businesses have developed over the last decades. The largest employer is Pilatus.

Traditional areas such as forestry and agriculture are still of importance. Agriculture is specialized in cattle and dairy farming. The farms are still run by individual families.

In recent years, Nidwalden has become an increasingly popular place to live and work. This is caused by its low taxes, its central location between Zürich and Milan, and its beautiful countryside.

Because of its mountainous geography, tourism is important in Nidwalden. The lake and the mountains attract many tourists, both during the winter and in summer. Major resorts include Klewenalp, Stanserhorn and the region around Bannalp, and Bürgenstock.



Bannalpsee in the canton of Nidwalden

of which about 40% is inhabited or used for farming. Forests occupy about one third of the canton with about one quarter being considered unproductive (mountains or glaciers). The capital is Stans.

Initially the land was owned by a number of noble families and abbeys. But by the late 13th century the major powers in Nidwalden had shrunk to three: the Habsburgs, Murbach Abbey and Engelberg Abbey. Nidwalden, like Obwalden a bit earlier, joined Uri and Schwyz to form an alliance which is considered the foundation of modern Switzerland.

Around 1500, many young NW men worked as mercenaries.

came a united country. The ideas of the French Revolution were not popular in many parts of Switzerland, as the cantons were accustomed to self-government. When rebel forces threatened the Republic, Nidwalden was attacked by French troops on 9 September 1798. The canton's infrastructure was badly damaged and at least 400 people were killed.

Up to the 20th century Nidwalden was dominated by agriculture. Cattle and cheese were exported mainly to northern Italy. From the middle of the 19th century onwards, trade, industry and tourism gained momentum. A great number of small and

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial	2
Carolyn Lane	3
Medal Winners Swiss Society	4
Children's Page	5
A year of Elections for Swiss New Zealanders	6
NZ/Swiss News	7
Ambassador of Switzerland	8
Nidwalden: Glasi Hergiswil	9
Nidwalden: Pilatus Aircraft/Hammetschwand Elevator	10
Nidwalden: Taxation/Mount Pilatus	11
Swiss Club News	12-19
Alpendohle - Alpine Chough	20