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Embassy News

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter in New Zealand: Visit marks 50 years of Swiss-NZ ties

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, visited New Zealand on 25 October 2013 and met with Prime Minister John Key and Foreign Minister Murray McCully. This visit was the first by a Foreign Minister from Switzerland. Mr Burkhalter signed a joint statement with Mr McCully on the deepening of bilateral cooperation, in particular in consular matters. Furthermore, they agreed to hold regular meetings at ministerial level in the future. In his discussion with Mr Key, Mr Burkhalter appealed for improvements with regard to the pension entitlement of Swiss citizens living in New Zealand.



Foreign Minister Murray McCully with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, during the recent New Zealand visit

Further reading:

Joint Statement on Bilateral Relations and Cooperation: (www.beehive.govt.nz/release/joint-statement-bilateral-relations-and-cooperation)

Close ties over a great distance: Switzerland and New Zealand expand bilateral relations (http://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=en&print_style=yes&msg-id=50714)

Swiss Kiwis on film

Double Olympic champion shot putter Valerie Adams is the final outstanding Swiss Kiwi in the Swiss Embassy's YouTube series.

Valerie has trained in Switzerland for the past three years with her Swiss trainer Jean Pierre Egger. She joins us in New Zealand to tell us about how the experience saved her career and put her on the world map as one of the most exceptional athletes of our generation.

Follow the Embassy's YouTube link below to watch Valerie talk about her training regime with Swiss sporting icons, Jean-Pierre Egger, Matthias Sempach and Werner Günthör. Hear her moving story and also the stories of our other outstanding Swiss Kiwis who have made this project such an important part of the 50th Anniversary of Swiss New Zealand diplomatic relations.

www.youtube.com/swissembassynz



Valerie Adams and her "Swiss connections" (from left to right): Jean-Pierre Egger (Swiss coach), Matthias Sempach ("Schwingerkönig 2013" and training partner), Valerie Adams & Werner Günthör