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# HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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## Highlights

- The Entlebuch
- Society AGM
- Dawson Falls Mountain Lodge under new Swiss Management
- Faust Quartett to tour New Zealand

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## The Entlebuch: Lucerne's Wild West



View from the Mittlist Gfäll Alp to Schrattenflue and Chemmeribodenflue in the Entlebuch region

(Photo by Simon Koopman, edited by Joaquim Alves Gaspar, Creative Commons License)

*The region of Entlebuch, one of the most remarkable and beautiful regions of Switzerland, well deserves its name as Lucerne's Wild West! Its numerous prealpine moors and karst (limestone) landscapes cover an area of 400 square km and include a flora and fauna of national and international importance.*

The region was long known as the "poorhouse" of Switzerland and is struggling for economic independence even today. However, an opportunity arose in late 2000, when unexpectedly an overwhelming majority of 94% of the Entlebuch's voters supported a historic step forward – the creation of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Within only one year, UNESCO convincingly included the Entlebuch into its World Network of Biosphere Reserves. This network strives for the conservation of the natural and cultural landscape, while strengthening the local economy.

The biosphere includes eight municipalities - Doppleschwand, Romoos, Entlebuch, Hasle, Schüpheim, Flüfli-Sörenberg, Escholzmatt and Marbach. The people of these communities have risen to the challenge with great innovation and insight, creating outstanding opportunities along the way - including some 350 certified, genuine Entlebuch products. The Biosphere Entlebuch offers not only

peace and relaxation in pristine nature, but also a plethora of activities including walking, mountain biking, skiing and golfing. The more adventurous can have a go at gold washing, a Kneipp cure, explore charcoal burning, take a guided nature tour, or tackle the so-called Seelensteg, a stepped wooden path through a forest, one of the highlights of the Entlebuch. Nature excursions help heighten the public's awareness of the world around them: The UNESCO Biosphere Entlebuch has become Switzerland's leading provider of such initiatives. The Entlebuch Biosphere is well known in Switzerland; on average over three media messages appear each day.

The BLS RegioExpress travels from Lucerne or Bern to Entlebuch every hour and the post bus Panorama-Route-Express Schüpheim - Giswil creates special insights and moments for all.

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