

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 80 (2014)
Heft: [6]

Inhaltsverzeichnis

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: 01.04.2026

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

9528

HELVETIA



MAGAZINE OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2014/2015

YEAR 80/81

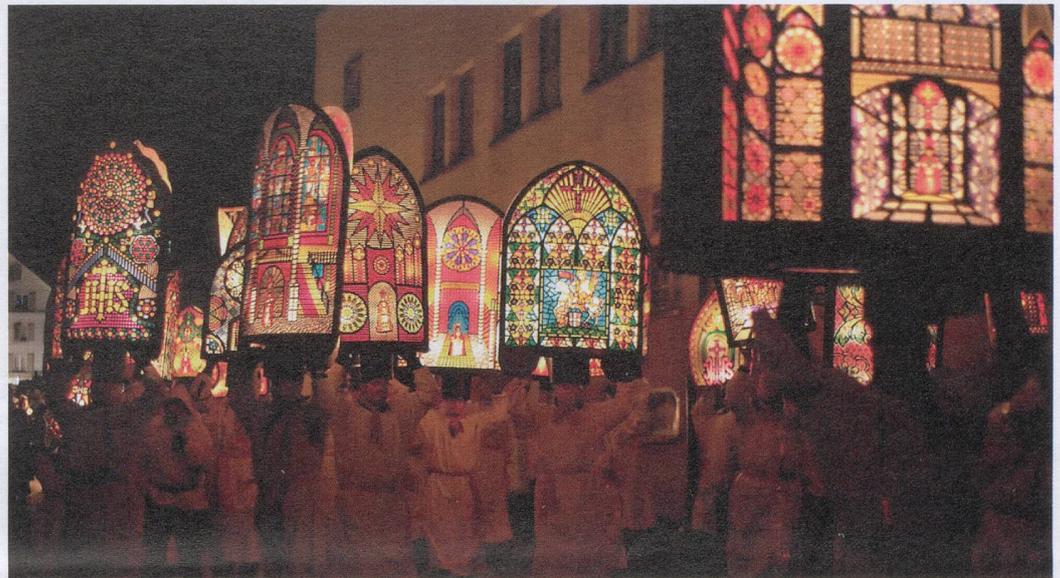
Christmas and New Year in Switzerland

Highlights

- Swiss Christmas & New Year Traditions
- Visp and surrounding area in canton Valais
- Kids colouring-in competition
- History of the Federal Shooting Festival

Inside

From the Editor	2
Greetings from the president	3
Traditions in Switzerland	4,21
Grittibenz history & recipe	5
Kids' corner	6
Colouring-in competition	7
ASO news	8
History of Federal Shooting Festival	9
150 year anniversary of Matterhorn ascent	10-11
Fun tips Wallis	12,21
The wine hike	13
Swiss club news	14-17
Shooting report	18
Photo Gallery	19
Auckland Swiss Farm update	20
Chuchichäschtl and Garden Diary	22
Swiss Snippets	23
Swiss New Year traditions	24



In Switzerland, snow may not always be a sure thing at Christmas time. What is, though, is an impressive assortment of festivals and traditional celebrations which are enjoyed by everyone, regardless of their religious beliefs. There are Christmas markets and parades where many enjoy a warming glass of mulled wine, church services, special concerts and carol singing, "Guetzli" baking and "Tischbombe" (a party bomb for the table). And every area of Switzerland enjoys a different kind of tradition especially for "Silvester", to scare away evil spirits for the New Year. It is wonderful to see that still so many, century old traditions have been preserved and are still actively celebrated every year.

For many families, a hike through the forest on a quest to find and cut the perfect Christmas tree is a holiday season tradition. Good quality means well-spaced branches for candle placement – yes, "real" candles - kept upright by dangling ornamental counter-balancers that are lit on Christmas Eve. Trees stay up until January 2 as the candles are lit again on New Year's Eve for good luck.

Many of us were lucky enough to have grown up and experience "Winter Wonderland" during the festive season and its many scary, loud and colourful traditions. Certainly a huge difference to BBQ's on the beach which is the way most

of us celebrate Christmas these days. Be it in Switzerland or New Zealand though, the main focus is to be together with loved ones and to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The Swiss Society of New Zealand wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous, happy and healthy New Year!

By Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg

