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Swiss Club News

Battle of Morgarten Celebration

On 14th November over 500 Swiss and friends of Switzerland travelled to Lower Hutt to celebrate the battle of Morgarten in 1315, the conquest of Aargau in 1415, the battle of Marignano in 1515 and the Congress of Vienna confirming Swiss neutrality in 1815. As well as wintery temperatures, the sounds of the Swiss Kiwi Yodlers welcomed us all to the beautiful grounds of the Swiss Residence. After a warm welcome (amongst icy winds) by Juerg Bono and Roland Schuetz, we were all treated to the finest Swiss foods – Cervelat, Bratwurst, Raclette, Appenzeller, Landjaeger, Swiss cookies and to warm us up: Nespresso coffee and Swiss wines.

Carts drawn by St. Bernard and Bernese mountain dogs as well as Sackgumpe, bottle fishing and the helium balloon competition entertained the many kids that joined the function. There was continued entertainment

for the adults too: air rifle shooting, alphorn, flag throwing, accordion music, more yodelling and heaps more. Young and old enjoyed the wonderful Swiss atmosphere and the 18/19-year olds even had a "Jungbuergerfeier".

At 7pm, just as the feet started to get really cold, we all huddled together to listen to our generous host, the Ambassador David Vogelsanger, explaining to us the meaning of the various historical events that we came together to celebrate on that day. In between the anthems Barbara Kuriger, MP for Taranaki-High Country, Trevor Mallard, MP for Lower Hutt and the Hon. Louise Upston, MP for Taupo, Minister for Land Information and Minister for Women delivered their speeches.

After some more coffee, wine and cookies everyone waited with anticipation for their raffle ticket number to be drawn out of a hat – by now our



toes had well and truly turned into icicles... Another highlight of the day was the bonfire that was lit when it was dark – yet another very traditional thing to do in our home country – as well as a perfect opportunity to warm up!

It was as Swiss as a day in New Zealand can be! The Ambassador, his wife Laura and his staff at the Embassy, as well as the Wellington Swiss Club put in a tremendous amount of effort to make this a simply wonderful and special day, which we will remember for a long time.

On behalf of the Swiss Society of New Zealand I would like to thank every single person who helped in any shape or form very much for their contribution – it simply was a perfect Swiss Day!

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg

Swiss show La Verità

performing at the New Zealand Festival in March 2016.



Dalí canvas-inspired circus to delight New Zealand Festival goers 'Like a firework, a scenic extravaganza, scenes of sheer beauty, with precise stage lighting, amazing costumes and breathtaking acrobatic acts.' – 24 Heures, Lausanne

A surreal Swiss circus is set to transform Wellington's Opera House over six nights in March with a spectacular show that mimics the interior world of a Salvador Dalí painting. La Verità is an "acrobatic and surrealist poem" that will star 13 performers equally adept in acrobatics, theatre, dance and music – against the backdrop of a giant (nine metre x 15 metre) Dalí canvas. The original of the stunning backdrop was created by Dalí for the ballet Mad Tristan put on by New York's Metropolitan Opera in 1944 and loaned to La Verità writer and director Daniele Finzi Pasca by a private art collector in 2010.

Finzi Pasca has said La Verità appeals more to the lightness of our natures than the darker qualities that can feature in the work of the world's most famous surrealist. "Dalí is inspired by nightmare, while our gaze is always charmed, inspired by dreams. This will not be the truth according to Dalí, but the truth inspired by Dalí."

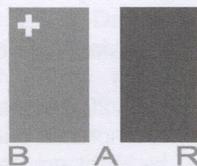
New Zealand Festival's Artistic Director Shelagh Magadza says this enchanting show is brought to the Festival by a director and company working at the height of their creative powers. La Verità's multitalented performers are absolutely first class. Daniele Finzi Pasca created, staged and choreographed two Olympic closing ceremonies and wrote and directed Cirque du Soleil's *Corteo*. Since its premiere in Montreal in January 2013, La Verità has been seen by over 250,000 people.

Get in quick to catch this magical show in Wellington in March.

Wed 2 Mar – Sat 5 March 7.30pm,
Sat 5 Mar 1.30pm
Sun 6 Mar – Mon 7 Mar 6pm,

Tickets from
Ticketek or www.festival.co.nz

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Looking forward to welcoming you
Your Swiss hosts:
Andrea & Peter

Happy Hour Mo - Fri
4 - 7pm
House Wine & Tap Beer \$7.0

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