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Pihama Lavender and Punehu Stream Cottage



Liz Sinclair-Kaiser moved back from 27 years living overseas in 2013. Liz is a Swiss citizen through her Dad's side. He arrived here in 1951 and had a Swiss bakery in Auckland for 40 years.

She fell in love with her property just South of Opunake in Taranaki on the Surf Coast Highway. The property has a rich history. It started in 1897 as a co-operative dairy factory with land donated by the neighbouring farmer. In 1922 the wooden factory burned down and was replaced by the concrete buildings that exist to this day. The dairy factory produced award winning butter and cheese. It was the parent factory for many of the other dairy factories in the district. It was ideally located on Punehu Stream and set back off the road with many workers cottages.

In the 1960s the dairy factory was closed down and eventually became used as a pig farm. Unfortunately, the building burned down for a second time in its history in 1977. At this point the burned out shell was purchased by a family and converted into their home with a separate house attached. This is the wonderful property that Liz purchased in 2013.

It is five acres of botanic gardens with excellent accommodation and a stream on two sides. The property operates as a lavender farm. The lavender is ready for harvest in January and will be distilled to produce essential oil and lavender spray. These products and others, are sold at the property in a gallery and farm shop that is open in the summer months on Saturdays and Sundays.

The accommodation is called Punehu Stream cottage and offers comfortable and spacious accommodation in two bedrooms and two bathrooms with kitchen, living room and patio.. The cottage has its own direct and private access to the stream. Many places around the property offer stunning views of the mountain. These provide excellent subject matter for Liz who is also an artist. Her shop sells some of her work as well as works by other artists.

Pihama Lavender and Punehu Stream Cottage are situated at 3510 South Road, Opunake. The business websites can be visited at www.pihamalavender.com and www.punehustream-cottage.com Visitors are most welcome.

By Liz Sinclair-Kaiser



D'Aarche Noah

„D Tier gönd i d „Aarche Noah“:

Uf äimaal gaat's nümme fürsi...

„Was isch dänn loos?“ rüefft der Esel vo hine.

De Giraff streckt de Chopf i d Hööchi und säit:

„Em Noah sini Frau wott, das ali d Finke-n-aalegged.“

„Jä und?“

„Jetzt sind halt grad d Tuusigfüessler draa!“



I'm sure most of you know the most famous Swiss children's book "Schellen-Ursli" which is set high up in the Alps of the Engadin, in Guarda to be precise. This book is based on the Chalandamarz tradition. Ursli is unfortunate to get the smallest bell and then goes out on an adventure to find a larger bell – He succeeds and can lead the procession with his huge cowbell that he finds up in their summer hut in the mountains.

It's an amazing story that was written by Selina Chönz during the second world war. Alois Carigiet, a Swiss artist working for the 'Zurich Cabaret Cornichon' visited Guarda every year and he then illustrated all the paintings for the Schellen-Ursli book. Since after the war, when the book was published, it sold over 1 Million copies in German and Romansh.

Guarda has an amazing "Schellen-Ursli kids hiking trail" that we visited a couple of years ago. More on this fascinating children's hike in one of the following Helvetia's – so watch this space...

By Tanja Latham-Zurbrugg