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Embassy News

Swiss Army Band in New Zealand

Our national day on 1 August will be celebrated this year in a very special way. For the first time ever, the Swiss Army Band will come to New Zealand! There have been several visits by New Zealand Military Bands in Switzerland in the past and also a memorable performance of the civilian Top Secret Drum Corps from Basel at the 2016 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Wellington. But now Ambassador David Vogelsanger has convinced our Department of Defense to send a formation of our Army Band on the longest trip they have ever taken.

The formation of sixteen young musicians will perform on 27 and 28 July in Auckland, outdoors and together with the Royal New Zealand Navy Band

in a concert at the Bruce Mason Center, followed by the Auckland Swiss Club's 1 August celebration. On 29 and 30 July the band will be in Taranaki, performing at the Swiss Club's celebration and at concerts in New Plymouth.

On 31 July follows Wellington where joint events with the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band will take place at the National War Memorial and at other places, followed by an evening concert in Upper Hutt. On 1 August itself, the Swiss and the Air Force Band will jointly perform in front Parliament, the Swiss Army Band in the evening at the Embassy's national day celebration at the provisional Residence of Switzerland in Upper Hutt.

Dear fellow citizens,

Because we love to travel to Switzerland when it is summer there and winter here, I thought I could give you some information regarding your Swiss passport and ID applications.

If you are duly registered with the Embassy in Wellington, you can order your new Swiss passport and/or Identity card as follows:

- by applying online on the following webpage: www.schweizerpass.ch
- in the field «Place of registration» please enter «Wellington»;
- in the field "Remarks regarding your application or notes for the issuing authorities", please indicate the place where you would like to have your biometric data registered. You have the following choices:
 - Wellington at the Embassy
 - at another Embassy or Consulate General around the world (in this case please indicate the city);
 - or in a passport office in Switzerland (in this case please indicate the Canton);
- in the same field "Remarks regarding your application or notes for the issuing authorities", please indicate the preferred date of your appointment;
- in the field "Delivery address", please indicate the preferred one in Switzerland or abroad. The indication of a precise address may reduce the risk of losses and delays in the delivery.

I will then be able to check your application and if you chose not to have your biometric data registered in Wellington, ask the authorization on your behalf to have your biometric data registered in the place you chose. Once approved, I will inform you accordingly and help you with your appointment booking.

The new documents are printed in Switzerland the day after your biometric data are registered. Depending on the delivery address indicated in your application, the delivery can take between three days (Switzerland) and thirty working days (New Zealand, rural areas).

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that in June 2018 I will be transferred to my new posting in Germany. It has been a pleasure for me and Julian to have being given the opportunity to live in New Zealand for three years and we will leave this country with good memories of the nature, the Maori culture and the good handshakes we exchanged with you!

Kind regards
Gloria Giugno
Vice-Consul



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