

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 80 (2014)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: Embassy news

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Embassy News

Swiss MP Thomas Aeschi visits New Zealand

On February 10 and 11, 2014, Swiss MP Thomas Aeschi was in Wellington for a variety of meetings. National Councillor Aeschi is from the Swiss People's Party, Switzerland's largest party. He is also the President of the newly-founded *Parliamentary Association Switzerland – Australia and New Zealand*.

Thomas Aeschi met members of the *New Zealand Switzerland Parliamentary Friendship Group* including co-chairs, National's Dr Cam Calder and Labour's Hon Maryan Street.

Mr Aeschi enjoyed a working lunch at the Beehive, hosted by the Vice Chair of the *Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade*, the Green Party's Dr. Kennedy Graham. Mr Aeschi was introduced in the House by the Speaker, the Rt Hon David Carter. He had further discussions throughout the two days with members of various think tanks and academic representatives.

Mr Aeschi's visit further strengthens the already warm and productive relationship between Switzerland and New Zealand.

webpage: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington and click on News & Events.



Celebrating 50 years of Swiss-Kiwi diplomatic relations in Auckland with (from left to right) Jörg Kistler, Kobi Bosshard, Swiss Ambassador Marion Weichelt-Krupski, William Hunt, Wynton Rufer and Valerie Adams with coach Jean-Pierre Egger



Thomas Aeschi, middle, with members of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (from left to right: Lindsay Tisch, Dr Paul Hutchison, Dr Kennedy Graham, Thomas Aeschi, Hon David Shearer, Hon Phil Goff)

Stunning Day and Setting for Swiss Kiwi Stories Launch

The waterfront offices of MFAT in Auckland provided the perfect backdrop for the official launch of the YouTube series *Swiss Kiwi Stories* which celebrates 50 years of Swiss-NZ diplomatic relations. The guest list was a who's who of the political, diplomatic and sporting and Swiss community, with Foreign Minister Murray McCully, Trade Minister Tim Groser, Auckland mayor Len Brown, Double Olympic Champion Valerie Adams and Football star Wynton Rufer in attendance.

Guests were entertained by the Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group before watching excerpts from each of the seven videos.

For your chance to see Valerie Adams, Wynton Rufer, Nadine Jäggi, Wendy Holdener, Jörg Kistler, Kobi Bosshard and William Hunt in action, go to our YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/swissembassynz

For more photos of the event, see the Swiss Embassy's



Swiss Ambassador Marion Weichelt Krupski with Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully



Swiss Kiwi Yodellers providing that Swiss touch