

News from the Embassy

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Photo Lightscapes - Wellington and Dunedin

Photo Lightscapes is a collaboration between photographers from Switzerland, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand.

They were invited to participate by Swiss photographer, Charles Wever, after attending one of his workshops on the creative use of artificial light in landscape photography. The exhibition opens in Wellington (Price Waterhouse Coopers Gallery, Westpac St James Theatre) from September 22 to October 16 and in Dunedin (Otago Museum) from April 16 to June 26, 2005. Each photographer is exhibiting eight photographs. All works are for sale at \$750.00.

The exhibition has been supported by the Arts Council of Switzerland, the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington, the Australian High Commission in Wellington, the Westpac St James Theatre and the Otago Museum. For more information please contact Louise Beale at the Embassy of Switzerland.

Auckland performance by Swiss Pianist

Accomplished Swiss pianist, Hanny Schmid-Wyss, will be performing one concert in Auckland on Monday 21st October 2004 in the Wellersley room, Auckland Art Gallery, corner Wellersley and Kitchener Streets at 3.00pm.

The concert is jointly sponsored by the Auckland Goethe Society, Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland and Phonak NZ Ltd, with assistance from the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington. The concert is free, but it is requested that attendees should be seated before 3.00pm.

"Have You Registered to Vote in Federal Elections?"

Dear Follow Citizens,
If you hold a Swiss passport, you have the right to vote in Swiss federal elections. This principle is well established and applies to double nationals as well. Have you registered to vote?

The right to vote is a tangible sign that your fellow citizens want to maintain legal and civil links with you and are asking you to help shape the future of our country. It does not matter where you live, what language you speak, and what ties you have established in your country of residence. Why? In a direct democracy as ours, every voice counts, even distant ones. We cherish the pluralism of opinion. It makes us stronger in the end. Don't spurn this generous offer.

Switzerland is ready to protect you. You should do likewise. No country can survive unless you and others like you

want it to go on and remain sovereign and independent. Don't take Switzerland, or any country, for granted.

Finally, in the next few years many matters of direct importance to you will come up for a vote. An example is the reform of the welfare state, in which you have a stake - directly or indirectly. Don't miss out.

At present, only about 10% of Swiss citizens registered with the Embassy have also registered to vote. We can do better. I'm looking forward to announcing, at the next meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand in Hamilton next June, that we have doubled the percentage - that we have 500 more registered voters. It is an ambitious, but not an impossible target. Just register yourself and convince another Swiss to register with you, and it's done.

The Embassy stands ready to facilitate the procedure.

Sylvie Matteucci
Ambassador

Registration form for Swiss Abroad entitled to vote

*(please write clearly in block letters and send back to:
Swiss Embassy, PO Box 25004, Wellington)*

Family name

First name

Date of Birth

Place of origin

Phone

On the basis of the Federal Law of December 19, 1975, and the Ordinance of October 16, 1991, on Political Rights for the Swiss Abroad, I wish to exercise my right to vote in federal elections and referendums and to sign popular initiatives and demands for referendums.

As voting municipality, I wish to choose:

Place

Canton

because this is my municipality of origin

because I resided here from (year) to (year)

Language of voting documents

German

French

Italian

Date..... Signature.....

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