

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 67 (2001)  
**Heft:** [7]  
  
**Rubrik:** Your corner...

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 10.07.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



### Your Corner...

Here we are heading for springtime and summer. Frequently we will once again include the humble 'Birchermüesli' in our menu plans as is custom in Switzerland and in many other countries.

You may have your own 'composition of the Birchermüesli', but here is one that stood the test of time in our household:

50 gr Rolled Oats  
60 gr Raisins or Sultanas  
200 ml Milk or Condensed Milk  
40 gr nuts, walnuts or almonds  
100 ml apple cider or juice  
3 or 4 grated apples  
1 or 2 grated pears  
or any other fruit of the season  
juice of 1 lemon or/and orange  
small carton of yoghurt  
4 to 7 tablespoons of  
sugar/or honey  
**Mix all ingredients and enjoy !**

### A recent publication supplied by SRI - swissinfo.org Swiss Birchermüesli enters Guinness Book of Records

Birchermüesli was developed by a Swiss physician, Maximilian Oskar Bircher-Benner. Switzerland's world famous dish, Birchermüesli, has entered the Guinness Book of Records after more than a tonne of the stuff was mixed and eaten in Zurich.

Four hundred kilos of müesli, 425 litres of milk, 20 litres of orange juice and 20 litres of lemon juice, 80 kilos of strawberry yogurt, 200 kilos of sliced apples, 50 kilos of bananas, and 75 kilos of strawberries went into the record-breaking mixture.

Happily for the organisers, more than 5,000 people arrived armed with spoons to polish off the mammoth Birchermüesli.

The dish was developed in Zurich at the turn of the last century by a Swiss physician, Maximilian Oskar Bircher-Benner. He created müesli after noticing that many of his patients, both rich and poor, suffered from an unbalanced diet. Benner was born the son of a lawyer in 1867 in canton Aargau. He went to medical school in Zurich, before setting up his own business in the working-class area of Aussersihl. The Aargau physician soon found that many of his patients suffered from malnu-

trition. Benner grew convinced that the best way to change this situation was to invent a preparation based on raw cereals, fruit and vegetables, instead of relying on meat. He named his recipe "Apfeldiätspeise", or "Dietary Apple Meal".

In a book about müesli, Albert Wirz wrote that friends of Benner's said he found inspiration for his recipe while visiting huts in the mountains. But other researchers say the origins of the dish lie in Pakistan's Himalayas. Initially, Benner did not have any success with his nutrition theory. In 1900, the physician was publicly discredited by the Zurich medical profession after disclosing his innovative concept.

Good health in those days was considered to result from a sufficient amount of meat and milk. However far from being discouraged, Benner continued to treat his patients with müesli at his sanatorium. He also encouraged physical exercise.

Today, müesli is mainly considered as a breakfast dish. It contains ground cereals mixed with fruit and nuts. The various types of müesli available on the market, however, no longer reflect the original dish, which is considered too sour for contemporary tastes. Added to this, many brands and substantial amounts of sugar, turning the dish into a calorie bomb.

### Good news for Lovers of Chocolate

#### The power of Chocolate

Here is some good winter news!

Two Australian scientists, Dr. John Ashton and Suzi Ashton have recently written a book called 'A Chocolate a Day Keeps the Doctor Away'. Now this is a change from the 'apple a day'. In this book it is claimed that:

\* A piece of chocolate a day is even better than a glass of red wine a day. Apparently chocolate is very rich in antioxidants that may protect against cancer. (*Better for driving a motor car too!*)

\* Chocolate is neutral to heart disease and can improve cholesterol levels.

\* Chocolate is an outstanding source of chromium, which is important in the metabolism of carbohydrates, and magnesium.

### How much should you eat?

Well, no 'pig outs' are allowed - the recommendation is for max. of 50 gr per day. And unlike red wine, you can have it in the morning, in your car, in your desk drawer or on the run! (*But of course it should be Swiss chocolate by preference!Ed.*) Enjoy the rest of the winter and the start of Spring!

Trudy and Doris.

### Le Castel of Switzerland



These clocks are a unique product and are ideal to be handed down as treasured heirloom pieces or exquisite gifts to mark a particular celebration. Imports, Sales & Service of exceptional quality clocks. (Special discounts for members of the Swiss clubs in New Zealand)

Full Workshop for Clock repairs and Restorations.

For inquiries and a free brochure please contact:

Fred Ehrensperger M.N.Z.H.I.

SWISS PRESTIGE LTD

P.O.Box 7144 New Plymouth

Tel/Fax: 06 757 21 88 / Email: [prestige@globe.net.nz](mailto:prestige@globe.net.nz)



### NEW HORIZON COLLEGE OF ENGLISH

Owned and Operated by New Horizon College Limited

### Saletti zame!!

### English Language in Napier

Do you have friends or relations in Switzerland who would like to learn ENGLISH in the "Art Deco Capital of the World", Napier, New Zealand?

Contact me at  
New Horizon College of English  
for details about our courses.

Christine Schmidli

Phone: 06-835-6423

06-TEL-NHCE

Fax: 06-835-6523

Email: [english.newhorizon@clear.net.nz](mailto:english.newhorizon@clear.net.nz)  
[www.nhce.ac.nz](http://www.nhce.ac.nz)

Very competitive rates.  
Excellent quality programmes.  
Wonderful modern campus.