

# Swiss women celebrate 40 years of suffrage

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **77 (2011)**

Heft [6]

PDF erstellt am: **14.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943392>

## **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

## **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.



# Swiss women celebrate 40 years of suffrage

Swiss women have come a long way since 1971, the year they were granted the right to vote at the federal level. On February 7, 1971, 66 per cent of Swiss men voted in favour of allowing women to vote. The first opportunity came on June 6 of that year - when nationwide issues included environmental protection and financial regulations. Elisabeth Kopp, Switzerland's first female cabinet member, remembers the not-so-good old days quite well: "When I talk with young people and my grandchildren, they are so amazed when they hear that I could not open a bank account in my own name as mayor of the city where we live. They look at me and say this cannot be true, but unfortunately it was."

While she described the election of the female cabinet majority in September 2010 as a great moment in Swiss history, she also noted that it was more of a symbolic one. Like so many of her colleagues, Kopp feels there is a lot of work to be done on the gender equality front. As a priority she cited equal pay for equal work.

Asked what people could expect in 40 years from now, Kopp said: "I hope men will be more emancipated by then and support the equality of women at their side - not only in politics but also in the whole society and in the family - and realise what an advantage this means. It's a challenge of course, being married to a woman who has equal rights and a

good education and so on, but it's much more interesting."

Switzerland was almost the last country in Europe to give women the vote, in 1971. The fight for women's suffrage in Switzerland goes back to the end of the 19th century. The Swiss Female Workers' Association called for the vote for women in 1893.

In 1904 the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland included women's suffrage in its manifesto. In 1912 and 1919 a number of cantons rejected moves to give women the vote at cantonal level. A petition calling for women to get the vote at federal level collected nearly 250,000 signatures, but was ignored.

The first breakthrough came in 1957, when canton Basel City voted to allow communes to give women the vote at commune level. Riehen was the first to do so, in 1958.

In a federal vote in 1959, women's suffrage was rejected by 67%.

Women were finally granted the right to vote at federal level on February 7, 1971. In October 1971 the first 11 women were elected to parliament. Women still did not have the vote at the local level in all cantons and communes. The last to hold out was canton Appenzell Inner-Rhodes. Women got the vote there in 1990, after a Federal Court decision.

*swissinfo*

**SWISS CHOCOLATES**  
 & gluten / dairy free baking

phone: 09 420 3387, email: edith@swissbliss.co.nz

**HAND MADE DAILY**

- delicious "SCHOGGISTAENGLI" (Truffle Cigars)
- real "MOHRENKOEPLI" (MussKuss)
- FLORENTINER
- CHOCOLATE THINS, incl Chilli Chocolate
- original "BASLER LAECKERLI" (Spiced Honey Sticks)
- CORPORATE GIFTS a SPECIALITY

LOCAL and mainly certified ORGANIC ingredients

**VISIT & CONTACT US**

- at the factory in WAITOKI, Friday's 9am to 6pm
- at the MATAKANA village farmers market, every Saturday 8am to 1pm
- order ONLINE, www.swissbliss.co.nz
- MAIL ORDERS available

**OUR LOCATION**  
 Swiss Bliss Chocolate  
 867 Kahikatea Flat Road  
 Waitoki, RD1 Kaukapakapa 0871



## Wie glücklich ist der Pessimist

*Wie glücklich ist der Pessimist,  
 wenn etwas schiefgegangen ist!  
 Und geht es aller Welt auch schlecht,  
 Ihm bleibt der Trost: Er hatte recht!  
 Ein Träger düsterer Unheilsbrillen,  
 Glaubt er nicht mal an "freien Willen".*

*Doch gläubig sind die Optimisten,  
 Ob sie nun Moslems, Juden, Christen.  
 Und kommen sie einst alle heil  
 In Gottes Himmelreich,  
 Dann sagt der Optimist: "Weil..",  
 Der Pessimist: "Obgleich!"*

Mascha Kaleko