

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney are coming to Yungaburra!

And take three guesses where they are coming? That's right, Nick has been trying for over ten years to get them up here. Apparently, they promise to engage us in some very *authentic* Swiss Culture.

The group was founded on Easter Monday the 14th of April 1968 at the Cahills 'Swiss Tavern' Restaurant by four young Swiss. It grew quickly to a dozen members and more. They were mostly male Swiss immigrants. Many of them returned to their homeland and were replaced by new immigrants. So, the early years of the groups' existence saw a solid core. The last of the foundation members, Urban Gmuier, has only left the group three years ago. There are six current members with more than twenty years of service to the group.

Right from the start, the tunes of an Alphorn were part of the attraction. Soon there were two, and later on as many as six long horns were being played. Of course, the typical Swiss yodelling was always the main feature of the group. Cowbells, coin spinning bowls, flag spinning, whip cracking and Buchel (a sort of wooden trumpet) playing are some of the other attractions which were added over the years.

The alphorn is not just a Swiss Folk-musical instrument, it is *the* Swiss national instrument. Picture postcards with alphorn-blowers abound in Switzerland. The alphorn is there waiting to be played at any alpine festival; it can be heard at some urban festivals too.

At one time every herdsman used to make his own alphorn. In the last century, carpenters in the central part

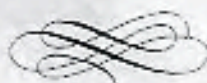
of Switzerland started to manufacture alphorns, and today there are about 20 alphorn-makers working in Switzerland. Most of them - farmers and carpenters - make alphorns as a sideline. Only Julius Emmenegger at Eich in the canton of Lucerne makes alphorns for a living.

The shape of the curved alphorn is a gift from nature: A young pine tree, which has grown curved under the pressure of the snow on a hillside is felled, the bark is removed and the tree is cut into two halves. Today's alphorn makers prefer to this natural form, wood of a better quality, which they glue together and carve afterwards in the shape of an alphorn. For both methods the hollowing-out that follows, piece by piece, is the same long drawn-out labour with a round plane and a gouge to a wall thickness of 4 to 7 mm - more than 75 hours of work.

In former times it was the length of the pine tree which dictate the key - today measurements are devised which produce alphorns of the key desired. Polyphonic playing has been possible since then, and is so often practiced, that the first competition of polyphonic alphorn-playing took place two years ago.

This sounds like a unique opportunity *truly not to be missed* at Nicks Swiss-Italian Restaurant in Yungaburra on Saturday 24 April. We just might find out what all this yodelling, is really all about!

See Nicks ad on page 12 for more details.



A Unique Opportunity not to be missed!

Nick proudly presents the
The Swiss Yodellers & Alphorn Group of Sydney



Sunday, 25 April
a Swiss Breakfast
with the Yodellers
9 - 10.30 am
\$12.50 p/p

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