



Gerhard Bruegger, Consul General, Switzerland, Mohamed Mahgoub and Hassan Al Hashemi



Brian Eubank, Vice-Consul for the United States



Christoph K Franzen, Ashley, Claire Aisha and Rachel



Mrs and Mr Wafa Hijjawi

Mrs and Mr David Blomgren

# THE SWISS CONNECTION

## Swiss expats celebrated their National Day at the Movenpick Hotel with much fanfare

HOSTED BY the Swiss Business Council, Switzerland's National Day celebrations went long into the night on August 1 at the Movenpick Hotel, Dubai.

With the entrance hall adorned with National and regional flags and traditional music playing for the packed house one could have been in Zurich, Berne or Geneva such was the attention to detail.

Many of the city's expatriates turned up along with dignitaries from other countries and special guests from around Dubai.

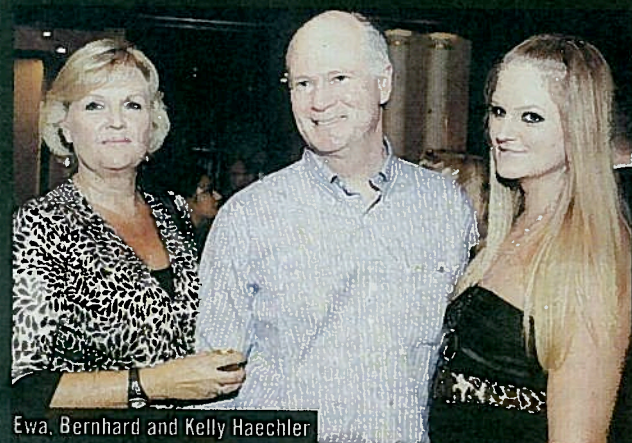
Brian Eubank, Vice-Consul for the United States told us the party was "very nice and tastefully done," as did Hassan Al Hashemi, Director of External Relations for the Dubai Chamber who added, "it's a fantastic party."

Dressed for the occasion was Swiss

national but Dubai resident for nine years Christoph Franzen along with his wife and little girl. "We usually come to the Movenpick for National Day. It's a Swiss hotel so they do things well. If I'm not here and we are in Switzerland then usually we spend time with family and have raclette and fondue."

Just before the chef served up a wonderful buffet of authentic Swiss food including said fondue and raclette the crowd was addressed by Swiss President Pascal Couchepin by recorded message and the Swiss Consul General to Dubai, Gerhard Bruegger. Both emphasised the unique ties Switzerland and the UAE share with Gerhard Bruegger commenting on the UAE's policy of tolerance and mutual respect that Switzerland has subscribed to for over 700 years. ■

PHOTOS: MOHAMMED MUSTAFA KHAN



Ewa, Bernhard and Kelly Haechler



Thomas Tapken, Gillian and Stephan Schubach



Philippe, Mattia and Penny