



Sweet success



Congratulations to the Swiss Cake and Coffee Shop on your 10 year anniversary.

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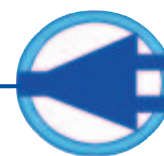
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Panorama
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Congratulations to Susanne & Andreas on 10 years of success. Thank you for your excellent service and quality . . .

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10 year anniversary

advertising feature

Long working hours and little time together helped Andreas and Susanne Widmer make the decision to start their own coffee shop

An overdue, extended honeymoon is to thank for bringing qualified baker and pastry chef Andreas Widmer and qualified chef Susanne Widmer to Cairns.

Their creation, Swiss Cake & Coffee Shop, is still going strong 10 years later which is a testament to the high standard of their tempting products, friendly service and knowledge of the industry.

Celebrating the shop's 10th anniversary this month are hundreds of locals and visitors from its loyal customer circle. Andreas says three years after he and Susanne were married and had finally saved for their honeymoon, they travelled for seven months around Australia.

"The idea to start a new life here started to grow in our minds and we were looking for a location while on our honeymoon," Andreas says.

They were travelling on a tourist visa so had to return to Switzerland where they narrowed their choice down to Perth and Cairns.

Luckily for Cairns the northern

city was chosen. It took nine months before they were granted a permanent resident visa late in 1995 and on January 6, 1996, the couple left Switzerland for Sydney.

They stayed with friends for four weeks before making the long drive to their new life. Finding somewhere to live was relatively easy, taking just six months to find the house they have called home for the past 11 years. With their jobs it was much more difficult, Andreas explains. "As a qualified baker and pastry chef with a master degree I could hardly find a job in Cairns."

"I started as a night shift baker working seven nights a week from 9pm to 4am in a bakery. Susanne, a qualified chef, was working during the day as a shop assistant in a coffee shop. So we hardly had any time together and started to ask ourselves why we had moved to Australia."

At this point Andreas changed his job to kitchenhand in a Swiss restaurant for five evenings and was still working as a baker for

two nights. "Finally I had the opportunity to work in a five-star hotel in Cairns as an assistant pastry chef," he says.

"The days were long but I enjoyed the work with top ingredients and the chance to be creative."

After years of working 13-hour days with pay for just eight, Andreas and Susanne had the chance to buy the bakery where Andreas first worked in Cairns, but couldn't raise the money. "Susanne then stumbled across a newspaper ad for a coffee shop for sale as a husband and wife business.

"When we saw the premises for the first time, we both knew that was it. We took over the coffee shop and closed it for renovation, reopening four weeks later in September 1998 with a new name and concept just 30m from the most popular coffee shop in Cairns."

Andreas and Susanne welcome everyone to help celebrate their 10th anniversary.



Andreas and Susanne Widmer discovered Cairns while they were honeymooning in Australia.



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