Official Communication

**Schengen/Dublin**

Informative note on the implementation of Schengen/Dublin

The association agreements of Switzerland to Schengen-Dublin were concluded with the European Union entered into force on 1 March 2008.

The philosophy behind Schengen is the abolition of systematic border controls among the participating states. Thus road traffic is no longer delayed; road, rail and air passengers no longer have their identity checked by border guards when crossing borders (however, security controls by carriers are still permissible). One common visa for one common area!

As the 26th Schengen Member State, Switzerland applies since 12 December 2008, the Schengen regulations concerning the issuance of visas. The visa will be valid for entering the territory of all Schengen member states. This will also apply to Schengen visas issued by other Schengen States which will permit entry to Switzerland. Being an active member of Schengen, Switzerland will benefit strongly from the important Schengen Security Information System (SSIS).

This system will be – among other things – an important working instrument for Swiss authorities in fighting organized crime. Furthermore, being an active Schengen Member, Switzerland becomes at the same time part of the Schengen/Dublin Association Agreements. This Association Agreements enable Switzerland to fully participate in European efforts to increase cooperation in security and asylum questions. For information on changes concerning procedures and methods of issuance of visas, we recommend that you consult the Federal Office for Migration (FOM) website: http://www.bfm.admin.ch or the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney.

**Consulate General**

Consulate General of Switzerland
101 Grafton Street, Cnr Grosvenor St
Tower 2, Level 23, Bondi Junction,
101 Grafton Street, Cnr Grosvenor St
NSW 2022, Australia
Postal address:
P.O. Box 282, Bondi Junction,
NSW 1355, Australia
Phone: 0061 2 8383 4000
Fax: 0061 2 9369 1334
E-Mail: syd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/australia

**CSA Representatives**

Peter Meury, Sydney
(02) 43 90 2908
email: peter.meury@bigpond.com
Walter Purtschert, Melbourne
e-mail: wpurtsch@bigpond.net.au
Marc Godat, Bris.
(07) 3899 8996
e-mail: mgodat@off-ice.com.au

**Useful Online References**

www.revue.ch
www.asc.ch
www.swissinfo.org
www.swiss.org.au
www.sacci.com.au
www.avs-ai-international.ch

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**Editorial. Swiss Review Budget Cuts Confirmed**

It is now official: A press announcement was issued on December 16 by ASO that the budget for the Swiss Review will be reduced from CHF1.8M to CHR1.3M in 2009; not the Christmas present we hoped for really.

In the press release, the Swiss Review was described as the “Schweizer Sackmesser” of the Expats living far abroad, providing a newspaper, political information media, and a forum for Embassies, Consulates and Clubs, all at once; not too bad at a cost of only CHF 1.25 per printed issue!

The 27% reduction in the budget now means that there will only be 4 issues annually (for 2009, they will be February, April, August and October); all of them will have the 4-page Regional News, so at least for us here Down Under, it will be business as usual, at least for now...

**Upcoming ASO Elections for Term 2009–2013**

Back in November last year, a letter was sent out by Peter Meury, CSA Representative, to Swiss Clubs and Groups providing informing on the upcoming CSA election process for the next term. There are still some vacancies!

An ever growing Swiss population in Australia means that we can now fill 4 permanent seats within the CSA. Currently, we have 3 seats filled; Peter Meury from Sydney and Walter Purtschert from Melbourne both indicated that they would prefer to step down and let somebody else have a go, while I would be quite happy to continue for another term, given I get re-elected, of course. It is no secret that we aim for 1 representative in each of the major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, or possibly also Adelaide.

As a CSA Representative, your role is, simply speaking, to “represent the interests of Swiss living in Australia within the Swiss parliament”. Practically, this means that it is beneficial if you can attend the yearly “Auslandschweizerkongress” in August in Switzerland. The CSA Meeting is usually held 1 day before the congress start and it is there where we can have a say and bring forward our requests to the Swiss Parliament.

Throughout the year in Australia, your role is to listen to the needs of Swiss living here, give help and support in ASO matters like AVH cases, and provide information on what the ASO has on offer in general (like schools, programs, etc). Besides this, the most important skill required is that you are well connected within the Swiss community; for example you might serve (or have served) in a committee in your group/club, or simply have good connections to many Swiss living here. Please check the ASO website for more details on the requirements / election process.

So if you feel like this profile fits you, why not give it a go and send-in your CV to Peter Meury, PO Box 278, Budgewoi NSW 2262, or email peter.meury@bigpond.com, or contact any of us by phone (list of CSA Representatives is on the left). We would like to wrap-up the election process by the end of February so we can put forward our candidates shortly after that to Bern.

I hope you all had a good start for 2009 and if there is anything you wish to contribute to these pages, just give me a ring.

**Words From The Consul General**

Dear Compatriots, Heads of Swiss companies and organisations,

On behalf of the team of the Swiss Consulate General, I wish you and your families a festive season and a positive New Year, good health and plenty of success.

As the world becomes more and more a global village, the recent severe economic and financial turbulences crossed borders with an unprecedented speed and a quick solution/end to this is unfortunately not in sight. Despite these unpleasant facts, the Consulate General once more can look back to a very eventful year with many successful events – just to mention a few:

Project Toptop from Sabine & Dario Schwörer (7 summits non-stop round the world by human power and nature’s force). With their fine sailing boat “Pachamama”, Sabine & Dario Schwörer participate in the classic Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on Dec 26. This 628 nautical mile course is often described as one of the most challenging ocean race in the world.

Project “Solaraxx” from Louis Palmer – some of you certainly came across Louis during his long stay here in Australia.

Project A1 GP – Swiss Team in Sydney, last February, they landed the prestigious second place.

Our famous Compatriot and Olympic gold medal winner, Edith Huneker, visited Down Under in January - February 2008 and took part in various wheel chair races and even won the race in Sydney.

Project Nicolas & Stephan Perren: father and son circled the world in a small single engine airplane with the aim to stimulate awareness and support for research of osteoporosis. Presentations have been organised in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. These were just a few events where this Consulate played a major role in the organisation. Another very successful event was, of course, the Swiss participation at the famous Audi German Film Festival where Switzerland was represented through the wonderful Swiss movie “The Late Bloomers”.

Last but not least, I would like to encourage you to visit the website of the Consulate General which is meant to be a gateway for anyone who is interested in Switzerland. The information you can find there will be revised as new needs arise. I wish to thank visitors in advance for any suggestions that will help us offer even better services to you. You can always contact us by phone or e-mail. The staff of the Consulate General in Sydney will be happy to be of any assistance to you.

**Jürg Casserini, Consul General**
Victoria Review /February 2009 / No 1 / AUS E
[Image 34x28 to 425x303]

Swiss Club of Victoria
89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9650 3156 Club
Fax: (03) 9650 3104
President: Rolf Huber
Mobile 0425 805 854
Email: rhuber@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubvic

Happy New Year dear Readers,
I am writing to you all with great optimism even though for many of us, 2009 will be a difficult one as we come out of the worst financial crisis in the past eighty years. But really, it is not all doom & gloom. Compatriots, we have something unique in the heart of Melbourne – the Swiss Club of Melbourne. It has weathered many storms in the past 100 years and it still stands strong as a meeting place for friends to exchange new ideas in a pleasant environment and with some of the best Swiss food money can buy away from Switzerland. Visitors from overseas and interstate flock to the Swiss Club of Victoria in Melbourne for an unforgettable cultural experience and to mix with the locals.

The Swiss Club of Victoria owns a three story building in the heart of Melbourne offering excellent facilities as a meeting/dining place for both private and corporate functions. Both business people and visitors alike can enjoy traditional Swiss food and hospitality in a unique setting. The club restaurant is open for lunch from Monday to Friday and for dinner from Wednesday to Friday. Roger Moulet, our well known chef and restaurant manager will serve you a treat.

As always the first quarter of the year is packed with exciting events and functions in and around the club. By the time you read these lines Roger Federer may have visited the club with his family in his pursuit to win yet another Australian Open. On 4th March our Annual General Meeting will take place, a type of Landsgemeinde and a must for members. The next Swiss Festival, a celebration of Swiss culture which is presented by all Swiss groups of Victoria, will take place at the Austrian Club, Heidelberg West in Victoria, a northern suburb of Melbourne. The new date is on Sunday 22nd March 2009. Please put this date in your diary now and tell your friends to join us! Last year’s event attracted over 1’000 visitors form around Australia and the world (please see ad.)

For those of you who are interested in motor sport, the Australian Grand Prix will be held at Albert Park from 26th to 29th March which is only a short distance away from the club. Who knows, perhaps the BMW Sauber team will pay us a surprise visit. Come to the club for a good laugh, the Melbourne Comedy Festival will use the *Swiss House* as their stage (1-26 April). Buy tickets on the premises and enjoy dinner at the club.

The renovation and future utilisation of the second floor is still the committee’s number one topic. We need financial support to turn this potential asset into a commercial success. If you are interested and want to know more about it please get in touch with the committee.

We encourage all members and friends of the club to participate in the active planning of our future club building. You can voice your opinion to the committee verbally or in writing.

The Swiss Club of Victoria looks forward to welcoming you at the club or at one of the many fantastic events.

Please visit our website swiss.org.au/swissclubvic for more information.
Your President,  Rolf Huber

**Ladies Luncheon**
The Swiss Club of Victoria
Convener: Heidi Giger
Tel: (03) 9889 9321
Bookings essential with the Swiss Club.

**The Swiss Companion Singers**
Convener: Heidi Giger
107 Glyndon Road
Camberwell Vic 3124
Tel: (03) 9889 9321, or Herbert Schwarzerli (03) 9561 7811
Meet at the Club every 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month for practice.

**Young Swiss Group**
Convener: Amy Bohren
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YoungSwissMelbourne/
We meet once per month. Anyone is welcome to come along. For up-to-date information about our next meeting, please check our website.

**Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn**
3 Bluegum Court, Upwey Vic 3158
President: Marco Unterährs
Tel: (03) 9752 6996 (h) or Tel: (03) 9388 8777 (b)
mrun@optusnet.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn

The big event for this year will be our 40th Anniversary celebration on 17 October, and planning and preparations for this special evening are well under way. We are practicing every Wednesday evening at Marco’s place and, if you like singing, you’re very welcome to join us at one of these enjoyable evening sessions! Our 1st Jassabend will be on 28/2 at the Horticulture Centre, Jolimont Road, Forest Hill.

Erwin Weismann

**South Australia**

Swiss Club of South Australia
64 Castle Street
Parkside SA 5063
President: Maya Schneider
Tel: (08) 8431 1892 (evening) www.swiss.org.au/swissclubs

Grueti mittenand!
Best wishes for a successful and happy 2009. I am delighted to announce that we have an extended and rejuvenated committee. Thank you for the outgoing members and a warm welcome to the ‘fresh blood’. We are focused on getting young and old Swiss and their friends involved in the activities - so what is stopping you from picking up the phone and joining us?

This year we got involved with Tour Down Under for the first time and had a Swiss Sausage & Crusty Breadroll stall at Willunga Oval. Thank you all for dressing up in red & white to cheer on the Swiss bike riders – the support was fantastic!

**Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose**
President: Sylvia Hochuli
92 Addison Street
Elwood Vic 3184
Tel: (03) 9531 6575
hochuli@tpg.com.au

We meet every Tuesday night at the Swiss Club for our practise. The group has plenty of room for new members. It is not just hard work, we do have a lot of fun too. For information, ring Sylvia (or Nancy on 9890 7530).

Silvia Hochuli

**Trachtengruppe Wyzyegruess**
/ Australian Swiss Cultural Soc.
President: Silvia Hochuli
(contact details as above)

**Groupe Romand Du Victoria**
President: Marianne Puccinelli
Tel: (03) 9561 9595
www.swiss.org.au/chfrvic

**Pro Ticino - Pro Down Under**
President: Claude Rossi
5 Falla Road, Hoddles Creek Vic 3139
Tel: (03) 5967 4542

**SANM**
Swiss Academic Network Melbourne
info@sanm.id.au
www.sanm.id.au

**Saturday Morning Swiss School**
Convener: Andrea Finch
Tel: (03) 5331 6762
pinch@hotkey.net.au
www.swiss.org.au/scvschool

**Swiss Playgroup**
Ingrid Preston (03) 9772 0516
Claudia Dahinden (03) 9347 6913
www.swiss.org.au/playgroup

Meets 1st Thursday of each month from 11am-2pm at the Swiss Club.
Dear members and friends, as you read this contribution we have already moved a couple of months into the new year. Still, please accept my best wishes for a happy 2009. I assume you are well back into your daily routines after the Christmas break. Before you fill up your calendars with many other commitments, I suggest you take a look at the list below and mark your favourite events in your diary. The committee has again planned a diverse list of events so that there is something for everyone. Some function dates in the second half of the year have yet to be decided. They will be announced in the Newsletter and on the website within the next couple of months. As always, the committee is ready to hear about new functions from you, so please let us know if you have any such ideas.

Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SACCI)
Membership Secr: Elizabeth Isele
Tel. (02) 9498 6475
elisele@ozemail.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/sacci

If you managed to see the fireworks on Sydney harbour then you will have had a great start to the new year! Swiss cartoonist, Caroline Ruetz was recently in Sydney on her way to an International Conference in New Zealand and took part in an exhibition and panel discussion at Alliance Française with cartoonists from France and Israel. It was an opportunity to be exposed to the thought patterns of the cartoonists and their different styles of art and humour.

Members also had the opportunity of listening to Swiss pilots, Stefan and Nicholas Perren discuss their extended trip in a single engine plane, whilst showing an extraordinary collection of slides. Nicholas also had an exhibition on photography taken during the trip which was most inspiring.

Adventurous Swiss couple Dario and Sabine Schwoerer, together with their two small children, sailed into Sydney harbour on their yacht “Pachama” and gave an interesting presentation regarding their travels. We wish them well on their journey.

Braunen Rietz

Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Level 5, 23-25 O’Connell Street
Sydney NSW 2000
General Manager: Marcel Svatos
Tel: (02) 9223 7222
Fax: (02) 9223 7211
admin@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au

The Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SACCI) has launched a new website. It symbolises the direction of SACCI by promoting the “Swiss” brand in Australia, endorsing bilateral business relations and connecting people and businesses.

The website also offers new and free services to our corporate members (check the heading “The Chamber” > “Marketplace”) and to our membership group at large by facilitating corporate events and promotional opportunities for SACCI members.

We hope you like it.

Marcel Svatos

New South Wales

NSW Events
6/2: Beach Volleyball/Picnic (Cercle R.)
11/2, 13/3, 16/4: Get together, Austrian Club, Frenchs Forest (Swiss Club)
28/2: Harbour Cruise (Yoddells)
2/3, 6/4: Committee Meeting, Austrian Schnitzelhaus (Swiss Club)
3/3: Soirée pub The Lord Dudley Hotel, 216 Jersey Road, WOOLLONGABBA (Cercle Romand)
7/3: Seniors Luncheon, Concordia Club (Swiss Community Care Society)
22/3: Food Your Beirat - Hansli (Cancer Club)
20-22/3/Camping Weekend, Del Rio Riverside Park, Wisemans Ferry (Cercle R.)
March: Talk with Prof B Boss (SACA)
2/4: Soirée pub, Belgiqueo Belgian Beer Café, 429 Miller Street, CANTERBURY
des 19h.00 (Cercle Romand)
18/4: Film Night (Swiss Club)

Northern Territory
Swiss Social Club Darwin
PO Box 241, Nightcliff NT 0814
President: Fritz Risler
Tel/Fax: (08) 8981 4147

ACT
Canberra Swiss Club Inc.
Correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 3211
Manuka ACT 2603
Tel: (02) 6246 5722
President: Heinz Bettiikofer
email: heinz@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/canberraclub

Call those who make the finest of all music Basler Drummers and Pipers
Are there really only four of us in Sydney? Be unenthusiastic, dust off your “böckli” or piccolo and join us in the fun of playing beautiful baschnachts music. Or, do you know someone else who can play, if so please let me know. I would be thrilled to hear from you.

Curt Rietz
Tel: (02) 9634 4536

Regional News
Happy New Year to all!

Swiss Yodelers and Alphorn
Every first Sunday of the month. If you wish to apply for membership or for more information about our events please contact Ursula Rüediger on 0414 97 0666. 
Isabelle Ferguson (02) 9904 8021

Swiss Folk Dance Group 'Alpengueess' 
President: Marco Nussbaumner
7 Wallace Street
Willoughby NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666

Queensland
Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.
P.O Box 10, Wellsers Hill QLD 4121
President: Sybille Goss
Tel: (07) 3358 5183
ssq@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/ssq

Gruesi, bonjour, buongiorno, g'day to all Swiss in South East Queensland.
I am writing this article at the end of 2008 and by the time this Swiss Review will be in your letterboxes we will already be well into 2009. After a well deserved summer break we will again have all sorts of activities at the Club in the New Year. We finished off the year with the Squiz-Night, which was again very well attended. All the participants had lots of fun and the winner received a great 1st prize. In December, Santa Claus found the time again to visit us in the forest at Mt Cootha. Lots of families came along which was great and it’s so nice have a whole new generation of little Swissies taking part in the club activities – including Timothy who was only born in September and is our beautiful little baby (I am obviously a very proud mum).

Upcoming Events
15/2, 15/3, 19/4: Bushwalk
21/2: Farnacht – Markenball
22/2: Picnic at Jabirus Island Park (Gold Coast)
5/4: Easter Bunny
24/6: 20th Jass Championship
Jass, every second Thursday. Contact Hans Heer on 07 3844 6529
Tennis, every Wednesday night from 7:30 pm in Fairfield. Call Marc on 07 3899 8999.

Please check our website to find more information about our bushwalks or any other ad-hoc activities. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our committee members and I look forward to meeting many of you soon!
Sybille Goss

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg-Roessli
President: Jakob Berger
Tel: (07) 3207 7101
Secretary: Etsy Schuetz
Tel: (07) 3207 7101
We would also love to hear from anybody who would like to join the Choir. We meet every second Thursday for practice with Mark, our music teacher, who guides us through new songs.
Jakob Berger

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kunghur Creek Rd. Kunghur 2484
President: Lorly Whiller
Tel: (07) 3298 3300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

Swiss Entrepreneurs
Contact: Silvan Frei
Tel: 0410 297 606
info@swissetrepreneurs.com.au
www.swissetrepreneurs.com.au

Upcoming Events
7/8/2: Get Together at Erika & Alex
Burrum Heads
28-29/3: Fraser Coast Cultural Festival
Please check out details about the cultural festival on their website at: www.swissentrepreneurs.com.au
Swiss-Speakers from Sydney (Housi, Roesli und Brigitte) will perform; the longest Alphorns in Australia! If you would like to hop on the bus with performers from Brisbane, call Cecile; I could also help with cheap accommodation.
Cecile Scherrer

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
President: Peter Schüpbach
Phone: (07) 5457 3325
peter.schuepbach@exemail.com.au
Treasurer: Vreni Bachmann
Phone: (07) 5457 0530
verena.bac@bigpond.com
www.swiss.org.au/ssc

Our Sunshine Coast branch is only young and we welcome new members to join us for regular functions throughout the year. We are now already counting 60 members and are inviting all Sunshine Coast Swiss – young and old – to join us and take part in our upcoming events. Please check our website for more details.
Verena Bachmann

Swiss Entrepreneurs
Contact: Silvan Frei
Tel: 0410 297 606
info@swissetrepreneurs.com.au
www.swissetrepreneurs.com.au

Swiss Folk Dance Group 'Alpengueess' 
President: Marco Nussbaumner
7 Wallace Street
Willoughby NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666

Queensland
Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.
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Sybille Goss