CSA. Spring Session

Report on the meeting of the Council Of The Swiss Abroad in Berne, 27 March 2010

New legislation for the Swiss Abroad: The Swiss Secretariat is heavily involved in discussing and preparing legislation concerning the Swiss Abroad. It is very comprehensive and is currently under review and preparation by various working groups. The items which gave most rise to discussions was the way the new legislation provides that future delegates of the Swiss Abroad to the Swiss Council are elected. The working group suggested that, only those Swiss Abroad who are registered to vote in Switzerland can elect delegates, not any more the registered Swiss Clubs. I was one of only a few to object to that method because it eliminates the influence and the hard work the Swiss Clubs have done in the past. I think it would be a different matter if the delegates from abroad are elected to the Swiss Parliament, but it is another thing if the delegates are only members of the current Council. No doubt this will continue to be debated. This method of selecting and electing delegates to the Council needs to be further discussed and thought through.

Subsidy for www.swissinfo.ch: The Swiss Federal Council has indicated its intention to cut totally the subsidy for the website www.swissinfo.ch by 2012. Strong debate, everyone urged the Council to make strong representation in order to keep the subsidy, also a resolution was passed. The representative of the Federal Government did say that he didn’t think that a final decision in this regard had been made and therefore the matter is still pending and under consideration.

Please say no to budget cuts and participate in the online-petition:

www.rettet-swissinfo.ch

Electronic voting: e-voting for the Swiss Abroad is getting closer, at least in some cantons. After Neuenburg, Geneva should get its act together for 2011 and for Zurich the Swiss from Abroad should be able to vote still this year electronically.

Peak Organisations: I also took part in a specially arranged meeting the day before the official meeting, which was convened especially by our friends from Germany and France to discuss the advantages of having peak organisations of all Swiss Clubs in their country [which we did not think useful here in Australia]. Nevertheless, the discussion and experience was quite interesting. The main advantages seem to be: receipt of official information from Swiss authorities and dissemination to all clubs in all regions which seems to be working well. They stress also that the flow of information is better guaranteed and quite easy. They also claim that if a Swiss from anywhere wants to have some contacts anywhere in Germany they can help more easily. A peak organisation also takes on some representative functions.

Congress of the Swiss Abroad: It will be held from 20th to 22nd August, 2010 in St. Gallen. Marc Godat will keep you up to date in the next issue.

Please also note, in order to have a say on all matters Swiss, do register to vote in Switzerland and contact your nearest Swiss Consulate. Swiss Abroad should be heard and they can make a difference.

Beat Knoblauch, CSA Delegate

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CSA. *No* to the Dismantling of Information Services

After the Swiss Review was reduced from 6 to 4 editions in 2009, the federal government announced on 25 February 2010 that it intends to discontinue its financial contribution to swissinfo as part of its budget program for 2011-2013. This would almost certainly mean that without the government subsidy, the Swiss Broadcasting Cooperation would also withdraw its financial support immediately, which would spell the certain end of the multimedia news and information platform swissinfo. Jacques-Simon Eggly posed the question which communication strategy Switzerland is pursuing with regards to openness to the world and its connection to Swiss citizens world-wide: “It cannot be that our country is withdrawing from the rest of the world” he said, and adding: “The axing of swissinfo must be averted. It is in the hands of the parliament to prevent this from happening. The proposed budget program cannot be adopted if the members of the federal councils refuse to change the Radio and Telecommunication law.” He appealed to the councillors to say ‘no’ to these budget cuts and reminded them of the government’s obligation to serve as an information service provider to the Swiss Abroad. After the closure of Swiss Radio International, swissinfo remains the only world-wide media showcasing Switzerland in all national languages as well as the major world languages. swissinfo is Switzerland’s virtual window to the world and provides an essential information service to Swiss Abroad.

We appreciate very much the support we have received from members of the local Swiss community in our campaign to save swissinfo! The CSA has two demands: a return to 6 Swiss Review editions per year from 2011, and maintaining federal funding for swissinfo.

Roland Isler, CSA Delegate

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**Nationwide**

Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Suite 303, 46 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel. 02 9262 1511 / Fax: 02 9290 1928
admin@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au

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**SAAN**
Swiss Australian Academic Network
info@sanm.id.au
www.saan.id.au

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**SBS Radio** (on air in NSW/ACT)
Ursula Schaeppi, Senior Producer
Tel.: (02) 9430-2824
Email: ursula.schaeppi@sbs.com.au

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Tune into the Swiss-german program “Echo Helvetia” on Sundays 8:30-9pm
Melbourne: 91.1FM / Sydney: 91.7FM
or digitally (DAB+) on SBS-2 in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney & Brisbane

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**Victoria**

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**Victoria Events (cont.)**

12/9 «Kaffeeblatcho» (ASCS)
16-17/10 Swiss Italian Festival

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**Swiss Club of Victoria**
89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9650 1196 Club
Fax: (03) 9650 3104
President: Barbara Kündig
Mobile: 0402 018 363
Email: swissclubvic@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubvic
Facebook: facebook.com/swissclubvic

During the cold winter months, the Swiss Club offers a warm and welcoming ambiance in its cozy restaurant. Why not enjoy a delicious fondue or some other Swiss specialties? Our newly renovated function space on the 2/F offers great amenities for corporate functions, meetings or events. It is also available for hire to members and friends for private functions. We look forward to seeing you at the club in the heart of Melbourne.

**Ladies Luncheon**
The Swiss Club of Victoria
Convener: Heidi Giger
Tel: (03) 9898 9321
Bookings essential with the Swiss Club.

**The Swiss Companion Singers**
Convener: Heidi Giger
107 Glyndon Road
Camberwell Vic 3124
Tel: (03) 9898 9321, or Herbert Schwarzerl (03) 9561 7811
Practices at the Club every second and third Thursday of the month.

**Young Swiss Group**
Convener: Amy Bohren
abohren@swiss.org.au
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YoungSwissMelbourne/

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

With the Swiss Yodelling Festival in Interlaken less than one year away, practicing our competition song has become a priority, but we are also keeping up with a good repertoire for other performances, like the recent evening of Swiss songs and music at the Strathdon Nursing Home in Forest Hill, and our traditional participation...
at the forthcoming 18th Swiss Italian Festa in Hepburn Springs (16/17 October).

We are still looking for new choir members – why not join us at one of our enjoyable Wednesday evening practice sessions at Marco’s place.

Erwin Weinmann

Swiss Folk Dance Group
Alpenrose

President: Sylvia Hochuli
9 Addison Street, Elwood Vic 3184
Tel: (03) 9531 6575
hochuli@tpg.com.au

The Dance Group was delighted to welcome special visitors from Switzerland, Rosmarie and Viktor Schiltler. Rosmarie is the regional leader of the Swiss folklore and costume commission of the eastern part of Switzerland. The Schiltlers gave up a day of their holidays to teach us new Swiss folk dances. The Group embraced the opportunity to learn new dances.

The Unterhaltungsabend was a fun night. Kappelle Gruziu mitated entertained the guests with popular tunes and sing-alongs. We were privileged to have live music for our performance. I would like to say ‘thank you’ to Consul General Mr. Metli and his family for being part of the evening.

To everyone, I thank you for taking part in making the night a big success. A big ‘thank you’ to the Swiss Club and Roger for their continued support.

We look forward to performing at the Swiss/Italian Festa in Hepburn Springs.

Silvia Hochuli

Trachtengruppe Schwyzergesue / Australian Swiss Cultural Soc.
(contact same as Alpenrose)

We would like to extend an invitation to all our Senior Citizens (over sixty) to a wonderful afternoon of coffee, cakes and a Kaffeeletztach, at the Swiss Club.

Sunday, 12 Sep, 2 pm.

There is no charge for this cozy afternoon, however our Group is thankful for donations.

Please reserve a place by ringing or leaving a message with Marlies Krummenacher (bus: 9578 5049, home 9503 9921) or Rosmarie Oswald (9583 9048).

Tel: (03) 9967 4542

Ingrid Preston (03) 9772 0516
Tel: (03) 9733 6762
pinch@hotkey.net.au

Swiss Playgroup

Ingrid Preston (03) 9772 0516
Chantal Imbach (03) 8407 3766
www.swiss.org.au/splaygp

Meets 1st Thursday of each month from 11am-2pm at the Swiss Club.

Contact Jennifer Leutenegger on (08) 9277 7826 or send an e-mail to gugge@burras@swiss.org.au

Play Group, meets every first Friday of the month. For more information ring Alexandra Schaub on 08 94032241.

The Swiss Club Down South
Correspondence to: Mrs Nicole May, 276 Holbornen Road Cowaramup WA 6284
Tel: (08) 9755 5297
mayfamily@westnet.com

Northern Territory
Swiss Social Club Darwin
PO Box 241, Nightcliff NT 0814
President: Alois Kiesling
Tel: (08) 9827 5794
Mobile: 0438 060 515
swissclubdarwin@hotmail.com

There is no charge for this cosy after-work session at Marco’s place.

Erwin Weinmann

President: Sylvia Hochuli
Alpenrose

President: Bronwen Kretz
Tel: (02) 9905 5500 /0416 160 919
info@swissentrepreneurs.com.au
Swiss Entrepreneurs
www.swissentrepreneurs.com.au

The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd.
GPO Box 3713, Sydney NSW 2001
President: Loes Meyer
Tel: (02) 9905 5500 / 0416 160 919
Fax: (02) 9905 5700
swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubnsw

The Swiss Club meets every first Monday of the month at 11am at Goethe-Institut, Woollahra NSW.

The Swiss Club of NSW is the regional leader of the Swiss Folklore and Costume Commission of the eastern part of Switzerland. The Schiltlers gave up a day of their holidays to teach us new Swiss folk dances.

We are always pleased to see new faces and welcome anybody wishing to participate.

Heinz Röttikofer

South Australia
Swiss Club of South Australia
64 Castle Street
Parkside SA 5063
President: Bruno Zueger
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubsau

The Swiss Club meets on the first Friday of the month at the Austrian Club in Ovingham for dinner, socialising and getting together with other Swiss people.

The Fondue evening is our “premier” event on the Swiss Club Calendar and this year was no exception. It was an evening filled with entertainment, music, and dance but of course and most importantly, with a delicious fondue produced by our own “Master chef” Martin and his helpers. Just shy of one hundred people arrived to a welcome drink at 7pm and after some “hoe wie gah’t” or “ha di scho lang nueme gahb”. The evening started to roll on and between the food, old and young had a go at tossing a coin at a Kirsch bottle, danced to the Austrian music performed by the “laeuropäischen band” or took their chance at winning one of the beautiful raffle prizes on offer.

In conjunction with the monthly get together at the Austrian Club, we have launched the “Steig’ts” following the meal at the Austrian Club. It starts from 7pm. For all who like to play Jazz or like to play cards and would like to come, play or learn, you are most welcome to join us there on Friday.

On the 17th of September 2010 we will have our Annual General Meeting, and on the 10th of October 2010 we are planning to go to the Adelaide Zoo with a guided tour by Werner zur Eich (animal expert and zoo keeper).

Bruno Zueger, President

SA EVENTS
17/9 AGM, Austrian Club
10/10 Visit to Adelaide Zoo
Regular Events:
“Hockete”, first Friday of the month at the Austrian Association at 11 - 17 Torrens Road, Ovingham from 6.30 pm.
“Schwyzer Frauechraenzli”, first Monday of the month. Call Rosmarie Copeland on (08) 8336 5932 for details.
Radio SEI - Swiss Corner “Swiss Corner” every Saturday 6-7 pm on 103.1FM. Phone-ins on (08) 8211 7066.

Western Australia
Swiss Club of Western Australia
Correspondence to: PO Box 411
Northbridge WA 6065
President: Helene Oestri
Tel: (08) 9259 1699
Swissclubwa@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubsau

NEW Swiss Radio Perth, every Tuesday 7-4pm (4th Tuesday of the month in French) on 95.3MHz, or on www.6e6a.com.au. Studio / Production: (08) 9227 5953. General Info, James Kunz: 0414 421322.

The Guggeburas, only “Guggemusig” in Australia, practice in every Tuesday.

Heinz Röttikofer
and meeting fellow Swiss. We would be very pleased if members and friends of the Swiss Club would come and join us for a drink, meal or just a chat. If you enjoy a Jass, the Jassmen get together every Monday night at the Eiger Swiss Restaurant in Petersham. For those on the Northern Beaches, the local Swiss meet every second Friday of the month at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest.

On the third Thursday of the month we have ‘Juraig’ drinks please see our website for more details.

On the last weekend of the month, we will also be having a regular bushwalk.

The Swiss Club of NSW has started Swiss German Classes for Adults, the current class is already running, however if you missed or would like more information please contact the club or visit our website.

Noemi Guyer

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Sandra Ussenbacher
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Every last Friday of the month from 10:15am-noon. Please call us to confirm the date before your first visit.

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Swiss Yodelers of Sydney
27 Burra Road
Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Alois Kretz
Tel: (02) 9419 7277
akretz@bigpond.net.au
The bells rang out loudly as we walked through the entrance tunnel to the Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Bondi Beach for the official opening of the Swiss Australian Cultural Association’s 3rd Swiss/OZ ArtExpo, by the NSW Minister of the Arts, The Hon. Virginia Judge, in April.

The yodelers sang at a Swiss Community dinner dance in May and honorary member, Zigi Achermann entertained with his Schwyzer Oergeli.

The Swiss Club of Queensland Inc.
505 Blairland Road
Eastwood NSW 2122
Tel: (02) 9874 9096
www.swiss.org.au/cerclesunshinecoast

Présidente: Lorly Wihler
Tel: (07) 3298 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent
Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272
Have you considered becoming a member and receiving our Newsletter, giving you details about our functions and other information regarding the Society? Anyone interested, please give us a call. Kind regards.

Lorly Wihler

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaeck
1547 7548
Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
scsc@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/scsc

We meet every second Thursday for practice with Mark, our music teacher.

Jakob Berger

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kungalgar Creek Rd, Kungalgar 2484
President: Lorly Wihler
Tel: (07) 3298 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
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Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
scsc@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/scsc

Our May bushwalk on the Blackall Ranges was a very enjoyable day. We all started out from the Lilliyponds at Mapleton. The more energetic half of the group trekked down to Baeter Falls and up to Flaxton while the other half walked to Mapleton Falls and returned to Lilliyponds where we all met up for a picnic lunch in the sun - as always the best part of the day!

Preparations are in progress for our National Day celebration where we hope to see a big Swiss crowd for a great night. We are also planning an exciting surprise function around early October.

We invite all Sunshine Coast Swiss, their families and friends to join us for these fun events, to enjoy good company, catch up with old mates and make new friends!

Vereni Haas

Cercle Romand Du N.S.W.
Présidente: Anne Resplendino
505 Blairland Road
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Tel: (02) 9874 9096
www.swiss.org.au/cerclesunshinecoast

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