Consulate General of Switzerland. Disaster Assistance

Assistance for Swiss citizens during the natural disasters in Australia

The natural disasters of the past months have been tragic. Our thoughts have been with the victims of the flooding in Queensland and Victoria, as well as the victims of cyclone Yasi. During these periods the Consulate General’s office has occupied itself with ensuring that all Swiss citizens living or travelling in the affected areas have been safe both during and after the disasters. Emails to Swiss citizens living in the affected areas were sent out and our Honorary Consuls were tasked to phone around in order to get information from Swiss citizens living in areas affected by the disasters. On the website of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern Swiss travellers could find updated information about the situation in Queensland and Victoria during the crisis. This “early warning” approach affected the itinerary of many Swiss tourists but prevented the travellers from unpleasant surprises. The Consulate has been contacted by many Swiss living in Switzerland worried for their relatives in Australia, whether here as a tourist or resident. Fortunately all queries led to a happy ending.

Shortly after the end of the floods in Queensland, the Consulate contacted the Swiss Community Care Societies in Queensland and New South Wales to make sure that an interim-aid for affected Swiss citizen could be set up immediately and without bureaucracy. In the mean time the Consulate contacted all registered Swiss citizen in Queensland by e-mail and asked them to contact the Swiss Care Society directly in case of need. In this context the Swiss Department for foreign affairs donated 10000 Swiss Francs to the Swiss Community Care Society to help Swiss citizens badly affected by the floods. The Swiss Care Society has already examined several cases of affected countrymen and the first cheques have been sent out.

The Consulate urges anyone affected by the flooding or cyclone Yasi to make themselves known to provide assistance. Please contact the Swiss Consulate General under syd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch or phone 02 83834012 and ask for the Head of Chancery, Mr. Stefano Poretti.

In addition to the assistance of the Swiss Care Society, Charles Schneider von Wartensee’s “Stiftung für Überbrückungshilfen” (Natural Disaster Assistance Fund) is available through the Consulate General’s office in Sydney. Anyone of Swiss citizenship, matriculated abroad and a victim of a natural disaster is eligible to apply for assistance, as long as it is within 6 months of the disaster. The purpose of the fund is to mitigate the hardship associated with disasters for individuals, not for businesses.

The help of the Swiss Care Society is open for every Swiss, double citizens or not. The last months have shown, that in the unfortunate case of natural disasters it is important that every Swiss is registered at the Consulate General in Sydney and the addresses, e-mail-details and phone-numbers (landline and mobile) are kept up to date.

If your details need updating contact the Consulate General

Markus Meli, Consul General

USEFUL ONLINE REFERENCES

- www.revue.ch/regio-en-aus
- www.aso.ch
- www.swiss.org.au/lsa
- www.swissinfo.org
- www.swiss.org.au
- www.sacci.com.au
- www.avs-ai-international.ch
- www.swisscommunity.org

Swiss Revue Online (ad-rates / deadlines / history / downloads)
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
ASO Portal Australia (Local CSA Delegates / Hot Topics)
Actual News by swissinfo/SRI
Swiss Clubs on the Net in Australia
Bilateral trade and investment information
OASIS/DI and voluntary contributions (AHV)
Internet platform for the Swiss Abroad

EDITORIAL / DEADLINE

Marc Andre Godat, Regional Editor Local Pages, (07) 3899 8996, mgodat@off-ice.com.au
Next Deadline for June 2011 issue: 10 May 2011
V-ZUG, the Swiss Market Leader in premium Kitchen and Laundry appliances has arrived in Australia

The cornerstones of our success in Europe will meet the requirements of sophisticated Australian consumers:

✓ Our appliances are simply very beautiful and will turn your kitchen into an event
✓ Swiss quality is proverbial - our appliances are made in Switzerland - no buts
✓ We have a whole range of “World-Firsts” - you enjoy state-of-the-art technology
✓ We have a large network of specialised distributors: V-ZUG is close to your home
✓ Our appliances are so easy to use that everybody will become a Gourmet Chef overnight (even your children can do it)

Visit: www.vzug.com.au
South Australia
Swiss Club of South Australia
64 Castle Street
Parkside 5063
President: Bruno Zueger
swissclubofs@gmail.com
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubs

“Grüezi mitenand”
I hope you had a safe Christmas break and thus far a good start to 2011. As you may know, in early February some friends and members of the Club had a great time at Port Elliot. The BBQ on the camping grounds was ideal. We could bring our own “goodies” and enjoy a glass of wine without the long walk home.

On the 20th of March we have planned a Car Rally from Adelaide to Milang. It is not important to be the fastest; you just have to complete the questionnaire and have the answers right to win. The Club will subsidize the lunch and invite you for a coffee / tea and cake in the park.

On Sunday the 10th of April we have planned a Port River Cruise at Port Adelaide. Hopefully the weather will be nice and I hope that we may see many of the famous dolphins during our cruise along the river. We will meet in front of the Lighthouse, by the wharf and markets in Port Adelaide at 11 a.m.

We are also planning our 45th Anniversary celebration of the Swiss Club in SA. At this stage we are looking to hold a sit down dinner with live entertainment. If there are any members who know the names and or contact details of founding committee, stories or ideas for this event, please contact any one from the committee listed in the Swiss express. We want this to truly be a wonderful celebration.

SA EVENTS
10/4 Port Adelaide River Cruise 21/5 Cheese Fondue evening (for more details of any up and coming event please refer to the Swiss Express)

Regular Events:
“Hockete”, and “Jass Abbig” 1st Friday of the month at the Austrian Association at 11 - 17 Torrens Road, Ovingham from 6.30 pm onwards.

“Schwyzer Frauechraenzli”, 1st Monday of the month, Call Rosie Marie Copeland on (08) 8336 5932 for details.

Radio SEKI - Swiss Corner “Swiss Corner” every Saturday 6-7 pm on 107.1FM. Phone-ins on (08) 8211 7066.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or refer to the Swiss Express for updates.

Be part of our Swiss Community in South Australia; see you soon at the next opportunity.

Bruno Zueger, President

Western Australia
Swiss Club of Western Australia
PO Box 411, Northbridge WA 6865
President: Philippe Bossert
Tel: 0424 068 141
president@swissclub.org.au
www.swissclub.org.au

Dear Readers
At this year’s AGM, a new committee was elected and we are excited to be working together to ensure the Swiss traditions of functions are carried on.

We have planned an Easter Picnic, a Raclette or Fondue, the 1st of August Ball and Bonfire and the ‘Samichlaus’. We will always be thankful for other suggestions and thoughts. We appeal for the patronage of all members and non-members of the Swiss Club of WA to make these events bigger and better.

One of our aims is to increase the membership of the Swiss Club of WA. In times of natural disasters and hardship we have seen recently, a close community is important to enjoy each other’s company and have assistance and reassurance.

By being part of the Swiss Club or coming to the functions, we can share in the traditions of our country and our heritage. For non-Swiss partners and children, this is also a way to gain a closer insight into Switzerland and what it is that makes us tick. Please visit our website for more info.

Philippe Bossert, President

Northern Territory
Swiss Social Club Darwin
PO Box 241, Nightcliff NT 0814
President: Alois Kissling
Tel: (08) 9277 7826
aloiisskissling@bigpond.com.au

The Swiss Club Down South
Nicole May, 276 Holben Road, Cowaramup WA 6284
(08) 9755 5497
mayfamily@westnet.com.au

New South Wales
NSW EVENTS
10/4 Film night
14/5 Senior lunch (SCC)
17/6 Raclette (Cercle Romand)
21/5 Dinner and dancing (all groups)
18/6 Bowling competition (all events organized by the Swiss Club except where otherwise stated)

Regular Monthly NSW Events:
1st Monday: Social evening, Jazz, and Community meeting
1st Wednesday: Swiss Entrepreneurs Lunch (Lord Nelson brewery)
1st Thursday: Cercle Romand, soirée pub
2nd Friday: Social Evening (Frenchs For.)
Last Friday – Swiss Play Grp (Frenchs For.)

Swiss Cultural Association Inc. (SACA)
27 Burra Road, Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Bronwen Kretz
Tel: (02) 9459 7277
akretz@bigpond.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/saca
Switzerland & Australia:
Meeting of Cultures

SAC wishes to draw to the attention of all Swiss and Australian artists with a connection to Switzerland, of a proposed art exhibition to be held in Sydney by the end of 2012. SAC seeks strong representation of artists from all States in Australia to take part in this event. At this stage, planning is in the preliminary stage, however, at this stage, expressions of interest may be forwarded to Mr. Walter Amnec: amnec@bigpond.net.au. Applicants will be kept informed and advised of terms and conditions at a later date.

Our next function held on 22 March 2011 at the Greek-Institut, Willoughby and will be a talk by Dr. Bettina Bos, President of the Swiss Historical Society of NSW, and member of the SACA Steering Committee titled: Helvetica or Mattherhorn? How to Write a History of the Swiss in NSW.

The SACA Steering Committee also invites you to come and be entertained by Urs Buhlman, most award winning advertising photographer in Australia today. After a brief AGM, Urs will take the floor at the Greek-Institut in June 2012 and enlighten attendees with his humour and expertise as to how he achieved this acclaim.

Swiss Entrepreneurs
info@swissentrepreneurs.com.au
www.swissentrepreneurs.com.au

The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd.
GPO Box 3713, Sydney NSW 2001
President: Daniel Frutiger
Tel: (02) 8677 0864
Fax: (02) 9905 5700
swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubnsw

The Swiss Club meets every first Monday of the month at the Eiger Swiss Restaurant, 552 Parramatta Road, Petersham for an evening of socialising and meeting fellow Swiss. We would be very pleased if you would come and join us for a meal and a chat, or a jass.

On the northern side of Sydney, the local Swiss meet every second Friday of the month at the Austrian Club in French’s Forest.

In the coming months our scheduled events include a foodie tour, film night, boccemorge, bowling competition, dinner and dancing, plus a new members’ evening.

Also in coming months we will be organising Swiss German classes for adults. All details about the classes, including an enrolment form, will be available on our website.

We also have a Google Group that you can use to find friends in your area, or to ask a question of other Swiss in NSW. Anyone can join, and you can write in English or any of the Swiss languages. https://groups.google.com/group/swissclubswnsw

If you are not a member of the Swiss Club but would like to join any of our activities, please feel free to come along. We are always pleased to see new faces and we look forward to meeting you at one of our functions.

For more details about the Club or upcoming events, please check our website or contact the Club directly.

Swiss Folk Dance Group
President: Marcel Nusbaumer
7 Wallace Street Willoughby NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666

Swiss Historical Society Inc.
C/- Schweizer Kobras, PO Box H283 Australia Square NSW 1215
President: Bettina Boss
Tel: (02) 9363 9131
Email: b.boss@unsw.edu.au

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group
Director: Armin Buehrer
P.O.Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1435
President: Armin Roth
Tel: (02) 9669 1749 (home)
Contact / Support Officer: Ursula Noozer
Tel: (02) 9428 5593
Email: ssq@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/ssq

Swiss Community Care Society (Qld Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kughur Creek Rd, Kughur 2484
President: Lorly Wihler
Tel: (07) 3292 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaeck 5447 7548
Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
scsc@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/scsc

Our regular monthly “Ladies Lunch” meetings are becoming very popular: held at a different venue on the first Friday of each month, details are placed on our website and sent via direct email. The ladies are enjoying these casual get-togethers where you can just turn up or bring a friend to have a relaxed meal at one of our many Sunshine Coast gourmet eateries.

After our Annual General Meeting in early March we will put together a programme of functions for the rest of the year and publish it on our website.

So keep an eye on our website www.swiss.org.au/scsc, all details and booking contacts will be listed in good time.

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

Please ring Hanni or Walter (phone numbers above) if you like to have a chat and find out more, we are happy to help. We also welcome your enquiries and suggestions via email to scsc@swiss.org.au, you will get a prompt response.

Vreni Haas

Swiss Playgroup Sydney
Sandra Uenenbacher (02) 9975 6987
Every last Friday of the month from 10-15am-noon. Please call us to confirm the date before your first visit.
Sandra Uesenbacher

Schwyzerdötsch For Kids
Beatrice Sidari: Tel: (02) 9602 9395 bsidari@bigpond.com or Anna Papadimitrion: 0416 744 949 annap@1eart.net
Every first Sunday of the month.

The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney
27 Burra Road Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Alois Kretz
Tel: (02) 9419 7277 arkretz@bigpond.net.au
A change of guard took place at the AGM and as a result I would like to sincerely thank Heike Jodes for serving over 10 years as secretary of the group. A job very well done!

The yodelers are very grateful to be guided once again by the conducting of Sepp Engesser.
The annual harbour cruise was held on Saturday, 26 February, 2011. On Saturday, 21 May 2011 the yodelers will combine with the Swiss Club for a dinner dance at the Austrian Club in French’s Forest.

Are you male, with a secret yearning to yodel and never been game to try. Just do it! All enquiries will be treated with the utmost discretion.

Alois Kretz

Queensland

QUEENSLAND EVENTS
10/4 Bushwalk Glasshouse Mountains
17/4 Jazz Championship
17/4 Easterbunny
30/4-2/5 May Camping weekend
15/5 Bushwalk Spicers Gap Mt Mitchell
28/5 Raclette
29/5 Buderim Lunch (SSCS)
2/6 Cinema Night
12/6 Bushwalk Brisbane Forrest
18/6 Fondue
(all events organised by the Swiss Club of Qld except where otherwise stated)

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

Gruessi, bonjour, buongiorno, y’day to all Swiss in South East Queensland
We had a great start into the new year with a well attended Dinner Dance in February. Unfortunately the Gemütlicher Abend had to be cancelled due to flood related renovations which were necessary at the Club House.

By the time this Swiss Review will land in your letter box we will have also had the AGM, so this is definitely going to be the last column I write in this magazine. I look forward to seeing many of you at future functions, where I will hopefully be able to sit back a little bit more ;-)!

Jass, every second Thursday. Contact Hans Heer on 07 3844 6529.
Tennis, Wednesday nights, 7-30 pm start. Fallfield. Call Marc on 07 3899 8896.
Swiss German Playgroup, every 2nd Tuesday and meets at different playgrounds. Contact Katrin on 3829 6638.

Please visit our website for more details. There, you will also find more information about our bushwalks or any other adhoc activities.

Sybille Goss, President

Gold Coast Group
Contact: Franz Buber
Bus(07) 5597 0666 / M: 0414 97 0666

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group
Baer-Roeseli
President: Katja Wallimann Gates
Tel: (07) 3871 1339
Secretary: Gabriella Veidt-Wiedmer
Tel: (07) 3371 3446
Email: syfg@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/syfg

We would love to hear from anybody who would like to join the choir or the Swiss Children’s Dance Group

Katja Wallimann Gates

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SSCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kughur Creek Rd, Kughur 2484
President: Lorly Wihler
Tel: (07) 3292 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

Web: www.swiss.org.au/syfg

Fraser Coast Group
Contact: Cecile Scherrer
Tel: (07) 4194 0105
Mobile: 0409 286 326
cecile@swiss.org.au

Our next Get-Together is on May 8 at Cecile’s place in Urwarran.

Cecile Scherrer

Swiss Playgroup Sydney
Sandra Uesenbacher (02) 9975 6987

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

Thanks to the watchful eye of our Old Chapter committee, our CO who obtained financial support from Switzerland, through these joint efforts, SCS is able to assist compatriots who have suffered from the floods in Qld. Refer for more details to your local Swiss community news.

Armin Roth

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