CSA. Spring Assembly Report

Reorganisation of Consular Representations, E-Voting and Swiss Banks were some of the main topics at this year’s spring session of the CSA at Brunnen April 8, 2011

Gerhard Brügger, a senior foreign ministry official, told the assembly of the plans to reorganise Switzerland’s existing network of consulates. Certain services may be merged to other countries. As for Australia, Brügger answered that at this stage no such plans exist but it is not excluded in the future. When questioned about the collection of biometric data in particular, he said that the foreign ministry is considering setting up mobile consulate services and hiring additional local personnel where required.

In light of the federal parliamentary elections in October the assembly unanimously endorsed the Election Manifesto 2011 which contains a list of issues the OSA wants the various actors on the political scene to take on board; they include the creation of a ‘Swiss Abroad Law’, the expansion of e-voting, the improvement of international mobility, the provision of more adequate consular services (e-government), the improvement of communication services (Swiss Review, swissinfo, etc), the improvement of the recognition of the CSA, and the strengthening and expansion of Switzerland’s international presence and participation.

As for the progress on e-voting, possibly 4 cantons (SG, AG, Bs and GR) may offer a vote-electronic in time for the national council elections in October. The government’s goal is that by 2012 at least 50% of Swiss Abroad can vote electronically and the majority by 2015.

In regards to Swiss banks and Swiss Abroad, disappointingly, nothing new was to be reported on this issue. Since 2009, when this issue has first come to the attention of the OSA, the situation has worsened, despite the OSA making representation with selected banks, the banking ombudsman, Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority and the Organisation of Swiss Cantonal Banks.

The situation now is that it has become very difficult for many Swiss Abroad to maintain a relationship with Swiss banks. It is clear that by introducing exorbitant fees, banks want to rid themselves of small account holders residing abroad.

The only alternatives left is PostFinance as well as selected branches of cantonal banks and Raiffeisen.

For further information on this topic, please join into the discussion on SwissCommunity.com under topic ‘Auslandschweizer sind nicht bei allen Schweizer Banken willkommene Kunden’.

Peter Schibli, director of swissinfo, informed the assembly that the online platform swissinfo.ch has been saved at least for the time being. Some restructuring will occur.

SwissCommunity.org was awarded Silver for ‘Usability’ at the ‘Best of Swiss Web Award Night 2011’. With nearly 7,000 users it is also well ahead to achieve the target of 10,000 users by the end of the year. The administrator team was applauded for this great success.

Roland Isler, Council of the Swiss Abroad
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 specialized 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)
early evening, we go on our annual lantern parade along the Yarra. Please join us to celebrate our Swiss National Day together. See you at the Swiss Club!

Your Swiss Club Committee

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

The Swiss Companion Singers
Convenor: Heidi Giger
107 Glyndon Road
Camberwell 3124
Tel: (03) 9889 9321, or Herbert Schweitzer (03) 9561 7811
Practices at the Club every 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Young Swiss Group
Convenor: Amy Bohren
aby.org.au
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YoungSwissMelbourne/
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn
92 Addison Street, Elwood Vic 3184
Alpenrose

other groups our cultural heritage and other activities we were proud to showcase, with over 180 performers from all over Switzerland, together with the Swiss Club of Victoria, we decided to camp and were rewarded with beautiful nights and great company. The kids were busy finding their Easter eggs, making Easter baskets and colouring eggs. A water balloon relay had us all laughing and ended with the odd wet face! The Metzgete at the Rhein Donau Club was a hit with great food, enjoyable company and some serious dancing.

The next event for the Club is the Fondue – make sure you check out our website for more details – booking is essential. Then we already approach the Swiss National Day celebrations. On the 30th of July the Lemsurdie Club will host the 1st of August Ball where the Swiss Jodrells make an appearance and dance music will provide entertainment. The bonfire will be held on the 6th of August. This is a great event where the kids get to carry lamplights (provided by the Club) and enjoy in the wonders of the large bonfire. Please come and join us and share in the fun.

**SA EVENTS**

26/6 Ten Pin Bowling
31/7 Swiss National Day Celebration
10/9 45th Annual Swiss Club of S.A.
Oct. «Rebecliehstune» (bci)
(for more details of any up and coming event please refer to the Swiss Express)

Regular Events:

**Hockete**, and **“Jass Abig”** 1st Friday of the month at the Australian Association at 11 – 17 Torrens Road, Ovingham from 6pm onwards.

**“Schwyzer Fruerchaerzli”**, 1st Monday of the month. Call Romarise Copeland (08) 8335 5811 for details.

**Radio SBEI – Swiss Corner**

“Swiss Corner” every Saturday 6-7 pm on 103.1FM. Phone-ins on (08) 8211 7066. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or refer to our Swiss Express for updates.

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

Bruno Zuengi, President

**South Australia**

Swiss Club of South Australia
64 Castle Street
Parkside SA 5063
Tel: (03) 5311 6762
Email: pincha@khotkey.net.au
www.swiss.org.au/sevcschool
Swiss Playgroup

Ingrid Prestin (03) 9772 0516
Chantal Imbach (03) 8407 3766
www.swiss.org.au/sevcschool
www.swissclub.org.au
Meet 1st Thursday of each month from 11am-2pm at the Swiss Club.

The next event for the Club is the Swiss Club of Victoria on the 22nd of October. We will again participate in the Swiss Yodelling Festival in Interlaken on the weekend of 22/23 October. We will also participate in the Alphorn Festival in Schaffhausen on the 29th of October. We will have lunch, we were lucky; we have seen a couple of Dolphins swimming past. The newsletter will have informal sit down dinner (3 course meal) with live entertainment (Herbert Stauber) at the Riverside Golf Club. Please mark this day in your agenda. More information in our news letter.

**WA EVENTS**

12/6 Monthly Jass Luncheon
18/6 Fondue
30/7 1st of August Ball
6/8 1st of August Bonfire

**Western Australia**

Swiss Club of Western Australia
PO Box 411, Northbridge WA 6665
Tel: 0424 068 141
president@swissclub.org.au

We are nearly half a year into an exciting year for the Swiss Club of WA. Over 50 people attended the Easter Picnic at our property in Gidgegannup; a lot of us decided to camp and were rewarded with beautiful nights and great company. The kids were busy finding their Easter eggs, making Easter baskets and colouring eggs. A water balloon relay had us all laughing and ended with the odd wet face! The Metzgete at the Rhein Donau Club was a hit with great food, enjoyable company and some serious dancing.

The next event for the Club is the Fondue – make sure you check out our website for more details – booking is essential. Then we already approach the Swiss National Day celebrations. On the 30th of July the Lemsurdie Club will host the 1st of August Ball where the Swiss Jodrells make an appearance and dance music will provide entertainment. The bonfire will be held on the 6th of August. This is a great event where the kids get to carry lamplights (provided by the Club) and enjoy in the wonders of the large bonfire. Please come and join us and share in the fun.

Philippe Bossert, President

**Swiss Radio Perth**, Every Tuesday 7-8pm (4th Tuesday of the month in French) 95.3MHz, or www.6eba.com.au. Studio / Presenter: (08) 9227 5953, General info: (08) 9441 3132.

The Guggeburra, only “Guggemusig” in Australia. Practice is every Tuesday, any carnival inspired person is welcome. Jennifer Leutenegger: (08) 9277 7826, or guggeburra@swiss.org.au

**Play Group**, every 1st Friday of the month. Barbara Baer: (08) 9386 2573 barbara.baer@gmx.net

**Monthly Jass**, every 3rd Thursday of the month – from 6.30pm. at North Perth Lawn Bowling Club, Farmers Street, North Perth
Peter Mueller: (08) 9291 8402
petmiku43@yahoo.com.au

**Swiss Yodellers**

Traditional Swiss folk group. Info: Peter Mueller (as above)

The Swiss Club Down South
Nicole May, 276 Holbourned Court, Cowaramup WA 6284 (08) 9755 5297
mayfamily@westnet.com

**Northern Territory**

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

**ACT**

Canberra Swiss Club Inc.

Correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 3211 Manuka ACT 2603
Tel: (02) 6246 5722
President: Heinz Buettikofer email: heinz@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/canberrasc
Dear members and friends,

I take this early opportunity to inform you that the first event of this year will be held at a different place. Alois and Margot Lustenberger have offered us their farm to celebrate our National Day this year. We very much appreciate their help and thank Alois and Margot in advance for having us. On behalf of all members and friends of the Canberra Swiss Club, I say a big thank you to Tony and Lina Schlager for their hospitality over so many years. There are many Swiss and Aussies who have “very warm memories” of the bonfire at “Banjo”, the Glühwein, Cervelats and Lina’s exceptional Kirschtorte. I promise to do all we can to ensure the tradition lives on. So remember when you venture out to the countryside on the 31 July, head west towards Murumbateman. The newsletter will have all the details on how to get there.

**Canberra Events**

17/6 Fondue Night
26/7 Jass Tournament 2
31/7 Swiss National Day
9/9 Film Night
23/10 Jass Tournament 3
11/11 AGM

Jass evenings are held every 2nd Wednesday (dates in newsletter/website)
New South Wales

NSW EVENTS

17/6 Seniors Concert
18/6 Bowling night
26/6 Buswalk
27/6 Fondue
25/7 Swiss Club AGM
30/7 Swiss National Day Dinner
7/8 Nat. Day Celebr. Castle Hill (Yodel)
7/8 Fête nationale, Plumpton (Cercle R)
21/8 AGM & Fondue vingts. (Cercle R.)
28/8 Buswalk
5/9 New members evening
24/9 Seniors luncheon
15/10 Petanque & pique-nique (Cercle)
29/10 Schnitzelbank/bqg

Swiss Australian Cultural Association Inc. (SACA)
27 Burra Road, Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Bronwen Kretz
Tel: (02) 9419 7277
akretz@bigpond.net.au
www.swiss.org.au/saca

Much interest was shown at the talk by Dr. Bettina Boss, President of the Swiss Historical Society of NSW on How to Write a History of the Swiss in NSW. This worthy tome is due to be published by the end of the year. Further information regarding same can be gained by contacting the SHS Inc. directly. See SHS information in this publication. The SACA AGM will be held on Thursday, 16 June 2011 at the Goethe-Institut, Woolloom. Welcome at 6.30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. start. Urs Buhhan has had to delay his talk until August, so watch this space in the next SACA notice for the name of our guest speaker.

Calling all artists! The next SwissOZ Art Exhibition is proposed for early in 2012 and artists from around the country are invited to express their interest to Walter Annen at wannen@bigpond.net.au

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

The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd.

GPO Box 3713, Sydney NSW 2001
President: Daniël Froitgier
Tel: (02) 8677 0864
Fax: (02) 9905 5700
swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubnsw

The Swiss Club of NSW meets on the first Monday of each month, from 7.30pm, at the Eiger Swiss Restaurant, 552 Parramatta Road, Petersham. We would be very pleased if you would come and join us for a meal and a chat, or jazz. On the northern side of Sydney, we meet from 7pm every second Friday of the month at the Austrian Club, 20 Grattan Cres, Frenchs Forest.

As well as the regular monthly get-togethers, our plans for the coming months include a New Members’ Evening, bowling, bushwalks, and of course a dinner to celebrate Swiss National Day.

For more details about any event please check our website swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au. You can also subscribe to our Newflash and receive email updates – just write to swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au.

We invite everyone to join in any of our activities – you don’t have to be a member – we’re always pleased to see new faces. If you would like to become a member, please download the online form, or contact us by phone or mail. We also invite visitors from overseas or interstate to come along when in Sydney – we look forward to meeting you.

Schweizerisch For Kids
Beatrice Sidari: Tel: (02) 9602 9395
bsidari@bigpond.com
We are a group of Swiss/Australian/Swiss/International families that meet every first Sunday of the month. Outings are meeting in a park, camping twice a year and Swiss traditions like Raebialecti-Umg and Fasnacht (Carnival). All families welcome!

The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney
27 Burra Road
Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Alois Kretz
Tel: (02) 9419 7277
akretz@bigpond.net.au

The full house sign went up on the good ship M. PROCLAIM as it set off in February. Once again a beautiful evening and a joyous crowd on board. Thanks to Siggy Ackermann and the ..Duo Swiss-Oz Connection... Hugo Pfandler and Walter Ammann for providing additional first class entertainment.

Planning is well on the way for the Swiss Yodelers National Day Celebration to be held on Sunday, 7 August 2011 at Castle Hill Show Ground again this year. A larger area has been hired with the capacity to cater undercover for the ever increasing number of visitors and entertainment. Prospective stall holders are invited to register their interest by contacting me. All stalls must offer Swiss style goods and/or services.

Cercle Romand Du N.S.W.
Président: Anne Resplendino
505 Blaxland Road
Eastwood NSW 2122
Tel: (02) 9874 9096
www.swiss.org.au/cercleromand

Le cercle romand regroupe toute personne intéressée par la pratique et le maintien du français. Le cercle est basé à Sydney; il a pour but de créer des contacts entre nos membres par le biais de sorties et réunions régulières.

Nos activités sont réparties tout au long de l’année: soirées pub, le championnat de musique et de danse, tournois de pétanque, bowling, beach volleyball, randonnée, week-end camping et les toujours très appréciées journées fondue et raclette.

Comme d’habitude, nos membres seront informés par courrier/email. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer.

Pour le comité, Christian Dubois, secrétaire.

Swiss Community Care Society (incl. Swiss Seniors of NSW)
P.O.Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355
President: Armin Roth
Tel: (02) 9669 1574 (home)
Contact / Support Officer:
Ursula Mooser: (02) 9428 5593
Email: sccs@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/sccs

We are already preparing for Swiss National Day: the Seniors Luncheon will be held on 30th July at the Concordia Club and we will be at the Swiss Yodellers Picnic with a booth on 7th August at Castle Hill Showground. There will be a bus outing in September. We look forward to hear from you.

Armin Roth

Swiss Folk Dance Group
‘Alpegruss’
President: Marco Nussbaumer
7 Wallace Street
Willowgough NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666
Web: www.swiss.org.au/alpegruss

The group attended for the first time the Volkstanzfest, which is sponsored by the Bruecke. In March we enjoyed our annual camping trip this time at Feriendorf at the Colo River. We are now looking forward to the dinner dance in Frenchs Forest and the first of August picnic.

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 Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kumphur Creek Rd, Kumphur 2484
President: Lerly Whiler
Tel: (07) 3298 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (07) 6797 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

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

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaech 5447 7548
Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
Tel: (07) 5385 2962 / Secretary: Ruth Milwright, Tel: (07) 3205 4172
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaech 5447 7548
Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
Email: scscc@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/scscc

Our regular monthly “Ladies Lunch” on the first Friday of every month is proving very popular. It gives the ladies a chance to catch up and have a chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

We invite all Sunshine Coast Swiss, their families and friends to join us. We also welcome your enquiries and suggestions via email - you will get a prompt response.

Beatrice Bruno-Broennimann

Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.
P.O Box 10, Wellers Hill QLD 4121
President: Ruth Milwright
Tel: (07) 3205 4172
Email: ruthm@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/ssq

We had a lovely day at your Jazz Championship on 17th April and many of us have decided to go to the Australian Championship in Melbourne the 12 June. The camping weekend was in May - only a few went but they had a lot of fun.

Come and join us at different functions. Everyone is welcome.

Jazz, every second Thursday, contact Hans Heer on 07 3844 6529.

Tennis, Wednesday nights, 7:30 pm start, Fairfield. Call Marc on 07 3889 8996.

Swiss German Playgroup, every second Thursday, and meets at different playgrounds. Contact Karin on 0403 855 697. Please visit our website for more info.

Ruth Milwright, President

Gold Coast Group
Contact: Franz Huber
Bus: (07) 5587 0666 / M: 0414 97 0666

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group
Baerg-Roessli
President: Katja Wallimann Gates
Tel: (07) 3871 1339
Secretary: Gabriella Vietdi-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

Queensland

QUEENSLAND EVENTS

17/6 Buswalk
18/6 Fondue
21/7 1st August celebration at Petrie
14/8 Bus walk at Petrie
25/8 Filmnight & Jass
3/9 AGM
18/9 Bus walk
1/10 Dinner Dance
16/10 Buswalk
5/11 Quiznight

(Relaxation evenings only where otherwise stated)

(All events organized by the Swiss Club of Queensland except where otherwise stated)

Regular Monthly NSW Events:
1st Monday: Social evening, jazz, and Committee meetings (Eiger).
1st Wednesday: Swiss Entrepreneurs Lunch (Lord Nelson nursery).
1st Thursday: Cercle Romand, Soiree pub.
2nd Friday: Social evening (Frenchs Farm).

Last Friday – Swiss Play Grp (Frenchs Farm).

Swiss German Club Chair is singing traditional songs in our national languages. Rehearsals are held at the Harmonie German Club from 6pm to 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of every month. Contact Regula Neillon, at r.neillon@netspeed.com.au.

Canberra Swiss Ethnic Radio FM91.1. Gabi and Werner broadcast a Swiss program every Monday night from 5-7pm.

Reinzi Buettiker