This year, Beat Knoblauch attended the CSA Meeting & OSA Congress. As earlier in March this year, progress on e-voting, Swiss community website, a law for Swiss Abroad and the further reduction of consular services were the hot topics.

The Council dealt mainly with the following items:

- Electronic voting was much discussed for the coming Federal Parliamentary Elections: four [4] Cantons will offer electronic voting possibility to the Swiss Abroad: Basel-Stadt, St. Gallen, Graubünden und Aargau, i.e. for about 22,000 registered voters. The balance of Swiss Cantons should be ready between now and 2015 for e-voting. Swiss nationals are encouraged to take advantage of their right to vote and elect in Switzerland. Registered Swiss voters abroad (120,000) number about the same as the Canton Graubünden!

- There is a website platform www.swisscommunity.org: since its creation in late 2010, already close to 9,000 members have registered, which signifies a resounding success. Those who registered from Australia make up 5% of the total, which is a high proportion. There is a special blog on the Federal Parliamentary Elections via www.swisscommunity.org

- About 420,000 of the approximate 700,000 Swiss living outside Switzerland are residing in EU countries. They benefit greatly from the right of “free movement” within the EU and Switzerland. A motion was passed to safeguard the right of “free movement” [EU-CH]. The motion has been passed on to the Swiss Parliamentarians.

- The Swiss Parliament has accepted an initiative by a Parliamentarian to prepare a law concerning the Swiss Abroad. According to the Swiss Constitution, the Federal Government is to take care and regulate the relationship with the Swiss Abroad. The ASO will be consulted in this matter.

- The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs will be in future the coordinating centre for all matters regarding the Swiss Abroad, making it easier for the Swiss Abroad to have one contact point.

- On various occasions the reduction of Swiss Diplomatic and Consular staff outside Switzerland was criticized. The government representative took note, but also mentioned that new Consular Districts have recently been opened in “new markets”.

- The highlight of the Congress was an address by Mrs. Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor. She stressed the importance of the Swiss Abroad as ambassadors for Switzerland and thanked for the continued support the Swiss Abroad are giving. In her speech she also stressed current difficulties experienced by some Swiss industry sectors due to the high value of the Swiss Franc.

The next meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad is to be held on 24/03/2012 in Berne, and the next Congress will be held in Lausanne, 19-22 August 2012.

Beat Knoblauch, Australian ASO Delegate

### Summer Fun in Schoenried >>>

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**Regional News 1**

**Useful Online References**

- [Swiss Revue Online](http://www.revue.ch/region-en-aus) (ad-rates / deadlines / history / downloads)
- [Organisation of the Swiss Abroad](http://www.aso.ch)
- [ASO Portal Australia (Local CSA Delegates / Hot Topics)](http://www.swiss.org.au/csa)
- [Actual News by swissinfo/SRI](http://www.swissinfo.org)
- [Swiss Clubs on the Net in Australia](http://www.swisscommunity.org)
- [Bilateral trade and investment information](http://www.sacci.com.au)
- [OASI/DI and voluntary contributions (AHV)](http://www.avs-ai-international.ch)
- [Internet platform for the Swiss Abroad](http://www.swisscommunity.org)

**Consulate General**

Consulate General of Switzerland
101 Grafton Street, Cnr Grosvenor St
Tower 2, Level 23 , Bondi Junction,
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.vertreten@eda.admin.ch
Web: [www.eda.admin.ch/australia](http://www.eda.admin.ch/australia)

**Editorial / Deadline**

Marc Andre Godat, Regional Editor Local Pages, (07) 3899 8996, mgodat@off-ice.com.au

Next Deadline for January 2012 issue: 22 December 2011
Nationwide
Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Suite 303, 44 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel. 02 9262 1511 / Fax: 02 9290 1928
admin@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au

SACCI EVENTS
23/11 Cruise with the Europeans, Sydney
24/11 Future Cities, Melbourne
SACCI events review:

Visit our website for regular event updates and latest news.

Swiss-Australian Academic Network (SAAN)
Swiss Australian Academic Network
info@saan.id.au / www.saan.id.au

The Swiss Network has continuously grown and its membership now surpasses 450 academics. SAAN is now also increasing its presence in Australia and Switzerland and has held a “Launch of SAAN Switzerland” in Zürich on May 31, 2011. Numerous Australian and Swiss academics with connections to Australia have participated, most prominently Nobel Prize Laureate Rolf Zinkernagel. SAAN will also support the Australian Chief Scientist, Prof Ian Chubb’s visit to Switzerland in mid-November.

In Brisbane, SAAN has hosted two seminars by Marcel Tanner, Director of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel on “One Health”. Additionally, SAAN has invited Prof Bruno Stieger from the University Hospital Zürich and his PhD student Rapan Attinkara for presentations at the University of Queensland Postgraduate Symposium.

SAAN continues to facilitate negotiations for an agreement supporting the bilateral exchange of early career researchers between the leading Australian and Swiss universities as well as several “internship for students” agreements between Swiss and Australian companies and universities.

For more information regarding the events and other SAAN issues please contact us.

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

Tune into the Swiss-German program “Echo Helvetia” on Sundays 8:30-9pm Melbourne: 93.1FM / Sydney: 97.7FM or digitally (DAB+) on SBS-2 in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Victoria
VICTORIA EVENTS
1/12 Kapelle Griesse Mitenand
3/12 Senior Christmas Afternoon Tea
11/12 Samichlaus Breakfast, Fawkner Park

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

The committee of the Swiss Club wishes everyone a relaxing end to the year and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2012.

We look forward to welcoming you to the club.

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn
3 Bluegum Court, Upwey Vic 3158
President: Marco Unternährer
Tel: (03) 9752 6996 (h) or
Tel: (03) 9729 3338 (b)
Fax: (03) 9650 1196

We look back with fond memories of our participation in the Swiss Yodeling Festival last June. Not only was our performance of the song ‘Chüerglüt’ very well received by the jury, over this extended weekend, we could also fully enjoy the ‘wall-to-wall’ yodelling experiences in Interlaken. The remainder of this year will see us perform at a range of venues, culminating on 27 November with Sunday entertainment for the elderly residents of the Tabulam & Templer Martin Luther Homes, together with the Companion singers and the Alpenrose.

We wish all our friends and support- ers an enjoyable Festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose
President: Sylvia Hochuli
92 Addison Street, Elwood Vic 3184
Tel: (03) 9531 6755
hochuli@tpg.com.au

The group had a break from practising and performing for a few months, as most of the members took an extended holiday. At the end of November, we will visit nursing homes for an early Christmas concert together with the Companion Singers and the Alpenrose.

At the beginning of December, we will perform at the Swiss seniors Christmas afternoon party at the Swiss Club.

We always welcome enquiries from prospective new members for the group.

On behalf of the group, I wish you all the very best for the Festive Season and good health for 2012.

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

The members in their Swiss costumes welcomed seniors to the Kaffeeklatz at the Swiss Club. The special buffet for afternoon tea was well appreciated by
Some time to catch up with some “old” friends.

On the same Weekend, Sunday 16 October a few Members of the Club went for a drive up to the Kuitpo Forest, for the “Wuerzli bratle”. The weather was fantastic and on the way back to the City for a Coffee stop at Meadow, were the Spring Country Fair was held.

The World Solar Race “Darwin to Adelaide” has started and we are expecting the Swiss Team to arrive in Adelaide soon. With the Adelaide Alphorn players we will welcome “our” Team here in our beautiful city on the Weekend 22 / 23 October 2011.

Come along to our Spring Bushwalk at Noarlunga in November, for more details please refer to the Swiss Express.

Happy Festive Season and Good Health
Wish all our friends and supporters a
in the New Year.
(pictures taken by team leader Rumi Rivas)

Tel: (03) 5967 4542
www.swiss.org.au/scvschool

On behalf of the Trachtengruppe, I

Convenor: Andrea Pinch
Saturday Morning Swiss School
5 Falls Road, Hoddles Creek Vic 3139
President: Claude Rossi
Pro Ticino - Pro DownUnder
Email: remy@favrecranage.com
Tel: (03) 9571 2835

swiss Movie “Nordwand” (North Face)

FYSA organizes several summer and winter camps each year. Applications are open to all Swiss children residing abroad for which the age limit depends on the program but are anywhere from 8 to 16 years.

For more information please contact:
Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)
Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Bern, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 31 356 61 16 | Fax: +41 (0) 31 356 61 01
Email: sjas@aso.ch | Web: www.sjas.ch

Top: visit to the Beach Volley Ball World Tour in Gstaad
Left: scooter down hill run fun on the Rollerli in Schoenried
1st page: 2-day trekking trip to a traditional swiss alp (pictures taken by team leader Rumi Rivas)

Not only did the children learn more about Switzerland and made friends from around the world, but they also got to enjoy some of the freedom of childhood which are often no longer available to them growing up in an Australian city.

Our children tell us they had the time of their lives. They now use the internet to remain in contact with their camp friends, but the fond memories of the camp will stay with them forever.

We can only recommend these camps to other Swiss abroad.»

Christine

FYSA

Our happy guests. We look forward to spoiling you all again next year. Toni Eib, loyal member of the group is celebrating his 80th Birthday. Happy Birthday and many more to come.

On behalf of the Trachtengruppe, I wish all our friends and supporters a happy festive season and good health in the New Year.

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

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

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

“Gruizi mitenand”

The AGM on the 14th of October was held at the Tifflins on the Park. At this “historic” place the Club was founded 45 years ago, and some Founding Members attended the meeting. After the meeting the Club offered a small refreshments, which gave the members

some time to catch up with some “old” friends.

On the same Weekend, Sunday 16 October a few Members of the Club went for a drive up to the Kuitpo Forest, for the “Wuerzli bratle”. The weather was fantastic and on the way back to the City for a Coffee stop at Meadow, were the Spring Country Fair was held.

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Come along to our Spring Bushwalk at Noarlunga in November, for more details please refer to the Swiss Express.

Dear members and friends,

Happy New Year.

We ALL are a part of our Swiss Community in South Australia; see you soon at the next opportunity. I wish you and your Family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bruno Zueger, President

Western Australia
Swiss Club of Western Australia
PO Box 411, Northbridge WA 6065
President: Philippe Basset
Tel: 0424 068 141
president@swissclub.org.au
www.swissclub.org.au

Dear Readers

We had wonderful National Day celebrations, the Ball was enjoyed by everyone that attended with an appearance by the Yodellers and Alphorn Blowes. The bonfire drew a great crowd with the children enjoying the wunders of the bonfire and the lampions. Entertainment was again provided by the Alphorn Blowes. Our annual spring walk was at Bickley Dam and over 50 people weathered the cloudy conditions and joined us for the walk to Victoria Dam. Fortunately the weather cleared later and everyone was able to stay back for a BBQ or picnic.

End of October we had the annual picnic at our property in Gidgegannup and their families and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The world solarrace “Darwinto Adelaide” has started and we are expecting the Swiss Team to arrive in Adelaide soon. With the Adelaide Alphorn players we will welcome “our” Team here in our beautiful city on the Weekend 22 / 23 October 2011.

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Austrian choirs. Rehearsals are held once a month. Contact Regina Neilson, at 15/12 Splampote, at 4/12 amichlaus, at 15/12 Tablapete, eiger restaurant at 4/12 amichlaus, at 3/12 senior Citizens Christmas Dinner at 27/11 helper & new Members BBQ at 20/11 Bushwalk, o’ Reilly’s at 15/11 senior Citizen Xmas Lunch at 14/11 Cercle Romand du N.S.W.:

next year. If you have any bright ideas for future functions, please let the committee know so that it can consider them for the program next year. The Jass evenings will be suspended over Christmas and resume again probably in early February. Meanwhile please check in the latest newsletter for details on events or visit the web site, or get in touch with one of the committee members.

New South Wales

NSW EVENTS

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

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

The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd.
GPO Box 3173, Sydney NSW 2001
President: Daniel Frutiger
Tel: (02) 8677 0864
Fax: (02) 9905 5700
swissclubs@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubs

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 jass. 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.

Swiss German Playgroup
info@swisseventrpreneurs.com.au
www.swissentrepreneurs.com.au

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

Swiss Community Care Society (incl. Swiss Seniors of NSW)
P.O Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355
President: Armin Roth
Tel: (02) 9669 1749 (home)
Contact / Support Officer: Ursula Mooser: (02) 9428 5593
Email: sccs@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au
swisscommunitycare@swiss.org.au

Swiss Folk Dance Group ‘Allegreus’
President: Marco Nussbaumer
7 Wallace Street
Willougbby NSW 2067
Tel: (02) 9560 0666
Web: www.swiss.org.au/allegreus

Swiss Historical Society Inc.
C/- Schweizer Kobras, PO Box H283
Australia Square NSW 1215
President: Bettina Bos
Tel: (02) 9361 9131
Email: mail@theswissinnsw.com
Web: theswissinnsw.com

Preparation of our book, The Swiss In NSW, A History is well on track. Most of the written materials have been collated and a researcher is investigating the history of Swiss companies in NSW. Over 1,000 photographs have also been collected. Publication is scheduled for the Swiss National Day in 2012. If you have materials or information which may be of interest for the book, please contact the Society.

Queensland

QUEENSLAND EVENTS

20/11 Bushwalk, O’ Reilly’s
27/11 Helpers & new Members BBQ
3/12 senior Citizen Xmas Lunch
4/12 Samichlaus at SSO, GC and FC

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

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

Jass, every second Thursday. Contact Hans Heer on 07 3844 6529.
Tennis, Wednesday nights, 7:30 pm start, Fairfield. Call Marc on 07 3899 8996.
Swiss German Playgroup, every 2nd Tuesday, and meets at different playgrounds. Contact Katrin on 0403 855 697. Please visit our website for more info.

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

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group
Baerg-Roeseli

President: Katja Wallimann Gates
Tel: (07) 3871 1339
Secretary: Gabriella Veidt-Wiedner
Tel: (07) 3371 3446
Email: syfg@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/syfg

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kunghur Creek Rd, Kunghur 2484
President: Lesly Wilder
Tel: (07) 3498 5552
Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact: Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4722

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hans Kaeck 5445 7648
Walter Siegenthaler 5476 2962
Email: sccs@swiss.org.au
Web: www.swiss.org.au/ssc

The Club has held a number of events for members, associates and friends. The ride on the Valley Rattler Steam train in June was popular. The journey went from Gympie through the picturesque Mary Valley to Imbil where there was a break long enough to have lunch at the Railway Hotel. The trip back to Gympie again offered many opportunities to take lots of photographs.

In early October, on a sunny and warm day, the group went on a lunch cruise aboard the “Ooona Queen” and spent a few enjoyable and relaxing hours on the beautiful Noosa River.

The Committee is now busy organizing the Christmas dinner scheduled for 3 December 2011, details will be on the website.

Our regular monthly “Ladies Lunch” on the first Friday of every month continues to be popular, with the ladies meeting at a different venue every month to catch up and have a chat. Details are placed on our website and sent via direct email.

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 or email Hanni or Walter if you like to have a chat and find out more, we are happy to help.

Beatrice Bruin-Broennimann