Embassy. New Ambassador Marcel Stutz

Dear Compatriots in Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

My wife Esther and I arrived in Australia on the 11th of April this year. After almost four years in Berne working as Assistant Secretary of State for Africa and the Middle East, we got rewarded with our dream-posting: Canberra. Our two daughters, Katrin and Andrea, are continuing their studies in Switzerland – but are eager to visit us down-under.

On the 18th of April already, I was invited to hand over my credentials to Her Excellency Governor General Bryce. After this solemn ceremony, I am now fully accredited as Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia. I have obtained the agreement for Papua New Guinea but not yet presented the letters, and we are still working on the agreements for Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

My priorities as the Ambassador of Switzerland in Australia will be in two fields: on the one hand, I want to promote and increase our cooperation with the Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) and the Swiss Australian Academic Network (SAAN); on the other hand, I am very much looking forward meeting and working with you, our Swiss Compatriots – be it through direct contacts or be it through our highly efficient Swiss Clubs, spread out over the whole of Australia. I intend to visit all Swiss Clubs in due time, but my first National Day of Switzerland in Australia I will spend with the Swiss Club of Canberra.

My e-mail at the Embassy is: marcel.stutz@eda.admin.ch – if you want to share ideas with me or want to get in contact, please to not hesitate and send me a mail. I wish all of you a blessed year and am looking forward meeting you.

Kind regards

Marcel Stutz

CSA. Summary from the Spring Session 2012

The President of the ASO, Jacques-Simon Eggly, stressed in his report the following points:

- **Electronic voting on Federal matters for the Swiss Abroad:** four (4) Cantons offered electronic voting for the Swiss Abroad for the 2011 elections. The Assembly approved of a decision to urge the Federal Government to expedite electronic voting on a national level (in the form of a petition).

- **Drafting of a law for the Swiss Abroad**, which is being discussed at all parliamentary levels. The Swiss Abroad are being asked to comment. In my comments, I did ask the Council to consider the question of direct representation of the Swiss Abroad in the Federal Parliament, as the Council had not had the opportunity to discuss that. At committee level, however, the idea was rejected.

Further subjects were discussed as follows:

**Swiss Banks and the Swiss Abroad:** Many delegates complained that their countrymen in the various countries have difficulties with their Swiss Banks, the accounts either being closed or being loaded with heavy costs. The Swiss in the US are particularly badly affected. The meeting approved of a resolution to ask the Federal Government to look into solutions as to how to service the Swiss Abroad with adequate bank account facilities in Switzerland.

**Swiss Community:** this is a very valuable internet platform for all Swiss Abroad, about their activities abroad and their relationship back to Switzerland. Visit www.swisscommunity.org.

**Pro Helvetia:** The CEO, Mr. Knuesel, gave a brief outline of the framework within which they promote Swiss culture abroad and work with Swiss organisations abroad to promote Swiss artists in general. For more details, visit www.prohelvetia.ch.

**Swiss Review:** Previously six (6) issues were published every year, before budget cuts forced a reduction to only four (4) issues per year. The intervention of the ASO has succeeded, this year there will be five (5) and next year again six (6) issues. The Review is an important link between Switzerland and the Swiss Abroad. In order to get a copy, register either with your Consular Representative or on www.swissabroad.ch.

**2013 CSA Elections:** The current delegates (including our 4 delegates from Australia) to the Council of the Swiss Abroad have their mandate until 13 August 2013. In October – November 2012, the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne will organise elections for members of the Council for the years 2013 – 2017. It is foreseen that the coming elections are held with the old system, i.e. the Swiss Clubs getting to vote.

**Swiss Consular Service:** The meeting approved of a resolution to ask the Federal Government to expedite electronic voting on a national level (in the form of a petition).

**Electronic voting on Federal matters for the Swiss Abroad:** four (4) Cantons offered electronic voting for the Swiss Abroad for the 2011 elections. The Assembly approved of a decision to urge the Federal Government to expedite electronic voting on a national level (in the form of a petition).

**Passports:** The introduction of the biometric Swiss passport was again discussed (and also the difficulty for many Swiss Abroad to access the Swiss Consular Service), and the suggestion was made that beside this passport the Swiss Abroad should have the possibility to get an ID card without the necessity of biometrical data.

**Congress 2012:** The Congress of the Swiss Abroad and a Council meeting will be held from 17th to 19th August, 2012 in Lausanne. Another Council meeting will be held on 16 March 2013 in Berne.

*Beat Knoblauch, Australian CSA Delegate*
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
Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn/Flickr: SACCIAustralia

SAAN
Swiss Australian Academic Network
Christian Schneider: (02) 6162 8409
info@saan.id.au / www.saan.id.au

SBS Radio (on air in NSW/VIC/ACT)
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
The Swiss Club of Victoria
89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel club/functions: 1300 893 968
Tel restaurant: (03) 9650 3196
President: Barbara Kündig
Mobile: 0402 018 363
info@swissclubvic.com.au
www.swissclubvic.com.au
Facebook: swissclubvic

With Winter almost upon us, join us at the Swiss Club for a hearty Swiss Meal in our club restaurant or participate in one of our various functions. All Welcome!

VICTORIA EVENTS
7/6 Kapelle Gruzei Mitenand
10/6 Australian Jass Championship
15/6 Billiard Bernard Sandoz Cup
21/6 Social Afternoon on the 2nd Floor
4/7 Ladies Luncheon
5/7 Kapelle Gruzei Mitenand
7/7 SwissKids
7/7 Jass Night – Swiss Club
18/7 Movie Night
31/7 Senior National Day Luncheon
1/8 Swiss National Day Celebrations
4/8 SwissKids
5/8 National Day Picnic (Mattenhorn)
11/8 Final Jassabend (Mattenhorn)
16/8 Social Afternoon, Second Floor
5/9 Ladies Luncheon
6/9 Kapelle Gruzei Mitenand
8/9 SwissKids
9/9 Kaffeeklatsch (Trachtengruppe)
(unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Swiss Club; check website for updates)

We are launching a new regular event; Social Afternoon on the Second Floor 3-4 times a year. We kick it off with a movie & a chat Please come along and make new friends.

1 August is coming soon. We are going to celebrate Swiss National Day with our Lantern procession and festivities in the club restaurant with Kapelle Gruzei Mitenand will entertain. RSVP a must, please make your reservation for the 1. August Diner directly with the restaurant. Lantern procession, please book on our website.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Swiss Club of Victoria in the heart of Melbourne.

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

SwissKids
Convener: Esther Blaser-To Karaev
Tel: 0442 220 523
esther.blaser@gmx.ch
For Swiss kids of all ages. We will be doing experiments, singing, craft and Swiss school. We meet the 1st Saturday of the month, 2-4 pm at the Swiss Club.

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

Swiss Dinners Club
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SwissDinersClub

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn
3 Bluegum Court, Upwey Vic 3158
Convener: Marco Unternährer
Tel: (03) 9752 6996 (h) or
Northcote 9792 3338 (b)
murmt@optusnet.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn

In March we had to bid farewell to our long time yodeller and honorary member Margaretha (“Gret”) Konarski-Stiner who had passed away peacefully in her home at Drysdale, aged 86. Grütli, as she was known to us, arrived with her Polish born husband Stan in Melbourne in 1950, and it didn’t take long for the talented singer to find her passion for yodelling and to join the Swiss Yodel Choir Edelweiss. In 1969 she became a founding member of the Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn and, with fellow yodeller and life-long friend Godi Schmucki, was for many years ‘front and centre’ of the Choir, entertaining countless audiences with yodeling songs and duets. Over recent years she had followed the Choir only from the distance but kept an active interest in its activities. We have fond memories of Grütli’s singing and yodeling, and are thankful for her many other contributions to the Choir.

Don’t forget to mark Sunday 5th August prominently in your diary for the traditional National Day Picnic at the Gembrooks Sport Ground, including official National Day celebration, Swiss treats for young and old, and a great bonfire!

Marco Unternährer

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

Founding member of the group, Gwen Eckhardt, now living in Canberra, is celebrating her 90th Birthday. Congratulations Gwen, we wish you good health and many more happy years.

We practice every Tuesday night at the club, so why not come and join us?

Silvia Hochuli

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

We would like to extend an invitation to all our Senior Citizens (over 60) to a wonderful afternoon of Coffee, Cakes and a chat at the Swiss Club on Sunday, 9 September at 2pm. There is no charge for this cozy afternoon, however our Group is thankful for any donations.

Please reserve a place by ringing or leaving a message with Marlies Krummenacher 9503 9921 or Rosmarie Oswald 9583 9048. RSVP until Sept 3.

Groupe Romand Du Victoria
Président: Rémy Favre
Tél: (03) 9571 2835
remy@favrecanage.com
www.swiss.org.au/cfrvic

SA EVENTS
24/6 Christmas in June - Dinner Dance
8/7 Bush walk with Ruth Alban
4/8 1st August Celebration
(prof for more details of any up and coming event please refer to the Swiss Express or join us on facebook)

Regular Events:
“Hocke” and “Jass abig”
Every first Friday of the month come along for the meal and a hand of “Jass” at the Austrian Association at 15-17 Torrens Road, Ovingham from 6 pm. We are looking to seeing you there.

The “Schwyzer-Frauechraenzli’’
Every first Monday of the month. You are more then welcome to join the Swiss Ladies of the “Frauechraenzli”.
For further details please call Rosmarie Copeland on (08) 8336 5932.
Dear Friends,

The first event of the year, the Easter picnic, was enjoyed by nearly 50 people. Some of us camped all three nights in Gidgegannup – the beauties of the Australian bush are memorable and the children had a large dose of fresh air.

Our regular Monthly Jass evening took place with a full house. Cynthia Reed, 0409 295 775, hosted the evening at North Perth Lawn Bowling Club. We hope to build a massive bonfire this year and, as we all know, many hands make light work. So if you wish to come and do a bit of work and plenty of socialising, please contact me so we can organise the Bratwurst and Cervelats for lunch!

Our dinner cruise on Lake Burley Griffin in April was a great success. Those of you, who for one reason or another could not attend, have missed out on a very enjoyable outing. Thank you for the many positive comments from far and wide. I was particularly pleased to welcome many of our new members and several friends from Melbourne and Sydney joining us for the evening. The welcoming Alphorn play by Hans and Rolfi from Sydney was a true Swiss introduction to the evening before starting the cruise and settling down to a delicious dinner. The company was wonderful and the performance by the ‘Crémesschnitte Cholli’, entertaining.

Then we are already approaching the National Day celebration. On the 4th of August we are holding the annual Bonfire. I must encourage people to come along, living in the city, a lot of children never experience the wonders of the large flames of a “First of August Fire”!

Philippe Bossert, President

ACT

Canberra Swiss Club Inc.

Correspondence to: The Secretary, PO Box 3211
Manuka ACT 2603
Tel: (02) 6246 5722
President: Heinz Bueettikofer
heinz@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/canberradub

Dear members and friends,

Our dinner cruise on Lake Burley Griffin in April was a great success. Those of you, who for one reason or another could not attend, have missed out on a very enjoyable outing. Thank you for the many positive comments from far and wide. I was particularly pleased to welcome many of our new members and several friends from Melbourne and Sydney joining us for the evening. The welcoming Alphorn play by Hans and Rolfi from Sydney was a true Swiss introduction to the evening before starting the cruise and settling down to a delicious dinner. The company was wonderful and the performance by the ‘Crémesschnitte Cholli’, entertaining.

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Philippe Bossert, President

WA EVENTS

16/6 Busy Bee – Bonfire building
30/6 Fondue
14/7 Busy Bee – Bonfire building
1/8 August Bonfire

(please check our website for updates)

The Guggeburras

Only “Guggemusig” in Australia. Practice is every Tuesday. Jennifer Leutenegger (08) 9277 7826 guggeburras@swiss.org.au

Play Group

Every 1st Friday of the month. Cynthia Reed 0409 295 775 cynthia@rogers.org

Monthly Jass

Every 3rd Thursday of the month, from 6.30pm, North Perth Lawn Bowling Club, Farmer Street, North Perth. Peter Mueller (08) 9291 8402 pelimuve243@yahoo.com.au

Swiss Yodelers

Traditional Swiss folk group. Peter Mueller (see above)

The Swiss Club Down South

Nicole May, 276 Holbourn Road Cowaramup WA 6284
Tel: (08) 9755 5297
maylindsay@westnet.com

Northern Territory

Swiss Social Club Darwin

PO Box 241, Nightcliff NT 0814
President: Alois Kissling
Tel: (08) 9297 5794
Mobile: 0438 060 515
swissclub达尔win@hotmail.com

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Philippe Bossert, President
goodies won in the raffle. With some luck you’ll take home a few Schnapps, Coffee, Tea and Nussgipfel. Raclette, Soft drinks, Wine, Beer, the Bratwurst, Cervelats, Fleischkäse, meet old and new friends and enjoy be better than ever. Come along and
der

Swiss Community Care Society (incl. Swiss Seniors of NSW)
P.O.Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355 President: Armin Roth
Contact / Support Officer: Ursula Mooser: (02) 9428 5593
www.swiss.org.au/scs
Swiss Folk Dance Group ‘Alpegruess’
President: Marco Nussbaumer
7 Wallace Street Willoughby NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666
www.swiss.org.au/alpegruess
Swiss Historical Society Inc.
C/- Schweizer Kobras, P.O Box H283 Australia Square NSW 1215
President: Bettina Boss
Tel: (02) 9363 9131
mail@theswissnswm.com
http://theswissnswm.com
Our new book “The Swiss in New South Wales: a history” will be launched at the Consul General’s official national day celebration on 1st August at the Swissotel and will be on sale at the Swiss Yodlers Picnic on 5th August at the Castle Hill Showground, as well as at later Swiss community functions. If you wish to order a copy and receive it by post, you will be able to do so via our website after the launch.

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

Queensland Events
16/6 Raclette
17/6 Bushwalk
28/6 Film night + Jazz
15/7 Bushwalk
29/7 1st August Celebration Petrie
29/7 1st August Celebration (Gold C.)
4-5/8 Fraser Coast Swiss National Day
12/8 Bushwalk
23/8 Film and Jazz
25/8 Metzgete Gold Coast
9/9 Bushwalk
15/9 Quiz night
13/10 AGM SSG and Berg-Roelli
(all events organized by the Swiss Club of Old except where otherwise stated)

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 181 Kungur Creek Rd. Kungur 2484
President: Lotty Whiler
Tel: (07) 3298 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6679 7210
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272
Fraser Coast Swiss Group
Contact: Cecile Scherrer
Tel: (07) 4196 0105
Mobile: 0409 286 326
cecile@swiss.org.au
Come and join our 25-35 participants at our 4 informal get-togethers / year. Ladies Luncheon: Call for details if you visit the area.

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaech, (07)5447 7548
ssc@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/ssc
The Club’s Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 17 March 2012, was attended by a majority of the members. Three existing committee members were unanimously confirmed and following the resignation of two members to pursue personal and business interests, a new member was unanimously elected to the committee. The meeting also unanimously voted to continue the Club in its present form.
The next function is a fondue night to be held at the end of June. Other functions include the National Day Celebrations and the Christmas by Candlelight dinner. Details will be posted on the Club’s website.

After the formalities of the AGM, a delicious dinner was served, again prepared by Ueli Marfurt and cakes were supplied by ladies of the club. Our regular monthly “Ladies Lunch” on the first Friday of every month continues to be popular, with the ladies meeting at a different venue on the Sunshine Coast every month to catch up and have a chat. More details are placed on our website.
We invite all Swiss on the Sunshine Coast, 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!
Beatrice Bruin-Bronnenmänn