Liebe Landsleute!
Cher compatriote!
Cari concittadini!

Once again in 2012 the team of the Swiss Consulate General was able to establish many personal contacts with the Swiss community throughout the Commonwealth of Australia.

Australia is a huge country, separated into different time zones, and contact with you can only be maintained efficiently through modern means of communication. For example, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern offers a Helpline Service (seven days, 24 hours) for all kind of questions. The number is composed of the code for Switzerland (001141) followed by 800, 24 (for 24 hours), 7 (for 7 days) and 365 (for 365 days) or simply 001141 800 24 7 365. You have the possibility of ringing this office in Berne during convenient Australian hours. An experienced team of specialists will take your questions regarding all consular matters and answers in German, French, Italian and English.

Similar information regarding services for Swiss citizens will be available on the website of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney (www.eda.admin.ch/australia). Please browse the website and take advantage of the different online solutions offered to you.

For 2013, I wish you all the best, good health and personal success in your private and professional life and I look forward to seeing you, first time or as frequent visitors at one of the functions organised by our very active Swiss Clubs in Australia. In this regard, I would like to thank all committee members and volunteers of all the Swiss Clubs for their tireless and much appreciated commitment towards the Swiss Community.

Markus Meli, Consul General of Switzerland
Victoria

The Swiss Club of Victoria
89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel club/functions: 1300 893 968
Tel restaurant: (03) 9650 1196
President: Barbara Kündig
Mobile: 0402 018 363
info@swissclubvic.com.au
www.swissclubvic.com.au
Facebook: swissclubvic

The Swiss Festival 2013 takes place on Sunday 17th February from 11am onwards on Queensbridge Square on the Southbank of the Yarra River. The location opposite Flinders Street Station and in between the Arts Centre and the Crown Casino offers a fantastic backdrop for this fun and family friendly event which can be reached easily by public transport or car.

President of the chapter, Dr. Roland Stocker, officially launched the new structure on October 23 in Sydney in the presence of the Swiss Ambassador to Australia, Marcel Stutz, and the head of the ETH Alumni Association, Dr. Peter Brunner.

Prof. Gerhard Schmitt, Director of the Singapore ETH Centre and Senior Vice President of ETH Global, updated the audience on the latest developments of ETH and its international activities.

As a strong supporter of Swiss alumni associations, SAAN is thrilled with the new branch intends to connect alumni, facilitate networking and improve the brand of ETH in Australia.

VICTORIA EVENTS
17/2 Swiss Festival, Queensbridge www.swissfestival.com.au
23/2 1st-Jassabend (Matterhorn)
2/5 Public Lecture, Swiss Nobel Prize Winner Prof. Rolf Zinkernagel (SAAN)

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

SwissKids
Convener: Esther Blaser-Tokarev Tel: 0424 220 523
esther.blaser@gmax.ch
For Swiss kids of all ages. 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 Schweizer (03) 9561 7811
Practices at the Club every 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month.

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

SWISS YODL CHOIR MATTERHORN
19 Lockwood Rd
Belgrave Heights VIC 3160
President: Chris Hostetter
Tel: (03) 9754 7390
helvet@bigpond.com
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn

The Matterhorn Choir will be heavily involved in the Swiss Festival on 17 February. As usual, we will be part of the entertainment but in addition we are responsible for the stall(s) selling grilled sausages. Our new President, Chris Hostetter, and all the Choir members are currently busy with preparations and practising for this big event.

The Choir is still in a process of renewal after the death and retirement of key members, and we are looking for seriously interested singers/yodellers to join us – please contact Chris to find out more and take part in one of our practice sessions.

Erwin Weinmann

South Australia

Swiss Club of South Australia
PO Box 770
North Adelaide SA 5006
President: Bruno Zuenger
swissclubofsouthaust@gmail.com
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubsa

Dear Club members and Friends of the Swiss Community on South Australia

On the last Sunday in October a very large group of members with family, kids and friends left the city behind and went for a “Wuenzi bräitel” at the Chookarillo Camping Ground, Kuitpo Forest in Meadows. It was such a wonderful time and everybody enjoyed the easygoing atmosphere with the “Schlangenbrot” and “Cervelat” sitting on the open fire. The weather was fantastic and it was late in the afternoon when the first family packed up and headed back home.

A year has gone by and what a great time we have had at our functions organized by the committee for you. This year all financial club members received a small present from Santa for Christmas, our former membership. You may like to try one of these recipes and let us know how good they are.

Our Christmas Party was held at Clover playground in the City. A beautiful place with lots of shade and a BBQ set up was perfect for our celebration. The members’ kids on the day received a free “Samichlaus Säckli”. Thank you very much to the club member for donating the yummy “Säckli”. The kids enjoyed smashing the Samichlaus Pfiñana.

For another year in row, the Camping Weekend will be at Port Elliot Holiday Park. Come along and leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and join us at this beautiful caravan park at Horseshoe Bay, for a swim or for game of cricket. The campsite is just a short stroll from Port Elliot or a short drive to Victor Harbor or Goolwa. We will have a BBQ dinner on Saturday night, using the well-equipped BBQ area of the campsite. Please make your camping bookings as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Details in the last Swiss Express.

I hope you and your family have had a great festive season and I wish you all on behalf of the committee all the best for the New Year.

Erwin Weinmann

Block internet sites? Enjoy worldwide access to censorship free Swiss Internet including all Web TV services.

SUISSL special offer
25 % discount
www.swiss.org.uk
Dear members and friends,

The committee has again decided on a number of exciting events for 2013 and looks forward to meet you at these functions. Please note that many events do not have a date yet, as it has not been decided at the time this article was composed.

Barbara Bossert, President

**CANBERRA EVENTS**

8-11/3 Beach weekend
Apr (13a) Winery tour
(for more details on all events, please refer to the newsletter or the website)

The regular *Jass evenings* are held every second Wednesday at the Harmonie German Club. Everyone is welcome.

**Swansea Community Radio FM91.1**
broadcasts a Swiss program every Monday night from 5-7 pm. Gaby and Werner present an informative and entertaining program with local content and news from Switzerland. So tune in your radios on Monday nights.

If you live in Canberra or surrounding districts and would like to become member of the Canberra Swiss Club, please go to the website and follow the instructions on the membership application form or contact us by email or phone. We look forward to meeting you at one of our next functions.

Heinz Bluettikofler, President

**New South Wales**

**NSW EVENTS**

3/2 Brunch, Clontarf (C.Romand)
10/2 Pool party, Bangor (Playgroup)
17/2 Jazz Picnic, Berry Island
23/2 Sydney Harbour Cruise (Yodellers)
23/2 Luncheon, Il Bolognese (Seniors)
26/2 Schellen Urrli, Chalan-marz…, Neutral Bay (Playgr)
2/3 Fasnacht Celebration, Sofia’s Restaurant, Allambie Heights
2-3/3 Bents Basin Camping (S.F.Kids)
15-17/3 Week-end camping & Dinner celebration in Bangor. And we’re expanding the language offering to include a fun Romantsch theme next month. Above all – Playgroup has a new home on the last Tuesday of the month at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy St, Kirribilli.

Daniel Frutiger, President

Swiss Play Group
Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre 16 Fitzroy St, Kirribilli.
Ph: 0409 672 464
sp@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/sp

Every last Tuesday of the month, 9.30-11.30 am. We are excited to launch a dynamic new Swiss Playgroup Sydney program in 2013 for babies to preschoolers with their parents. We’ll continue the successful approach to teaching the kids Swiss German Chindertlieder/Versi each month, but also now have occasional parents’ gatherings – such as the 10% discount we organised for a great ‘date night’ at Sydney Festival’s ‘Farbigartik’ on 9 January. We’re adding a pool party to the program this month, kindly hosted by Nicola Nenz at her home in Bangor. And we’re expanding the language offering to include a fun Romantsch theme next month. Above all – Playgroup has a new home on the last Tuesday of the month at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, offering safe (fenced) play areas to ride bikes & a wet-weather / indoor space for our regular songs, stories & craft.
Queensland

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

QUEENSLAND EVENTS
3/2 Day at the Beach (Fraser C)
23/2 Farah Carnival Dinner Dance
3/3 Gemuetlicher Abend
7/3 Film night + Jass
10/3 Family Picnic Day at Gold Coast
23/3 Cult.Fest, Gala Concert (Fraser C)
23/24/3 Bus Trip Fraser Coast Festival
24/3 Fraser Coast Cultural Festival (Fraser C)
24/3 Easter Bunny
21/4 25 Jubilee Jass Meisterschaft
4/5 Fondue (SSQ)
5/5 Fondue in the Backyard (Fraser C)

We had a lovely BBQ for the new members and helpers mid November. There was just enough sunshine, with only a little rain, and the park setting was very nice. We also enjoyed the Christmas dinner with the SCCQ, and our thanks to the committee of the SCCQ for the great event and for the lovely Guetsli bag that each member received. They were yummy! This year we will have two all day Jass Championships in Queensland. In April we are celebrating the 25th Jass Meisterschaft in Brisbane and during the Queen’s Birthday long weekend (9th of June) we will host the 3rd Australian Jass Championship on the Gold Coast, for French and Swiss German card players. Sponsors are still needed for both of these events.

Jass
Our regular Jass-eveings (every 2 weeks, starting Thursday January 10) now features a beginner’s table for those wanting to learn the game and a French card table.

Contact: Fredi Vogel: 3289 1183, or Rita von Roth: 043 170 7144

Tennis on Wednesday night if it’s not raining at 91 Ashby St, Fairfield, from 7:30pm. Call Marc on (07) 3899 8996 first to check if it’s on.

Swiss German Playgroup every Tues-day at various playgrounds. Contact Katrin on 0403 855 697 or visit swissplaygroup.blogspot.com.

We wishing you a Happy New Year

Ruth Milwright, President

Swiss Folk Dance Group ‘Alpgeegruess’
President: Marco Hussbaumer
7 Wallace Street
Willinggough NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666
www.swiss.org.au/alpgeegruess

Swiss Historical Society Inc.
C/- Schweizer Kobras, P.O Box H283
Australia Square NSW 1215
President: Bettina Boss
Tel: (02) 9363 9131
mail@theswissnsw.com
http://theswissnsw.com

First Seniors Luncheon/Italian style: Saturday 23rd February Il Bolognese and 2nd one, 20th April at the Eiger. Talk to us - Keep in touch!

Armin Roth

Swiss Yodellers of Sydney
27 Burra Road
Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Alois Kretz
Tel: (02) 9619 7277
askretz@bigpond.net.au

The yodellers would like to wish their fellow Swiss good health, peace and much happiness throughout 2013.

At our AGM held in November at the Swiss Hotel, the committee were thanked for a job very well done during the year and I am pleased to report that the same committee was re-elected for the coming year. We finished the year by singing at the Swiss Seniors Luncheon and a wedding held at Lindsay House, Darling Point.

The group have been invited to sing at the The Swiss Festival in Melbourne on Sunday, 17 February, 2013. This festival is being held in the city of Melbourne for the first time and will showcase all things Swiss.

The yodellers’ annual Sydney Harbour Cruise will be held on Saturday, 23 February 2013. A new ferry has been acquired for the cruise, so do come along and enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes on board.

Alois Kretz, President

Cercle Romand Du N.S.W.
Présidente: 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. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer,

Pour le comité, Christian Dubois, secrét.

Swiss Community Care Society
(Incl. Swiss Seniors of NSW)
P.O.Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355
President: Armin Roth
Tel: (02) 9669 1749

Contact / Support Officer:
Ursula Mooser: (02) 9428 5593
scsc@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/scsc

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