Editorial

Dear readers,

Imagine having represented the Swiss living in Southern Africa for 35 years! ASR delegate Peter Mueller has done just that and spent half of his life passionately fighting for the rights of the Swiss people in this part of the world and networking with the Swiss authorities. After 35 years it is time to hand over the task to a successor.

Peter has contributed a lot to the Swiss Review magazine and it has been a real privilege to work with him for the past six years. He has been the voice of the Swiss living in Southern Africa and I wish him all the very best for his future!

GISELA PIERCEY
Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

First Swiss solar park in Southern Africa

Switzerland has set an example of household energy efficiency in its ambassadorial residence in the city of Pretoria/Tshwane, South Africa. The residence was recently fitted with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and low-consumption light bulbs and appliances, as well as solar geysers.

As far as we are aware, it is the first Swiss residence in Africa (and possibly the world) to achieve this leap to reduce the carbon footprint – even though the initial consideration was for facing the increasingly frequent power cuts from the public grid, and alleviating the electricity bill with a view to the rapidly increasing rates.

The initiative is in line with one of Switzerland’s priorities in its cooperation with South Africa, which is to promote the mitigation of climate-affecting factors: the Swiss Development Cooperation global programme on Climate Change, the State Secretariat for Economy’s (SECO) country projects, and the Swiss South African Joint Research Programme, with its newly introduced focus on green&clean technologies, all lean toward this same goal.

The lovely rose bushes in the lower part of the garden were transplanted to make way for the thirty north facing PV panels, covering a surface area of 50 m². Perfectly angled and fully exposed to the sun, a peak 44 kWh was generated on 30 October 2012 at which the minimum daylight temperature was 19 degrees Celsius and the maximum was 26 degrees Celsius. The energy generated on that spring day was sufficient to power the essential requirements of the residence for 24 hours, while loading batteries guaranteeing a reserve of eight to ten hours should the next day be less sunny.

All the improvements made will allow for a 30% reduction in electricity use. With an estimated average of at least 1000 solar-generated kWh a month, the residence will have more than halved its annual consumption from the grid – apart from being blackout-proof. If this were not enough, the Swiss Ambassador to South Africa often uses his electric “Zebike” to cycle to work, unlike 99.9% of South Africans who use private vehicles and public transport.

South Africa less dependent on fossil energy sources.

About the Author

Dr Janice Golding is a South African who works for Swiss Economic Cooperation (SECO) at the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria.

There is a time to come, and a time to go

Peter Mueller has represented Southern Africa for 35 years, and says goodbye now.

As you know from previous issues of the Swiss Review, a new term of Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) representation begins at the end of August 2013 for the next four years. From our appeal for possible successors to Rolf Schudel (nominated by the Swiss Club Johannesburg) and Peter Müller (nominated by the Swiss Club Cape Town), we were pleased to receive considerable feedback, as a result of which, the undersigned has decided not to make himself available for re-election for a further term. It has always been the undersigned’s philosophy and contention that there is a time in life and particularly in political life to come and, even more importantly, a time to go.

It is extremely pleasing to note that there appears to be interest in representing the 9’000 Swiss Abroad in Southern Africa. The undersigned, while still having the honour to represent you until August 2013, wishes these new delegates a successful term of office, and is obviously available for possible advice and consultation should this be required.

The undersigned attended his first Auslandschweizerrat Congress in Einsiedeln in
August 1978 some 35 years ago. At that stage the undersigned was not a delegate, but as the President of the Swiss Club Cape Town, he felt it important to personally cover what this political platform created by the Auslandschweizerorganisation (ASO) together with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA) could mean to Swiss Abroad particularly those in Southern Africa. That experience was extremely positive, and he realised that needs, wants and aspirations of Swiss Abroad in Southern Africa were not hugely different from those of Swiss Abroad worldwide. While largely the topics of the various Congresses were not materially important to the Swiss in Southern Africa, the importance of international networking, and particularly networking with Bernese officials, was not to be underestimated.

During the 35 years since then, the undersigned has tried to attend an ASR Meeting and/or Congress whenever possible. For the past 20 years, he has enjoyed the privilege of representing the Swiss in Southern Africa initially as alternate delegate and during the past decade as full delegate.

Southern Africa has been privileged to have had a host of exceptional delegates: Pio Eggstein; Francois Jeannerat and Rolf Schudel (nominated by the Swiss Club Johannesburg) and Hans Strebel, Joe Giezendanner and Peter Brunnschweiler (nominated by the Swiss Club Cape Town). The undersigned was privileged to know and work closely with these gentlemen in the interests of the Swiss in Southern Africa.

With Rolf Schudel’s mid-term resignation a year ago, it is possibly an appropriate time for the undersigned to also hand over the baton.

Indeed, in politics there is a time to come and there is a time to go!

PETER MULLER
sargro@bluewin.ch

A summary of the last ASR meeting

A report of the ASR meeting and congress in Lausanne from last August. The well-attended meeting was opened by the ASR President Jacques-Simon Eggy who greeted the guests from far and wide. President Eggy delivered his comprehensive presidential address, emphasising particularly:

- The proposed law on Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizergesetz)
- Electronic voting and its development (Vote electronique)
- 50 year anniversary of AJAS (Student and Youth Service)
- Network of consular representation.

Regarding the law on Auslandschweizer, initiator Ständerat Filippo Lombardi, who is also a member of the ASR, reported on the progress of this matter. He is the President of a parliamentary subcommittee dealing with the formulation of the proposed law. By January 2013, the proposed law should be ready for discussion by both the National- and the Ständerat Chambers in Parliament. The aim would be for this draft to be enacted in law during 2015. The most important aims are:

1. The consolidation of all Auslandschweizer interests in one department
2. The elimination of discrimination of Auslandschweizer
3. The furtherance of mobility of Auslandschweizer.

At the same time, this should all be achieved without turning ASO or the ASR into agencies of the state.

Regarding electronic voting, Mrs Perriard from the Confederation Chancellery reviewed the status of this very important matter. There are still a number of problems to be solved regarding the insuring of voting secrecy, but it is hoped to solve these within the next year or two to enable practically universal electronic voting by Auslandschweizer by 2015/16.

AJAS, which was initially a separate agency, has been housed and run by ASO during the past 20 years or so, has a proud record of assisting young Auslandschweizer to study and/or do research in Switzerland. We urge all young Auslandschweizer who are interested in furthering their education, to contact AJAS in Bern to investigate their possibilities.

The network of Swiss consular representation worldwide is being reorganised and it is for this reason that the Pretoria and Cape Town consular offices no longer represent and service Swiss interests in some 10 Southern African countries. This network is further assisted by the appointment of Honorary Swiss Consuls in appropriate locations.

A lengthy debate was held regarding the stance by Swiss banks as regards Auslandschweizer holdings. It would appear that the Swiss banks, with their unjustified and often excessive charges, are not keen to keep Auslandschweizer holdings in their banks. The Swiss Abroad in the USA are particularly affected, but the undersigned has also received many complaints from Swiss in Southern Africa. This matter is receiving constant attention from the ASR, but in the light of the constant pressure being brought by countries such as the USA and certain EU countries, against the Swiss banking industry, it is not easy to achieve much progress.

The election of a new ASR council for the period 2013-2017 was discussed at great length. Francois Jeannerat has been appointed as the monitor for the election in Southern Africa.

The next session of the ASR will be held in Bern on Saturday 16th March. The next summer session including Congress will be held from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th August in Davos. The undersigned encourages as many Auslandschweizer from Southern Africa as possible to attend and participate.

PETER MULLER
sargro@bluewin.ch


Der Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) setzt sich aus Vertretern der Schweizer Gemeinschaften im Ausland sowie aus Inlandschweizer zusammen. Als von den Behörden anerkanntes Sprachrohr der Fünften Schweiz vertritt der ASR die Interessen unserer Landsleute im Ausland und nimmt zu politischen Fragen Stellung, die für diese von Belang sind.


François Jeannerat
Wahlkoordinator francois.jeannerat@bluewin.ch

Südafrika zum ersten Mal an der Küchenschlacht
Schweizerische Frau von Österreichischem Hotelier in Südafrika gewinnt die Küchenschlacht im Deutschen Fernsehen.

Susanne Peterseil, eine gebürtige Schweizerin und Ehefrau von Werner Peterseil, einem oberösterreichischen Hotelbesitzer, reiste von Port Elizabeth in Südafrika nach Hamburg, um am 8. Oktober 2012 an der Küchenschlacht anzutreten und war selbst überrascht als sie gewann! Eigentlich wollte Susanne einfach mal nur mit dabei sein und dafür nahm sie die Reise um die halbe Welt gerne auf sich.

Susanne ist eine engagierte Mutter von zwei Kindern (Michael 13 Jahre und Jamie 8 Jahre) in deren Schule sie täglich aktiv mitarbeitet und freut sich deshalb immer besonders, nachmittags zur Entspannung über den Deukom-Satelliten die Küchenschlacht im ZDF zu schauen. Sie bewarb sich im März dieses Jahres bei den Fernsehmachern und unterstützt von ihrem Mann, konnte sie sich im Oktober ihren Traum erfüllen.


Werner ist besonders stolz auf seine Frau, denn Gastronomie liegt ihm im Blut, zumal er vor 15 Jahren in Port Elizabeth an der Küste Südafrikas sein eigenes Vier-Sterne-Hotel eröffnet hat. Das Paxton Hotel ist ein vielfach ausgezeichnetes Hotel für Geschäftsleute und Touristen zugleich.

Susanne Peterseil gewann die Kuchenschlacht des ZDF.

Swiss Club Info

JOHANNESBURG:

Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club; Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A

Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch;

Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: Swiss Rifle Club JHB shoots every 4th Saturday starting at 09h00, on 23/02 & 23/03. The majority of our members are Swiss, therefore it also doubles as a social gathering. Swiss Rifles and ammunition are provided by the club and the day ends with a bring and braai. If you need more info e-mail to: srcja@gmail.com or call Daniel Wyser 082-5699146.

PRETORIA:
Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478930, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbonosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

CAPE TOWN:
Swiss Social & Sports Club, Bill Peters Road, Green Point, www.swissclub.co.za, PRESIDENT: Stefan Flöcksch, stefanp@executonmove.co.za

I M P R E S S U M

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Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa: Gisela Piercey, P.O. Box 408, Kenton-on-Sea 6191, South Africa, Phone 0466482632 Fax 0866020489, gisela@africanwitsravel.com. Please make a note of all the Southern African Regional Issues in 2013:

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The club remains open on
Wednesday and Thursday evening for dinner. If you are not on the data
base to receive the "catering
newsflash" please contact the club
at catering@swissclub.co.za or on
T +27 (0) 21 4348405.
Active sub-sections are the Rifle
Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The
ladies continue to meet monthly –
last Wednesday of every month. For
more information on the above sub-
sections, please contact info@
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Our newsletter is distributed via
email and postage (as per request),
but regular updates can be obtained
on our website at www.swissclub.co.za

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JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country
Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road
on the left when travelling from the
Pavilion exit towards Westville). As
before the Jass evening takes place
every second Friday evening of the
month 18:00 for dinner/19:00 start
Jassens: 8/2, 8/3, 12/4, 10/5, 14/6,
12/7, 16/8, 13/9, 11/10, 8/11,
13/12/2013 (prize jassens).
TARGET SHOOTING: Dave Nicol Shooting
Range, Nottingham Road, KZN
Midland starting at 9h00: 23/2,
23/3, 27/4, 25/5, 22/6, 27/7, 24/8,
28/9, 26/10, 23/11/2012.
OTHER EVENTS: Saturday
16/2/2013 18h00 Culture Evening
(Swiss Film Abend), Sunday
10/3/2013 10h30 AGM.

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Yvonne Bruhwiler, secretary,
C 083448130
The Fondue Party was a great
success. More than 40 members
came along and enjoyed a delicious
Fondue. Verena, with the help of
other members prepared a Fondue
which could not have been better in
Switzerland. It has become a custom
that “meine Wenigkeit” (John
Diener) plays some swing songs
with my “Tenorhorn”, which
everybody seems to enjoy. All in all
it was a lovely evening and a good
opportunity to catch up with the
latest news. A big thanks to Ella and
Armin, to once again be our splen-
did hosts. The good attendance at
the AGM; the First of August and the
Fondue Plausch this year indicates
that members are keen to attend
these functions. All the more reason
to organize a few more this year.
This is the new years resolution of
the committee.

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