Congress of the Swiss Abroad, Davos August 16 – 18, 2013. The theme of this year’s Congress will be “Switzerland in time of Globalisation”. Discussion will centre around the strategy Switzerland should adopt for its future, being a non-EU member and having scarce natural resources. Also considered is the new situation as to the “Finance Place Switzerland” created by the abuses of some banks. Participants in the Congress are able to express their views in various workshops.

Centenary: Mr. Rudolf Wyder, the CEO of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Bern is planning special events for the 100th Anniversary of the OSA in 2016. The Swiss Abroad will be contacted in order to participate in the planning and realisation of this important event.

Law Swiss Abroad: Mr. Filipo Lombardi informed about the status of the new law for the Swiss Abroad, which is being discussed at the parliamentary level. The new article in the Constitution will regulate in a more coherent form, relationships between the Swiss Abroad and Federal and Cantonal institutions. Switzerland should have a coherent policy regarding the Swiss Abroad which should clearly mention the rights and obligations of the various authorities involved.

E-voting for everyone: the Swiss Abroad have lodged a petition to the Federal Authorities to have e-voting for all Swiss Abroad by 2015.

Banks/Taxation: The Swiss Abroad were informed by the relevant Federal Authority about current negotiations of Switzerland with some third party countries as to Double Taxation Agreements. It was mentioned on various occasions that the finance place of Switzerland has been severely tarnished by activities of some banks, and pressure has been put on the Federal Authorities to make sure that the Swiss Abroad can have adequate banking facilities in Switzerland. It was reported that some Swiss banks have cancelled bank accounts of some Swiss living abroad or are charging excessive fees to keep accounts. We will keep you informed about the progress on this topic!

Beat Knoblauch, CSA Delegate

Embassy. What Can Swiss Honorary Consuls Do?

Can honorary consuls issue passports or visas? Can they marry a couple? Can they authenticate a document?

Swiss honorary consuls are often confronted with such requests, as revealed during a Regional Consular Conference, held in Sydney on March 15 and 16, 2013.

Switzerland became a member of the Schengen Agreement in 2008. The Schengen Agreement changed the role of honorary consuls considerably. Under the agreement, for example, honorary consuls are no longer authorized to grant visas.

Honorary consuls are the local representative of the ambassador or consul general. They act as the eyes and ears of the ambassador or consul general. This includes representing the ambassador or consul general at national holiday celebrations or other official events.

The honorary consuls maintain and expand a network of local contacts in local government, as well as in business, scientific and cultural circles. They report to the Embassy or Consulate General whenever an opportunity for Swiss interests arises and provide general information on Switzerland.

The honorary consuls further promote a spirit of solidarity within the Swiss expatriate community and strengthen its ties with Switzerland. They keep an eye out for destitute or helpless Swiss and let them know that help can generally be made available. The Swiss Clubs interact directly with the Embassy and the Consulate General. The Honorary Consuls are therefore not their first point of contact. But Swiss Clubs are an important part of the network of the Honorary Consuls.

The honorary consuls, after consultation with the Embassy or the Consulate General, assist the Swiss in need, both those living abroad as well as tourists, be it because of an accident, sickness, theft or imprisonment, etc. They inform the Embassy or Consulate General of any circumstances that potentially affect the Swiss. They also report on any event that could be of importance with regard to travel advice published by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

The only administrative duty of an honorary consul remains the confirmation of the proof of life for the AHV/IV. For all other consular and administrative services, Swiss citizens need to contact the Embassy or Consulate General.

We thank our honorary consuls for their outstanding work.

Marcel Stutz, Swiss Ambassador in Canberra
Marion Weichelt Krupski, Swiss Ambassador in Wellington
Victoria Events (cont.)
10/8 Final Jasabend (Matterhorn)
4/9 Ladies Luncheon
5/9 Live Music Kapelle Grueni Mitenand
8/9 Kaffeiklatsch (Trachtengruppe)
14/9 Jazz Night
18/9 Movie Night
25/9 Half Yearly Meeting

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@gmx.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 Schwaerzler (03) 9561 7811
2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Swiss Diners Club
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SwissDinersClub/
Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn
19 Lockwood Rd
Belgrave Heights VIC 3160
President: Chris Hostetler
Tel: (03) 9754 7390
helvet@bigpond.com
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn

The Matterhorn Choir is on the move; our choir practices are now at a new location: St. James Uniting Church (Wattle Park), 1201 Riversdale Road, Box Hill South, still on Wednesdays 6:00 pm. We are hoping that this more central location will make it easier for new singers/yodellers to join us for practice!

In the spirit of renewal we have also decided to move the Swiss National Day Picnic closer to the city. It will be held on Sunday 4th August at the Austrian Club, 90 Scheeban Road, Heidelberg West (where the Swiss Festival was held for the last few years). We look forward to seeing you there on a beautiful winter day.

Erwin Weimann

Victoria

The Swiss Club of Victoria
89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: 03 9650 1196
President: Barbara Kündig
Tel: 0402 018 363
info@swissclubvic.com.au
www.swissclubvic.com.au
facebook: swissclubvic

With the cooler months upon us, it’s time to get warm and cozy. Where else than at the Swiss Club and the club restaurant! Join us for our Wed/Thu club nights. Enjoy a Swiss dish, a chat with a fellow member and maybe a Jass. Visitors are of course always welcome. Over the next few months, we have planned Jass nights, movie nights, Billiard, live music on the first Thursday of each month and much more. Check our website and social calendar for further details.

Interested in Swiss music and traditions? Our interest groups; the Companion Singers, the Folk Dancegroup Alpenrose, the Laughter Club Helvetica, the Swiss Kids, the Swiss Diners and the Ladies Luncheon are always looking for new participants.

Looking for an affordable but stylish CBD function space? The Second Floor at the Swiss Club is the place to go.

The Swiss Club of Victoria; the place to experience a piece of Switzerland in Australia, and to socialize with fellow Swiss.

VICTORIA EVENTS
6/6 Live Music Kapelle Grueni Mitenand
7/6 Billiard Bernard Sanchez Cup
3/7 Ladies Luncheon
4/7 Live Music Kapelle Grueni Mitenand
6/7 Jazz Night
17/7 Movie Night
1/8 Swiss National Day Celebrations
4/8 National Day Picnic (Matterhorn)

Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose
President: Sylvia Hochuli
92 Addison Street, Elwood Vic 3184
Tel: (03) 9531 6576
hochuli@tpg.com.au

Our group participated at the 20th Volkfestzeltan at the German Club Cordoba. Over 250 performers representing Austrian, German and Swiss groups from different states took part.

At the Unterhaltungsabend, we were honoured to have the Consul General Mr. Markus Meli and wife Christiana with us. They are leaving Australia for the next posting. Our best wishes go with them.

To everyone, thankyou for being part in making the night a huge success at the Swiss Club.

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

We would like to extend an invitation to our Senior Citizens (over sixty) to a wonderful afternoon of Coffee, Cakes and a Chat “Kaffeiklatsch” at the Swiss Club Sunday, 8 Sept from 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 by 2nd Sept.

Silvia Hochuli

Western Australia

Swiss Club of Western Australia
PO Box 411
Northbridge WA 6865
President: Philippe Bossert
Tel: 0424 068 141
president@swissclub.org.au
www.swissclub.org.au

Dear friends

The committee of the Swiss Club of WA is very pleased to announce that our inaugural Swiss Weekend in the City in mid April was a great success. On Saturday, over 100 people enjoyed a beautiful dinner and the outstanding entertainment by the Swiss Yodellers and Alphorn Players. On Sunday, about 80 people came along to the BBQ with Bratwurst and Cervelat and a sumptuous salad buffet – the Swiss Alphorn players treated everyone to familiar sounds. A big thank-you goes to everyone that helped to get the event off the ground, including contributions from Kahlo World Cuisine, Antoine’s Prime Meats, Chez Jean-Claude Patisserie, Geobrugger Australia and the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Perth.

Please check our website for fondue bookings and for this year’s 1st of August celebrations; information will be released a bit closer to the event.

Philippe Bossert, President Swiss Club of WA

SA EVENTS
1/8 Luncheon for Members
4/8 Swiss National Day Celebration
5/8 Bushwalk (tbc)

(Swissair Travels)

SA EVENTS
1/8 Kaffeklatsch (Trachtengruppe)
3/7 Ladies Luncheon
4/8 Swiss National Day Celebrations
6/6 Live Music Kapelle Grueni Mitenand
7/6 Billiard Bernard Sanchez Cup
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Silvia Hochuli
**Swiss Club of WA: A lot of fun and laughter at the inaugural Swiss Festival!**

The Guggenburras

Only “Guggemusig” in Australia. Practice is every Tuesday.

Jennifer Leutenegger (08) 9277 7826
juggenburras@swiss.org.au

**Play Group**

Every 1st Friday of the month.

Cynthia Reed, 0409 295 775

Swiss Social Club of WA: A lot of fun and laughter at the inaugural Swiss Festival!

Every 1st Friday of the month.

**Monthly Jazz**

Every 3rd Thursday of the month, from 6.30pm, North Perth Lawn Bowling Club, Farmer Street, North Perth.

Peter Mueller, (08) 9291 8402

**Swiss Yodelers**

Traditional Swiss folk group. Peter Mueller (see above)

**Northern Territory**

**Swiss Club Down South**

Nicole May, 276 Hoiberrrad
Cowaramup WA 6284
Tel: (08) 9755 5297

Tel: (08) 8927 5794
Mobile: 0438 060 515

**NSW EVENTS**

**Canberra Events**

14/6 Film night

28/7 Swiss National day celebrations

26/9 Power of Attorney seminar

(including also to refer to newsletter / website)

Plans are under way to hold another series of cooking courses in September. Details will be posted as soon as they are available.

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

Swiss Club Canberra Choir If you enjoy singing in a small group on a regular basis, then our choir is just right for you. We sing traditional songs in our national languages. From time to time the choir performs with the German and Austrian choirs. Rehearsals are held at the Harmonie German Club from 6pm to 7.10pm on the last Tuesday of every month. Check the web or contact the coordinator Regula Neislon at: neislon@newspeed.com.au

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

1st Monday: Social evening, jazz, and Committee meeting (Eiger)

The committee has organised a few interesting outings in June and July. Buure Zmorje on June 9 at the Austrian club in Frenchs Forest 10am-2pm. Cycle trip to the Concordia club in Temple June 30, start at the Olympic train station at 10.30. Fondue Night at the Eiger Restaurant in Stanmore July 1. The AGM will be held at the Australian club on July 12 as of 6pm onwards.

Please support your Club, Gruss.

Daniel Frutiger, President

**ETH Alumni Sydney Chapter**

President: Roland Stocker

sydney.chapter@alumni.ethz.ch

Dear Swiss club members of NSW

The members of the committee have worked hard to establish Face book and twitter, as well as a step forward to improve and actively update the web page, thanks to all who are involved. Of course we would like that members also like what we do: for feedback purposes.

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Daniel Frutiger, President

Swiss Play Group

KIRRILLIBALL Neighbourhood Centre

16 Fitzroy St, KIRRILLIBALL (except July)

Ph: 0409 672 644

spas@swiss.org.au

www.swiss.org.au/spas

Swiss Playgroup Sydney is a gathering of babies to preschoolers with there parents for play, songs & craft on the last Tuesday of each month from 9.30-11.30am. In April we enjoyed “Papa Moll” and songs accompanied by Nicola on the recorder, as well as autumn craft and Swiss Flag helium balloons. It will be important to RSVP for the July playgroup when we’ll be celebrating National Day with the children, who will again have a chance to cook their own Servelat over a fire in the backyard at Ursula’s place.

Jessica Steiger-Thorpe

Schwyzerödtisch For Kids

Beatrice Sidari: Tel: (02) 9602 9395

Mobile: 0418 280 178

sbdari@bigpond.com

We are a group of Swiss/Australian, Swiss/International families that get together every first Sunday of the month from 11am.

The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney

27 Burra Road

Artsarmon NSW 2064

President: Alois Kretz

Tel: (02) 9419 7277

akretz@bigpond.net.au

The Yoders will sing at the Swiss seniors luncheon, organized by the Swiss Community Care Society on Sat. 20 July 2013. We do this with great pleasure to bring a little of “die Heimat” to our seniors.

The Yoders’ 2013 August celebration will be held on Sunday 4 August 2013 at the Castle Hill Show Ground. Requests for stalls selling Swiss products should be applied for soon.

A flyer will be sent early July with full details of the event. We look forward to welcoming you all there.

Alois Kretz, President

Cercle Romand Du N.S.W.

Présidente: Anne Resplendido

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 82, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355

President: Armin Roth

Tel: (02) 9669 1749

Contact / Support Officer: Ursula Moos: (02) 9428 5593

sccs@swiss.org.au

www.swiss.org.au/sccs

National Day Luncheon with the Swiss Yodeling group takes place on 20th July 2013 at Concordia. Please call us for a reservation. Talk to us, keep in touch!

Armin Roth

Swiss Folk Dance Group ‘Alpegrüss’

President: Marco Nussbaumer

7 Wallace Street

Willettunga Rugby NSW 2068

Tel: (02) 9560 0666

www.swiss.org.au/alpegruess

Swiss Historical Society Inc.

C/- Schweizer Kobras, PO Box H283

Australia Square NSW 1215

President: Bettina Boss

Tel: (02) 9363 9313

mail@theswissinsw.com

www.swiss.org.au
Queensland Events

19/10 Dinner Dance (organized by SSQ unless otherwise stated)

Jass Regular Jass evenings held each alternate week. We now have a beginner’s table for those wanting to learn the game and a French card table Contact: Fredi Vogel: 0413 170 714

Swiss German Playgroup every Tuesday at various playgrounds. Contact Sandra Landolt on 0402 655 158 or e-mail sandralandolt@yahoo.com.au or visit swissplaygroup.blogspot.com

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)
Postal: SCCS, c/- Erika Vincent, 35 Mysst Street, Murwillumbah 2484
President: Lotry Wirher
Tel: (07) 3298 5300 / Secretary: Erika Vincent, Tel: (02) 6672 8591
Contact Sunshine Coast: Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

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

4 informal Get-togethers, Ladies Luncheon. Welcome to all visitors.
12 of the Yodel & Folklore Group Berg-Roeseli performed both days at the Broga Theatre and on 2 stages at the Fraser Coast Cultural Festival. The Alphorn was much admired. An Austrian Tourist had to come to Australia to see a real Alphorn for the first time!!
21 members of the Brisbane Swiss Club also enjoyed the 40 Food stalls and our great diversity of entertainment while on their yearly Bus-Trip.
The Swiss Cheese Fondue at the Beach had 22 “Swaussies” enjoying this first time event with superb view over the Hervey Bay waters

Cecile Scherrer

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast
Contact: Hanni Kaech, (07)447 7548
scssg@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/sscsc

The Club held its Annual General Meeting on 15th March 2013 at the Te-wantin RSL Club. The current members were re-elected and 2 new committee members were nominated and elected. The Committee then met subsequent to the AGM at which events and functions for this year were discussed. In addition to the 1st August function and the Christmas dinner the Club is planning to hold a fondue night. Dates and details will be posted on the Club’s 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 on the Sunshine Coast every month to catch up and have a chat. Details are placed on our website and sent out via direct email.
The men do not want to miss out and have their own “Gentlemen’s Lunch” on the same day as the Ladies, but at a different restaurant and is organized by Franz Kaech.

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!

Please ring Hanni (phone number above) if you like to have a chat and find out more, we are happy to help. We also welcome your enquiries and suggestions via email to sssc@swiss.org.au, you will get a prompt response.

Beatrice Bruin-Broennimann

Helpline

Consulate General of Switzerland
101 Grafton Street, Cnr Grosvener St
Tower 2, Level 23, Bondi Junction,
NSW 2022, Australia
Postal address:
P.O. Box 282, Bondi Junction,
NSW 1355, Australia
Phone: 0061 2 3833 4000
Fax: 0061 2 9369 1334
E-Mail: syd.verretunga@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/australia

USEFUL ONLINE REFERENCES
www.revue.ch/regio-en-aus
www.aso.ch
www.swiss.org.au/asa
www.swissinfo.org
www.swiss.org.au
www.avsi-international.ch
www.swisscommunity.org

Swiss Revue Online (ad-rates / deadlines / history / downloads)
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
ASO Portal Australia (Local CSA Delegates / Hot Topics)
Actual News by swissinfo/SRI
Swiss Clubs on the Net in Australia
OASI/DI and voluntary contributions (AHV)
Internet platform for the Swiss Abroad

USEFUL ONLINE REFERENCES
www.aso.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/asa
www.swissinfo.org
www.swiss.org.au
www.avsi-international.ch
www.swisscommunity.org

Helpline FDF A
Phone: +41 800 24-7-365
Skype: helpline-edu

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