

REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA



ROLAND ISLER
REGIONAL EDITOR - OCEANIA
COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD - AUSTRALIA

Editorial:

The members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing Australia warmly welcome **Esther Gilbert** as the new delegate for

New Zealand. We look forward to working closely together across the Tasman in representing and supporting the Swiss community throughout Oceania.

We also extend a warm welcome to **Johannes le Coutre**, who has joined the Australian CSA team as Deputy following Thomas Hofer's relocation back to Switzerland. Johannes was a candidate in last year's CSA election and, as the next eligible candidate, has filled the resulting vacancy. To learn more about Johannes, visit the Swiss Alliance website ➡ <https://bit.ly/4xITp0R>

The delegates look forward to attending the **SwissCommunity Days** – meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad on 21-22 August in Brunnen. A report will be published in the next edition of the 'Swiss Review'.



Have your say – short survey from the CSA Delegates and Swiss Alliance Australia

The Australian Delegates of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) and the Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA) are inviting you to participate in a short questionnaire.

Your experiences and your connection to Switzerland matter – your input will directly help represent your interests and strengthen the community in Australia. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes and is fully anonymous.

Take the survey here ➡
<https://bit.ly/4eCb29T>

Esther Gilbert – new NZ delegate to the Council for the Swiss Abroad



I was born in Bern and emigrated with my family to Dunedin in 1986. While New Zealand has been home for most of my life, Switzerland has always remained an important part of who I am.

After completing my schooling and studies in Dunedin, I spent a decade working in hospitality in Queenstown, Wellington and Auckland before returning home in 2006. My husband Kevin and I have spent the last 20

years running bakeries in Dunedin. Owning a small business taught me the importance of hard work, practical problem-solving and building strong relationships within a community.

Community involvement has always been important to me. Over the years I have been fortunate to contribute to a number of organisations, including the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School, the Dunedin Christmas Charitable Trust and the Otago Farmers' Market. Through these experiences I developed an appreciation for good governance, collaboration and the value of bringing people together to achieve positive outcomes.

Since 2021 I have been the co-ordinator for the Swiss community in Otago and Southland. It has been a privilege to help connect Swiss families across the lower South Island, organise events and celebrations, and encourage people to maintain a connection with Switzerland. One highlight was welcoming the Swiss women's football team to Dunedin during the FIFA Women's World Cup and seeing the excitement that generated within our local Swiss community.

I am honoured to have been elected to the Council of the Swiss Abroad, the body that represents Swiss citizens living around the world. I am looking forward to working with fellow delegates to ensure the voices of Swiss people in New Zealand and Oceania are heard, and to helping strengthen the connection between our communities and Switzerland.

For me, this role is about listening, building relationships and making sure our region is represented in a constructive and practical way. I am excited to get started and to contribute to the important work of supporting Swiss citizens abroad, while helping preserve the cultural ties that connect us to Switzerland, wherever we may live.

Contact me on: schlubert@gmail.com or +64 27 353 6303

From Nobel Discovery to AI for Health: A New Era in Swiss–Australian Collaboration

Thirty years ago, a Swiss immunologist and an Australian veterinarian-turned-scientist shared the Nobel Prize for a discovery that transformed modern medicine. Today, the scientific relationship between Switzerland and Australia is entering a new phase – one increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, translational medicine and health innovation.

2026 marks the 30th anniversary of the Nobel Prize jointly awarded to Swiss immunologist Rolf Zinkernagel and Australian scientist Peter Doherty for their groundbreaking discovery of how the immune system recognises infected cells. Their work laid the foundations for major advances in immunology, vaccine development and cancer therapies, and became a powerful symbol of scientific collaboration across hemispheres.

The Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra and Swissnex celebrated the anniversary this March through a series of events across Australia, bringing together researchers, clinicians, policymakers and innovators to reflect not only on three decades of cooperation, but also on what comes next. “We found something that upset everyone”, joked Zinkernagel, sharing the stage of Llewellyn Hall at the Australian National University with Peter Doherty and Brian Schmidt, himself a Nobel Prize winner in physics.

Yet the light-hearted remark pointed to a deeper, recurring theme during the anniversary celebrations: that the quality of cooperation has shifted from a happy coincidence to a strategic asset: “Thirty years ago, Swiss and Australian researchers helped redefine modern immunology” as Swiss Ambassador Nikolas Stürchler noted in his inaugural speech. “Today, both countries are uniquely positioned to shape

the next frontier of health innovation, as we observe the convergence of world-class research, advanced healthcare systems and innovation-driven economies.”

A shifting landscape

In the past decades, Switzerland has established itself as one of the world’s leading centers for biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and precision medicine, supported by deep research intensity and globally connected innovation ecosystems. The country files the most life sciences patents per capita worldwide, and over 1,000 companies and 40,000 professionals work in biotech, pharma, and medtech. Australia, meanwhile, has developed internationally recognised expertise in clinical research, translational medicine and large-scale health implementation. Increasingly, Swiss and Australian institutions are collaborating not only on research, but on how new technologies move from laboratories into clinical and commercial applications. In medtech, diagnostics and biotechnology, partnerships are beginning to connect universities, hospitals and investors across both ecosystems.

This shift is also visible at the startup and innovation level. Dina Titkova, Senior Manager for startup programs and partnerships at UNSW Founders, who recently launched the Global Innovation Foundry initiative – a platform helping Australian startups scale internationally – visited several Swiss universities and innovation parks to explore opportunities for deeper collaboration between Australian startups and Switzerland’s biotech and deep-tech ecosystems. “Switzerland brings exceptional strengths in industry collaboration, venture creation and research translation”, she said upon her return, struck by the possibilities of alignment. “Meanwhile, UNSW and Australia offer globally recognised capabilities in clinical trials, biomedical engineering and health technologies, alongside a strong focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. Together, there is enormous potential to accelerate innovation from discovery to patient impact.”

It is no surprise that an Australian delegation attended this year’s Swiss Biotech Days in Basel. Bradley Joblin, founder of Melbourne based Armstrong Clinical and a specialist in clinical development and early phase study



On 2 March 2026, the Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra and the Australian National University (ANU) teamed up to celebrate the 30th anniversary by setting-up a rare conversation between Professor Rolf Zinkernagel AC, Professor Peter Doherty AC and Professor Brian Schmidt AC FAA FRS (Nobel Prize for Astrophysics), exploring discovery, curiosity and the responsibility of science in shaping our future. Natasha Mitchell, host of ABC’s Big Ideas, lead the discussion. Listen to 3 Nobels 1 Stage at ANU ➔ <https://bit.ly/3PeV1L3>

design, is a regular participant. *“Switzerland has an extraordinary concentration of pharmaceutical company headquarters. These commercial giants have the expertise, infrastructure, and global reach required to translate discoveries originating from groundbreaking research in universities and research institutes into life-changing therapies.”* Joblin, also a member of the Swiss Australian Academic Network (SAAN), is convinced that Switzerland has mastered academia/industry balance exceptionally well and created one of the world’s most effective innovation ecosystems by seamlessly integrating academic excellence with pharmaceutical industry leadership. *“The Australian researchers and biotech startups who attend such events benefit strongly, by forming international partnerships, attracting capital, and participating in globally connected innovation pipelines.”*

What the future holds

A major milestone in this evolution came this year with the launch of the very first joint research call between Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), focused on *“AI in healthcare for populations of diverse sex, gender or sexual orientations or other underrepresented population groups”*. According to SNSF, *“This joint call aims to strengthen links between the Swiss and Australian research communities. By opening further avenues for long-term collaboration, it creates significant added value for Swiss researchers and their institutions”*. More than a funding mechanism, the initiative signals a broader shift in the bilateral relationship: from informal scientific collaboration towards more strategic and structured partnerships.

It also reflects a wider global reality. Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping healthcare – from diagnostics and drug discovery to personalised medicine and hospital systems. *“Artificial intelligence is not merely transforming healthcare through faster diagnostics, predictive analytics, and personalised care; it is redefining the very architecture of global health systems”*, notes UQ’s Clair Sullivan, Director of the Queensland Digital Health Centre, who spoke during a panel on the future of health at the Swiss Embassy. *“Yet the true promise of AI will only be realised through international collaboration – where nations, researchers, clinicians, and communities work collectively to ensure that innovation is ethical, interoperable, equitable, and accessible to all.”*

Towards more trusted partnerships

As health technologies become more strategic, trusted international partnerships are becoming increasingly important.

Adrian Egli, a Zurich-based microbiologist with longstanding collaborations in Australia, sees growing momentum in Swiss-Australian cooperation at the intersection of AI, precision medicine and infectious disease research. During a recent stay at the University of Melbourne and the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Egli observed first-hand how complementary expertise across both countries is beginning to converge around next-generation diagnostics and data-driven medicine. As he explains: *“At the University of Melbourne, I had the opportunity to experience highly innovative diagnostic approaches in microbiology and infectious diseases. A strong axis is now emerging between Zurich and Melbourne, linking complementary expertise in microbiology, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence.”*



Elisa Sosa is a PhD student with Prof. Adrian Egli at the University of Zurich (UZH), where she studies the evolution of antimicrobial resistance. Following experiments in the lab in Switzerland, she is currently analysing her data with Dr. Gerry Tonkin-Hill at the University of Melbourne for 6 months. *“This is a great experience! The expertise in bioinformatics here is impressive; the dense, well-connected research community – across groups and institutions – is vibrant and highly welcoming. I am grateful for this career opportunity and thankful for the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation and UZH.”*

That collaboration is continuing to deepen. The University of Zurich will welcome an Australian scientific delegation later this year, while several of Egli’s students are currently undertaking research exchanges in Australian universities. For Egli, these exchanges are about more than academic cooperation alone. *“This growing partnership, especially with the Doherty Institute, creates exciting opportunities for young researchers and for the development of precision diagnostics that can benefit patients in Switzerland, Australia and beyond.”*

Thirty years after the Nobel-winning discovery by Zinkernagel and Doherty, Switzerland and Australia are entering a new chapter in their scientific relationship – one that connects research excellence with innovation, technology and global health challenges. Maybe in thirty years, we will celebrate another joint Swiss Australia Nobel Prize in Medicine, with AI at the heart of it.

TRISTAN PIGUET
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION ADVISOR
EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND IN AUSTRALIA

Swiss Moving Service AG



worldwide moving service

to and from anywhere in Switzerland
and the world

- Personal service and individual advice
- Door to door service for household goods, cars and motor bikes
- Full and partial container service to/from all major places in the USA, Canada, Australia, Asia, Latin America, Middle East + Africa

Wiesenstrasse 39
CH-8952 Schlieren Zurich
Switzerland

phone +41 44 466 9000
WhatsApp +41 79 827 0070
www.swiss-moving-service.ch
info@swiss-moving-service.ch

Community News and Events

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

A further **Seniors' Social Day** was held on 6 May with another excellent crowd.

Jassen has been under way, although participant numbers are lowish ... so please, if you can play.

On 23 May we held our **annual fondue** (with cervelas and a huge selection of salads too) with a massive crowd of 180 adults and 40 children. Grateful thanks to everyone who came, and to the many people who helped to ensure the smooth-running of this fabulous event.

The following day, 24 May, we held our **Swiss Society sports competitions**, with shooting, shot put, kegeln (9 pin bowling) and jassen the disciplines. It was great to have so many people participate; however we could do with more juniors taking part to make the competition even better.

On King's Birthday Weekend (30-31 May) the **Swiss Society Cowbell Competition and Swiss Society AGM** were held, hosted by the Taranaki Swiss Club in Kaponga. Members from the North Island clubs, members from Dunedin and Paihia and our Ambassador,

Viktor Vavricka, all descended on the small Taranaki town to participate in the sports competitions and AGM, enjoying a chat with fellow Kiwi-Swiss during the busy weekend. On Saturday evening we provided a dinner, with a social time mingling with acquaintances and friends proving great! On Sunday morning the competition began between members from the Auckland, Hamilton and Taranaki clubs, with Taranaki winning all the disciplines. This annual event is great for the Swiss community in New Zealand, and we look forward to seeing many of you in Wellington next year!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/8: Our **Swiss National Day** celebrations will be held at the club house from 7.00pm, and ask that everyone with a Swiss costume wear them! Following all the formalities, musical entertainment will be provided together with singing and alphorn playing. The fabulous tombola tickets will be sold and a great 'Swiss' supper will be held.

1&15/10: **Kegeln** recommences for the season, and we look forward to you all participating again. We have a great social time, with a bit of sport and a lovely supper. Come along and join us.

18/10: The **Trudi Ott Belt Shoot** and the **Championship Shoot** will be contested from 11.00am. Juniors or first-timers are welcome, with plenty of tuition available. As most shoots are on a handicap basis, everyone has a chance of winning the coveted trophies. See you there!!

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

The **Shooting Weekend** was held on Saturday 23 May. There were 10 shooters representing the Hamilton Club, three ladies and seven men.

The **Swiss Society AGM weekend** was hosted this year by the Taranaki Swiss Club at their clubhouse in Kaponga.

Hamilton Club had a small contingent of 9 members, and we were warmly welcomed to a dinner on the Saturday evening. Unfortunately, our team didn't put up a great fight, but congratulations to Taranaki for again holding onto the cowbell, and to Auckland as runners up. We'd like to thank the Taranaki Club for hosting this event and we look forward to travelling to Wellington next year.

On 8 May we once again commenced another year of **Card Evenings** at the United Parish Church in Cambridge. A total of 30 players took part in the Club competition, with 17 of those also participating in the annual Society Prize competition. Despite the lower numbers, the evenings were enjoyed by everyone who came along.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/8: Our **Swiss National Day Celebrations** will commence 4pm at the Matangi Hall. We hope to get members and friends, young and not so young, along for this late afternoon function. This will also be our 70th Jubilee Celebration.

4/9: **Social card evening** for beginners as well as those who love their card game.

20/9: **Fondue lunch-time function** at the Matangi Hall.

Committee Contacts: For any further details or information about functions or membership, please contact: Beatrice Leuenberger: p: 07 843 7971; e: bea.leun@xtra.co.nz mob/text: 021 29 28 254; Anita Zuber: mob/text: 027 498 5170; e: anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz; Herbert Staheli: mob/text: 021 962 708.



Ambassador Viktor Vavricka presenting the winners cowbell to Othmar Hebler, President of the Taranaki Swiss Club, and runner-up to Jackie Ziegler, President of the Auckland Swiss Club.



ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

This year's **Fondue Night** was the largest we've had, with 155 people attending. The Tombola as always was a big success, with kids enjoying drawing and reading out most of the tickets. The new venue was perfect and beautifully decorated with Swiss flags. The fondue was a delicious mix of Gruyère and a little Emmentaler with bresaola and cornichons appetisers, and a healthy fruit-salad to finish off.



On a lovely sunny May morning, we took a Bushwalk along the 7 km loop track to Shepherds Lookout through the 506 ha Ginninderry Conservation Corridor winding through pasture, grasslands and Callitris forest, passing

the Double Dam and offering panoramic views of the distant Brindabella hills and, at times, the Murrumbidgee River. Of note we had a sighting of the not so common Wallaroo. We ended at the Stepping Stone Cafe in the Strathnairn Art precinct for a delicious lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/8: Swiss National Day Celebration at Murrumbateman for usually around 120 of our members. We provide the sausages, glühwein, soup, bonfire and lampions, while attendees bring a dessert to share.

29/8: Cheese Tasting at a hall in Ainslie. A variety of cheeses and wines to sample.

12/9: Canberra Swiss Club Jass Tournament at a member's home.

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney have had a difficult autumn, while preparing for the upcoming 'Eidgenössische Jodlerfest' taking place in Basel in June. Two of our cherished members passed away within three weeks of each other.

Armin Walter Oswald, passed away suddenly on 24 April, after a brief illness in hospital. He was 75 years old. Born on 11 July 1950 in Glarus, Switzerland, he grew up in Näfels. He loved the outdoors, playing soccer and hiking. He was a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, Section Glarus, and explored many mountains and glaciers throughout Switzerland.

In his working career, he started his apprenticeship as a commercial clerk with NETSAL Machines. Later he worked in freight and logistics for DANZAS in St Gallen, before moving to Sydney in 1974 to lead its Australian operations. He briefly worked in Toronto, Canada before returned back to Sydney. In 1978, he joined the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney, where he remained until his passing. He was a great bass singer. In the 1980s, Armin started his own business importing Swiss food appliances (fondue & raclette grills, coffee machines). In 1988 he met Lukrezia in Sydney. They were married in 1990 and raised two daughters, Katja and Angela. In the 1990s, Armin handled the complex logistics of delivering organic wheat and oats from regional NSW to



Powered by:



Scan me!



swiss festival

SAT 8TH AUG 2026

AT SEAWORKS WILLIAMSTOWN

Immerse yourself in Swiss culture,
food, inventions & innovation.

Event tickets, raffle tickets and more info
available at www.swissfestival.com.au

Switzerland for delivery to millers, and distributed to Migros and Coop stores. He eventually started Oswald Agencies Pty Ltd, for the importation and distribution of commercial food, beverages and equipment. At the age of 70, he became a Service Technician, maintaining Thermoplan coffee machines at various Starbucks within the Sydney Area, where he worked until his passing. He will greatly missed.

Ruedi Ott, passed away peacefully on 15 May 2026, after fighting cancer since the start of this year. He was 76 years old. Born Rudolph Ott in Biberstein, Aargau, he grew up on a farm like many regional Swiss. During service in the Swiss Army, he learned his trade as a mechanical plumber, including pipe fitting, specialist welding, and engineering. He migrated to Australia in the early 1970s to find a prosperous career in the skills he learned. He also sought a Swiss Club, and back in 1975 there was none, so he went to the German Concordia Club. This is where he met Evonne, his future wife. They married in December 1975. Before settling in Oatley, NSW to establish his business Ott Engineering, they spent a few years back in Biberstein, his birthplace. Upon their return they continued to grow their business and prosper together. 2007 brought the tragic loss of Evonne, which was very hard for Ruedi. He later found love in travelling by 4x4 with his close friends, and working on cruise ships when they were in dry dock, providing expertise on fixing air conditioning units and other systems. He joined the Swiss Yodlers in 2012, where he remained until his passing. He loved life, and loved to laugh. We will miss him.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/8: Swiss National Day Celebration at the Castle Hill Showgrounds. We look forward to seeing you there!

Download our information flyer here ➡ <https://bit.ly/4wpuUVI>

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Our two most recent events were quite popular, especially the ‘**Lunch at Little Snail**’, a French restaurant near Darling Harbour. Close to 70 people turned up to enjoy a three-course meal and of course good company. Amazingly, despite the large number, every guest was able to choose his/her preferred entrée, main course and dessert. It is a very well organised place, and the food there is delicious.

The excursion up to the **Blue Mountains** to experience a ride on the historic Zig Zag Railway was well booked too. We admired the enthusiasm of the many railway fans, who spend their time voluntarily to keep this tourist attraction going. After the ride everyone received a picnic lunch, provided in a box, to be eaten in one of the old carriages, away from the cold wind. In the narrow seats with those small tables between either two or four people, eating it was a bit of a juggle, but everyone enjoyed it anyway.

Our next big event will be the **National Day celebration** on Thursday 23 July. We deliberately set the date early, as numerous people would find it difficult to attend if it was too close to the big festival of the Yodlers on 2 August.

Don't forget our **Casual Lunch**, which takes place in Tempe every third Friday of the month. It has become quite popular, with sometimes 20 or more people attending. I hope to see many of you at either of these get-togethers.

President:	Regula Scheidegger	0432 031 085	rscheidegger49@hotmail.com
------------	--------------------	--------------	----------------------------

If you live in country NSW you may like to get in touch with one of our Rural Coordinators:

Central Coast:	Hans Lang	0425 206 534	hanslang57@hotmail.com
Newcastle/Hunter Valley:	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	ritama.schaad@gmail.com
Armistale:	Heinz Hauptli	0417 446 542	heinz.hauptli@bigpond.com
Coonabarabran:	Herbert Würsch	02 6842 8278	
Wagga Wagga:	John Rorrison	0409 319 090	jrer@ozemail.com.au
Yass and ACT	Bernadette Hunkeler	0493 299 768	realbhunkeler@gmail.com
Bathurst:	Johann & Ruth Geissmann	02 6337 4103	geissmann@protonmail.com
Orange:	Monika Rickli	0419 435 917	monika.rickli@hotmail.com
Blue Mountains:	Elizabeth Bizzini	0408 414 863	bizzini1@hotmail.com
North Coast:	Hans Schaffner		hschaffner@bigpond.com
South Coast:	Monica Kampfer	02 4473 6608	mkampfer@bigpond.com

NSW: Port Macquarie Region

Dear fellow Swiss,

As always, we all had a great time in Laurieton, also welcoming some newcomers. It's wonderful to see how our group keeps growing and friendships are being formed.

And now I am happy to confirm that we will be celebrating our Swiss National Day on **Saturday 1 August 2026 from 11 am – 2.30 pm** again at the Lakeside Café at the Abundance Nursery (274 Rawdon Island Road, Sancroix NSW 2446). Swiss Chef Daniel will once again serve something delicious. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the invite.

If you have not already been in touch with me and would like to join in, please send me an email to SwissHastings@yahoo.com. I am looking forward hearing from you.

ANITA FOSTER

NSW: Cercle Romand

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Our traditional ‘**Raclette at the Park**’ was held on 17 May at Fagan Park, Galston.

At this time of the year, Fagan Park always offers its visitors spectacular autumn colours. It was the perfect décor to complement the delicious cheese meal prepared by our dedicated committee team. From the many words of appreciation, we believe that all attendees had a great time.

We will be lighting up our raclette ovens again at the **Swiss National Day** event in Castle Hill on 2 August. Please do visit our stall and support our club.

Our **City Walk**, on 28 June, will follow the Glebe foreshore walk ending at the Sydney Fish Market for lunch. Details of this outing will be available in our June newsletter and on our website.

The AGM is scheduled on 23 August 2026 – 12noon – The Royal Hotel, Leichhardt.

The event calendar for 2026 is available on our website www.cercleromand.com.au

QLD: Swiss Club Queensland

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

In April, the Swiss Club Qld welcomed the Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, Nikolas Stürchler, and Elisabeth Bösch Malinen, Swiss Consul General in Sydney, to Brisbane. As part of their official visit to the Queensland Government, they had asked to meet members of the Swiss community living in the area.



Consul General Elisabeth Bösch Malinen, Ambassador Nikolas Stürchler, Swiss Club President Philippe Coquerand, Hon Consul Daniel Gschwind

The **Senior Citizens Lunch** in Buderim was held in June, organised by the Swiss Community Care Society Qld. Members and friends enjoyed good company, delicious food and the musical fun provided by our Yodel Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'.



1/800 000



The Fifth Switzerland is a colourful, varied and multilingual puzzle with well over 800,000 pieces. Today's puzzle piece is ...

... Thomas (Tom) Hüberli, 49 years old, lives in Rockingham, Western Australia. He was born in Thal, St. Gallen and emigrated to Australia in 1980, with parents and two siblings.

How and when do you show your Swissness in everyday life?

I like extreme order and neatness in my work and home environments. I cannot stand clutter nor keeping things that no longer serve a purpose – they must be fixed, repurposed or removed. Some say it's OCD, but we know better, don't we!

What references to Switzerland do you have in your house?

For my fifth Christmas in 1981, in Victoria, my late grandfather carved and painted little wooden cows, goats, a farm dog and a couple of Sennen (Swiss Farmers in traditional dress) and sent them over to me from Switzerland – he was very talented. The same year, my dad made a wooden stable to put them in. I remember asking him why he was cutting little windows into the letterbox he said we were making together! I was swiftly removed from all involvement in that project! This farm setting takes pride of place in our study (per photo)! My dear mum, who passed back in 2006,

also did a lot of Swiss folk painting and I have a couple of her pieces in the home.

Do you ever feel like a foreigner when you visit Switzerland?

Never! I feel like I'm in my other home. I find the people friendly and helpful. This also has a lot to do with spending most time with my beautiful family, when we do visit; Dad's two Swiss-based siblings and their spouses and one of my cousins. They always go out of their way to make it so special for us. I don't have to live somewhere long to feel a sense of connection – I'm a terminal nostalgist and have many 'hometowns' in Switzerland and Australia.

Which Swiss customs does your family still observe?

As kids we always painted Easter eggs on Good Friday and then did morning egg tapping battles (Eiertütschete!) for breakfast the following few days. I had a habit of painting Humpty Dumpty style egg-people with very thick hair and pants (about thirty coats of paint thick) – as the youngest, I was in it for one thing: egg-supremacy over my more artistic older siblings! We now also celebrate 1 August each year to recognise Swiss National Day. Fondue, raclette, German sausages, chocolate abound!

I think fondue is ...

The source of life, the nectar of the Gods, the best meal to have on a cold winter night ... ever. The list is endless, but you get the picture.

More: www.revue.link/puzzle3

The 37th Qld Jass Meisterschaft was held in Brisbane with a record 52 players. Congrats to Hanspeter Baumann who scored the 1st place with 6772 points, 2nd was Matthias Bickel (6742 points) and 3rd Peter Risch (6739 points).

Say Cheese! Our Fondue Night was popular as always with many members attending.



The committee also organised a movie-night out for our members, to watch "Hello Betty", a film about the famous Betty Bossi.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/8: Swiss Club Qld Swiss National Day at Samford, an event not to be missed!

1/8: Fraser Coast Group Swiss National Day and 25 years anniversary.

2/8: Gold Coast Group Swiss National Day picnic at the Regional Botanical Gardens.

24/10: Swiss Club Qld AGM. Info see our website, closer to the date.

For detailed info about all upcoming events: www.swissclubqld.org.au/events/. Also check out our events calendar for 2026 on www.swissclubqld.org.au/events-calendar/

Please refer to our website for more info about our club www.swissclubqld.org.au

Sponsors/businesses: Do you wish to

advertise in our 28-page Swiss News magazine, which is published four times a year and reaches up to 200+ members? Please contact Nicolas for advertising costs and info on treasurer@swissclubqld.org.au

VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

By the time you read this, the Matterhorn Choir's performance at the Jodlerfest in Basel will be in the past, and we hope that all the effort put into practicing our song 'Mys Plätzli' for the event will have been

rewarded. Being part of 'wall-to-wall' yodelling and Swiss folklore in a historic city like Basel is a unique experience that brings not only happy memories to take home but also new enthusiasm for yodelling. If you feel like sharing this happy experience of yodelling and camaraderie, please give our Choir Master Chris a call on 0428 427 434.

The final Jass evening for the year will be when most of the intrepid travellers will have returned from Switzerland, on Saturday 12 September. For bookings, this time, please contact Caroline Berry on 9758 7780 or 0431 440 105.

Swiss Abroad benefit Switzerland

On 14 June 2026, the popular initiative 'No to a Switzerland with 10 million (Sustainability Initiative)' was defeated by a margin of ca.10%. This initiative was to call for a cap on the permanent resident population in Switzerland. About 2% of all votes were from the Swiss Abroad, and 70% dismissed the initiative. There might be occasions in the future, when the overall yes/no margins are so small that the Swiss Abroad votes may be decisive.

After the rejected initiative, a sigh of relief is now apparent among the Swiss Abroad. Deservedly so, as some feared that there could be reasons to lose their Swiss citizenship altogether. On another note, now is a good moment to highlight the importance of the Swiss diaspora for the benefit of Switzerland as a whole. Not only are they integrating into other societies with ease, but they portray a vibrant, democratic, initiating and diligent group of people, contributing to the general wellbeing of their new milieu. We carry the best of humanitarian aspirations into the world, without making a fuss or demands. The Swiss Abroad are (generally speaking) well received and highly regarded in their adopted country and contribute a lot of goodwill for Switzerland. But often we also must explain and defend our neutrality status, or (even more tricky) detail the denial of arms export permits into combat zones.

The value-added factor of the Swiss Abroad to the benefit of Switzerland has yet to be recognised in full and is too often dismissed as negligible on our home turf. We may not forget, Swiss borders are not limited to Basle, Chiasso or Geneva, they extend to wherever Swiss are living. This is also true as far as Swiss history and traditions go, they are not limited by internal geographical posts, they are apparent wherever the Swiss have found a new home in a foreign country.

BEAT KNOBLAUCH, CSA DELEGATE, SYDNEY

REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

These Regional News Oceania pages have a circulation of 17,600 – 7,700 of which are printed copies. They are distributed to all Swiss Abroad households registered with the relevant Swiss representation in Canberra and Wellington.

Editor: Roland Isler
+61 (0)412 935 565
communications@swissallianceaustralia.org

Publishing Information 2026

Issue	Editorial deadline	Date published
1-February	Mon, 12.01	Fri, 06.02
2-April	Mon, 30.03	Fri, 24.04
3-July	Mon, 22.06	Fri, 17.07
4-October	Mon, 07.09	Fri, 02.10
5-December	Mon, 23.11	Fri, 18.12

Visit the umbrella organisations in New Zealand and Australia for community news and information, as well as links to Swiss Clubs, Community Groups, Professional Organisations and Consular Representations in Oceania:



The Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.
Established 1935

www.swiss.org.nz



Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.
Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia

www.swissallianceaustralia.org