

REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

SwissCommunity Days 2026, Brunnen, 20–22 August

More than 90 Council delegates from around the world travelled to Brunnen, in the heart of Switzerland on the shores of Lake Lucerne, to take part in this year's **SwissCommunity Days**, organised by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA).

Australia was represented by Carmen Trochsler (Adelaide), also member of the OSA Board; Roland Isler (Melbourne); Beat Knoblauch (Sydney); and, for the first time, Johannes le Coutre (Sydney), who deputised for Barbara Zingg (Broome).

■ Thursday: Workshops

On Thursday afternoon, Council delegates took part in two workshops linked to the OSA's 2025–2029 legislative goals, focusing on the SwissCommunity platform and fundraising.

The first explored how to strengthen the platform's value and engagement with Swiss Abroad, while the second considered opportunities to increase the OSA's own-source funding by creating value for companies and individual supporters and exploring potential new revenue streams.

■ Friday: Meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)

The meeting on Friday covered a range of issues affecting the more than 800,000 Swiss citizens living abroad.

The discussions highlighted several developments that will shape the experience of Swiss citizens living abroad in the coming years. E-voting and digital consular services have the potential to make maintaining a connection with Switzerland significantly easier, while the ageing Swiss Abroad population, increasing international mobility and engagement with younger generations require increasing attention.

At the same time, the political recognition of the Swiss Abroad remains important. Better data on their economic and societal contribution, together with a review of the legal framework, could help to demonstrate more clearly the important role played by the Fifth Switzerland.

Topics that were discussed:

- E-Voting: Progress Towards Electronic Voting
- Reaching the Younger Generation
- Webinars for Swiss Abroad
- Ageing Abroad
- ETIAS – Important for Dual Citizens
- More Visibility of the Value of the Swiss Abroad to Switzerland
- Parliamentary Developments Relevant to the Swiss Abroad
- Strengthening Collaboration and Clear Objectives
- Swiss Abroad Congress 2027 in Lausanne



From left to right: Johannes le Coutre, Carmen Trochsler, Marianne Jenni, Roland Isler, Beat Knoblauch

Marianne Jenni, Director of the Consular Directorate, provided an update on the development of a digital hub for consular services.

The FDFA's engagement with the Swiss community in Australia will continue beyond the meeting. The Swiss Alliance Australia looks forward to welcoming Marianne Jenni to Australia in November, when she will participate in the Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference 2026 in Brisbane.

The Council validated the election of Esther Gilbert as New Zealand's new delegate and Johannes le Coutre as Deputy Delegate for Australia. We congratulate them both and look forward to working together to represent the Swiss community across our region.

■ Saturday: Celebration 35 years Place of the Swiss Abroad

The Council delegates enjoyed a boat trip on beautiful Lake Lucerne, providing a welcome opportunity to relax, reflect and connect with fellow delegates.

Afterwards, everyone gathered at the Place of the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizerplatz) for a special celebration marking the site's 35th anniversary. It was celebrated with the sound of alphorns, a flag-raising ceremony and a drinks reception attended by Council delegates and numerous dignitaries.

More information about the Place of the Swiss Abroad is available at <https://www.auslandschweizerplatz.ch/en/>

ROLAND ISLER AND CARMEN TROCHSLER

A detailed report about the topics discussed can be found on the website of the Swiss Alliance Australia ➔ <https://bit.ly/4cJ27n3>

A Swiss Hiking Adventure

In the summer of 2025, husband and wife team Jakob (58) and Sonja (55) from Sydney, set out on a long-held dream: to walk through Switzerland. Not to collect summits or chase records, but to experience the country on foot and see how the regions connected across cantons and landscapes. Here is their story:

We began on the Jura Trail, winding through French-flavoured villages, forests, and open ridgelines with sweeping alpine views. Creux du Van's vast natural amphitheatre and long views toward Lake Neuchâtel set the tone early. Our rusty French was tested daily, but the kindness we met more than compensated. People were curious about our plans and generous with suggestions, often delivered in a cheerful mix of French, Swiss German, and hand gestures. Eight days later, we reached Nyon, feeling well received and firmly in the rhythm of the trail.

After a brief stop in Geneva, we completed a two-day stretch of the Swiss Tour Monte Rosa from Grächen to Randa, including the impressive Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge. We then continued to Zermatt, where we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with fondue and a perfect Matterhorn view.

From there we turned toward the Alpine Passes Trail. Over 16 demanding days from St. Niklaus to St. Gingolph,

the landscape delivered exactly what we had hoped for: high passes, the vast Glacier de Corbassière, sunrise light over Lake Lona, and the immense Grande Dixence Dam — engineering on a truly Swiss scale. Nights in SAC huts and simple mountain lodgings quickly became part of the routine.

There were lighter moments too. When our path briefly merged with the Tour du Mont Blanc, the campground at Champex-Lac descended into cheerful chaos. The manager waved us in with a theatrical shrug — “Just find a spot!” — while the local pizza service was clearly doing brisk business. It was lively, good-natured, and very different from the quieter stretches we had grown used to.



The days grew bigger beyond Montreux. One 19-kilometre stage packed in nearly 4,000 metres of elevation and ended with an after-hours arrival at Piz Gloria, forcing us down a black ski run in fading light. After thirteen hours on foot and thoroughly spent, we still somehow managed to do justice to dinner.

Between the harder days came welcome pauses — Interlaken, Rosenluis, and Lucerne — along with standout moments such as the turquoise calm of Oeschinen Lake, a night high at Blüemlisalp Hut, and long traverses beneath the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. In clear weather, the high alpine light made distances feel both vast and sharply defined.



Sonja Beckerhoff and Jakob Anderhandt

At one small alpine farmers' hut, a quick chat turned into cheese, coffee, and biscuits. When asked if we were still hungry, honesty seemed simplest: “We've been hiking for ten weeks.” Laughter followed — and cake appeared. Straightforward alpine hospitality at work.

Further south, the weather reminded us who was in charge. Fog, wind, and cold turned the Sella Pass crossing into a long grind. Reaching Gotthard Pass felt properly earned — celebrated in the most Swiss way possible: rösti and tiramisu.

The journey kept shifting character. The Bernina Express carried us to St. Moritz. A wind-tested Pizol 5-Lake Hike kept us alert. Fresh snow dusted the peaks of the Alpstein; our planned hike up to the Säntis summit gave way to Plan B and a cable car. Flexibility proved useful more than once on this journey. The Aescher Guesthouse — improbably fixed to its cliff since 1860 — provided one of the route's last truly memorable stops.

By the time we crossed into Appenzell and descended toward Lake Constance, summer was clearly retreating. We arrived in Rorschach on 28 September, exactly as planned, closing the journey with family, friends, and very grateful legs.

Over the course of 4-months, we covered roughly 1,400 kilometres and about 175,000 metres of ascent and descent — a demanding but deeply rewarding way to experience Switzerland's remarkable range.

If you are feeling adventurous and would like to find out more about Sonja and Jakob's journey, feel free to get in touch with them on:
sonja.beckerhoff@gmx.net



Davos to the Deep Pacific: A Swiss Foundation helps to rebuild Orthopaedic Care

Thousands of kilometres from Switzerland, in the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara, a small medical association is reshaping healthcare across the South Pacific. A Swiss foundation has been central to this effort.

A region running out of options

Pacific Island nations face some of the widest gaps worldwide in surgical care. Most Pacific nations fall well short of international benchmarks for surgical workforce, and researchers estimate that up to 96% of the region's population lacks reliable access to safe, timely surgery. Pacific islands are scattered across vast distances, with hospitals often lacking basic infrastructure and maintenance capacity, and there are not enough specialists in the region.

Trauma dominates the caseload with fractures, malunions¹ and infections accounting for the bulk of orthopaedic need, but Pacific Islander populations also show unusually high rates of certain bone cancers and degenerative conditions, some linked to historical nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. Due to a lack of good transport infrastructure, most trauma cases usually present late. Delayed treatment prevents adequate outcomes, and the sequelae² are severe. Meanwhile, each of the Pacific's three sub-regions leans on a different patchwork of partner countries for advanced care (the United States, Australia, New Zealand, France, China and Taiwan among them), creating referral systems that are fragmented and often shaped more by politics than medical need.

For decades, the default response has been to fly patients out for treatment. However, this method of treatment can swallow a shocking share of national health budgets and does little to build lasting local capacity.

Training surgeons where they're needed

Enter the Pacific Islands Orthopaedic Association (PIOA), founded in 2012 to train surgeons where they are needed most. PIOA offers a tuition-free, four-year 'train-in-place' curriculum that allows trainees to remain embedded in their home hospitals throughout their studies, learning through intensive teaching blocks delivered by rotating regional and international faculty, rather than relocating for years to distant training centres. Graduates return to their communities as consultants and, crucially, as future teachers themselves, gradually building a locally anchored workforce and reducing long-term dependence on expatriate specialists.

The Swiss link

This is where the Swiss enter the story — and it began years before AO Alliance became involved. In 1993, Bernese surgeon Hermann Oberli took over as head of surgery at Honiara's National Referral Hospital, spending a decade training local doctors under a simple motto: leave skills, not scars. His work was funded by a Swiss support group, the 'Verein Medizin im Südpazifik', which in turn drew major backing from Dr. h.c. Hansjörg Wyss, the former head of the Swiss med-tech company Synthes, whom Oberli knew through AO, the Davos-based surgeons' network. In 2011, Oberli and Wyss teamed up

with Brisbane surgeon Dr. Desmond Soares, and PIOA was founded the following year. The Verein still funds PIOA today, and since 2015, Swiss surgeon Prof. Niklaus Friederich has taught in the programme personally, leading weekly remote sessions with trainees across the Pacific.

More recently, AO Alliance – a related but separate foundation, also based in Davos – has joined the effort, investing in curriculum development and fracture-care training that helped PIOA build a structured pathway to a recognised Master of Surgery qualification through the National University of Samoa. Dr. Claude Martin, representing AO Alliance, will join Dr. Desmond Soares, Prof. Niklaus Friederich and Australian and New Zealand staff for the PIOA's Introductory and Trauma module in Honiara in September 2026.

Short-term surgical missions often struggle to integrate into local health systems and can leave behind little lasting infrastructure. Structured, long-term partnerships like the Swiss-backed model behind PIOA are designed to overcome the inefficiencies typical of short-term medical missions in the Pacific.

Ambassador Viktor Vavricka and staff at the Embassy of Switzerland in New Zealand, generously arranged for the procurement and transport of an arthroscopy simulator to Apia, Samoa, to support this partnership. This support from the Swiss Embassy in Wellington will assist in setting up a more permanent teaching site for PIOA participants.

Results worth boasting about

Since 2012, PIOA has trained 15 graduate surgeons from six Pacific nations: Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste and American Samoa. In American Samoa, which previously had no access to spinal surgery at all, PIOA-trained surgeons have now performed more than two dozen spinal operations locally, saving an estimated NZ\$ 2.7 million (CHF 1.28 million) that would otherwise have gone toward evacuating patients to New Zealand. Elsewhere, a switch to more efficient fracture-fixation implants, sourced affordably from India and China with PIOA's guidance, has saved an estimated US\$ 2 million (CHF 1.6 million) while also cutting average hospital stays from a week down to three days.

Currently, PIOA is training Palau's first locally based orthopaedic surgeon, working alongside visiting specialists to build a standardised inventory of implants and equipment suited to the realities of healthcare in Palau.

A quiet Swiss export

Watches, chocolate and banking remain the more familiar faces of Switzerland abroad. Less familiar is the medical training now under way across the South Pacific, built on techniques developed at the foot of the Alps and now being passed on to a new generation of local surgeons.

¹ a fracture that healed in the wrong position

² a condition which is the consequence of a previous disease or injury

Community News and Events

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

The Alphorn Group travelled to Basel for the Eidgenössische Jodlerfest, where music filled every corner — yodelling, Büchel horns, Alphorns, and more — with celebrations lasting into the early hours. The next day was the main parade. Thankfully, it was cooler at 39 degrees. Seventy six groups took part, and we were positioned behind our Australian neighbours, adding a touch of trans-Tasman rivalry. Our Alphorn wheels were a great success, allowing us to stop and play during the parade. The crowds welcomed us warmly, and our uniforms, hats, and waistcoats made us look truly professional and we even made the National TV News.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported, hosted, encouraged, and welcomed us throughout this unforgettable adventure.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

18/10: The Trudi Ott Belt and Championship Shoots will be contested from 11.00am. All members are welcome to come along and give shooting a go!

4/11: Senior's Social Day – good food, music and camaraderie ... come along and join us!

15&19/11: Kegeln from 7.30pm. Fun, laughter, a chat, kegeln and a supper!

6&20/11: Kegeln again ... come and enjoy a fun evening!

15/11: Come and challenge shooters vying to win the coveted Ted Napflin Memorial

Shield from 11.00am, and give the Championship Shoot a go too! Coaching can be given, and juniors are most welcome.

22/11: The Christmas Shoot / Kegeln will be held with Father Christmas making an appearance. Please bring a wrapped, named present for the children. There will be Christmas activities for the children before the delicious pot-luck lunch. Father Christmas will come after lunch, with the sports competitors being awarded their prizes afterwards (everyone to bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10.00). This is a great, social day before the Christmas rush begins ... look forward to seeing you!!

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

Our **Swiss National Day celebration** began at 4pm on 1 August. The club's 70th jubilee was commemorated with a cake that was cut by Christine Staheli, the only surviving founding member who in 1956 was 16yrs old and attended with her parents. A fire was lit outside the hall with lampion strung up to create ambiance and it was around the fire that club members sang the national anthem.



Herbert & Christine Staheli

A variety of Swiss baking along with the cake was served for dessert, and the usual raffle followed. People continued to enjoy the evening until an early finish of around 10pm. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening and to the committee members for their hard work.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/10: Social Card Evening will be held at the Union Parish Church, Queen St, Cambridge 7pm. The cost is \$5 per person and a small plate for supper would be appreciated.

1/11: Family Walk is planned for Lake Ngaroto. Please meet about 12 noon and bring your picnic lunch. Alternatively arrive about 1pm if you would just like to come for the walk. This walk is nearly 6km and all flat, mostly on a boardwalk. Any queries please ring Anita – details below. You don't need to book for this event – just turn up on the day.

6/11: Final Social Card Evening for this year – details same as October.

6/12: Family Christmas function to be held from 11am at the Newstead School.

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.

NZ: Otago & Southland

In Dunedin, around 50 guests celebrated our National Day on a chilly 1 August. It was, as always, good to see familiar faces but we were also really happy to have some new and returning folk join us. We held the event at the St Clair Bowling Club, a new location, and for the first time in a long while were able to raise the Swiss flag on a flagpole. Kevin Gilbert – with help from Martin and Kathrin Schlup – prepared a grand feast. Soup and Züpfe/Zopf for entrée; salads and a Berner 'Kartoffelauflauf' to go with cervelat and bratwurst (which each guest grilled over the firepit); and a selection of cakes and



Taranaki Swiss Club

Guetzli for dessert. Esther Gilbert provided an update of various happenings and led the group through a quiz; and later there were few happy raffle prize winners. The children had fun in a games room next to the main space and wandering around the grounds with lampions.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

With the success of Switzerland in the World Cup, a bunch of supporters came together at a pub in Canberra to watch the semi-finals match against Argentina. There was much excitement, cheering and emotion, sharing some drinks, nibbles and good company.

Over 100 members attended the **National Day Celebration** at our member's farm outside of Canberra. Our new bain-marie kept the sausages warm, and our members were kept warm with Glühwein, a delicious Gerstensuppe made from scratch, and a large bonfire.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

25/10: Spring Fling Picnic

20/11: Annual General Meeting and dinner

29/11: Samichlaus Picnic

Other regular events: Sing-Together, Kafichränzli



Cheering on the Swiss team

QLD: Swiss Club Queensland

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

As always, our very popular **Raclette Evening** in June was a big success. The delicious cheese was provided by Fromart.com.au

A huge THANK YOU to the Swiss Club Victoria for hosting the **15th Jass Tournament** in June. Congratulations to organiser Hans Keller (VIC), who took 1st place! Congratulations also to our Swiss Club Qld Jass-group who took the No 2 (Martin Hoernlimann) and 3 (Willy Felder) place! Well done everyone.

300+ members and friends attended our **1 August Swiss National Day**. The fabulous Baerg-Roeseli yodel group provided the fun musical entertainment, everyone enjoyed the traditional Swiss lunch and the kids were kept busy with arts and craft, face painting and the lantern parade in the evening. Congratulations to the Club Committee and all the volunteers who made sure this was another successful day.



Swiss Club Queensland

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to the **Fraser Coast Group**, who celebrated the 1 August and their 25th anniversary at the same time. Well done to organiser extraordinary Cecile Scherrer, who ensures members further up North celebrate traditional Swiss get-togethers and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

24/10: Swiss Club Qld AGM: 11am followed by lunch.

13/11: Oceania Swiss Club Presidents Conference Brisbane: Special reception on Friday evening.

21/11: Swiss Community Care Society Christmas Lunch: Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton. From 10.30am.

6/12: Santa visits the Swiss Club Qld: 10.30am at Seventeen Mile Rock Park.

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

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

2001-2026 celebrating 25 years and Switzerland's 235th National Day. We had a great day at Nikki and Matthias property in Booral with a Bonfire for cervelats on sticks. The 29 participants provided salads, 'Zwirbel-bread', Zopf etc and the '25-year cake' and other Swiss goodies to the buffet.

Some 'Swaussies' in Maryborough, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay had cheese events in small groups at home.

The Group thanked Cecile with flowers for her efforts all these years to keep contact and to help and support each other.



Cecile presenting the 25th anniversary cake

Each month 70+ emails are inviting for the lunches on 15th for good company.

Looking forward to the Samichlaus event in Maryborough.

If you moved to our area or in holidays, just contact the organisers to get info for activities and Jassen:

Cecile: 0409 286 326

cecile.sch70@gmail.com

Urs: 0412 908 456

btshares@gmail.com

NSW: Port Macquarie Region

We were lucky to once again celebrate our **Swiss National Day** at the local Abundance Nursery Cafe, where Swiss Chef Daniel spoiled us with such delicious food. Over 30 people attended and it was wonderful to see the interaction and everyone having a great time. A quiz about Switzerland kept everybody guessing and some traditional music played by Christine on her accordion added to a most enjoyable celebration.

Our next get-together will be at the end of November. 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 to hearing from you.

ANITA FOSTER

NSW: Cercle Romand

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

A big thank you to our Swiss friends who visited our raclette stall at the Swiss National Day celebration at

Castle Hill showground on 2 August. It was a great and successful day but only possible thanks to the hard work put in by the members of the Cercle Romand committee. A big thank you to our members Béatrice, Shaune and Serge for helping and be part of the 'Raclette Time' team.

Our 49th **Annual General Meeting** was held on 23 August. The President, Anne Resplendino, welcomed our attending members and special guest, Mr David Schwizer, Deputy Consul General of Switzerland in Sydney. After reviewing the events of the year past, Anne thanked the committee team and their partners for their continuing dedication in organising and supporting our events and make our members feel welcome.

The Cercle Romand is not about growing into a large club, but rather about keeping it going with a few popular events that reflect 'la culture Suisse Romande' and staying true to the motto 'Le Cercle Romand que du bon temps!'

The existing committee was re-elected unchanged for another year.

In 2027 we will be celebrating an important milestone for the club – **50 Years of existence!**

They are two events remaining this year, Pétanque and Brunch on 8 November and End of year dinner on 5 December.

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

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

In this year's first issue of the Swiss Review, I wrote: *Around this time of year (Xmas / New Year), it is always a joy for us at SCCS to see some welcome donations coming into our bank account.* As it happened, during 2026 we have also received donations at the end of financial year. One substantial one was in memory of a long-time member; others happened in connection with the renewal of the membership. The amount to be paid is sometimes topped up, and the words 'membership plus donation' show up on our account statement. Whether they are smaller or bigger amounts, we are really grateful to all donors.

Donating in memory of someone is a particularly nice way of philanthropy. Another one is mentioning charities in your will. Perhaps you have already done it, perhaps SCCS is included; if not, maybe you would consider doing that when you renew your will next time? They say that this should be done every five to six years, as your situation may have changed. Please think about it. SCCS would be most grateful to receive something from you. Philanthropy is the main reason, why SCCS is able to function the way it does.

Our next outing is to a performance of 'My Fair Lady' at the Opera House. For more casual get-togethers with fellow Swiss, you may like to come to the Casual Lunch in Tempe or Ruth's meetings at the Austrian Club, Frenchs Forest.

REGULA SCHEIDEGGER

President:	Regula Scheidegger	0432 031 085	rscheidegger49@hotmail.com
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If you live in country NSW you may like to get in touch with one of our Rural Coordinators:

Newcastle/Hunter Valley:	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	ritama.schaad@gmail.com
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South Coast:	Monica Kampfer	02 4473 6608	mkampfer@bigpond.com





Swiss Yodlers of Sydney



Swiss Folksdance Group Alpegruess

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney had a busy winter for 2026. We had a successful performance at the **Eidgenössische Jodlerfest** in Basel on 26 June. This despite the oppressive heat experienced during our four days there, where it reached up to 40C.

Upon our return from Switzerland, we had much to do to prepare for our annual **Swiss National Day Celebration** at Castle Hill Showground on 2 August, with the Swiss Folksdance Group Alpegruess. We had approximately 850 guests who enjoyed the festivities, with great food, drinks, and camaraderie.

On 22 August, we performed together with our Alphorn players at Swiss Night at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest. It was a packed house, with music from the Philippe Wittwer Trio. It was great to see people dancing (who can forget the Chicken Dance?), and many brave women taking part in the yodelling contest! It was a wonderful night!

Now, the Yodlers are having a small break, with only our Annual General Meeting to take place in November. We'll be back to singing soon enough!

VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The practice sessions have recommenced after a three-month break over the winter. All singing members are now back home after extended holidays. As most readers know, our choir members practiced hard to sing their best at the **Eidgenössische Jodlerfest** in Basel at the end of June. Not only did they enjoy performing to a receptive and appreciative audience, but they were also well rewarded with glowing praise from the judges. Well done to all involved!

If you are interested in singing with the choir, please contact Chris on 0428 427 434. You are welcome to attend a rehearsal to see whether it is something you would enjoy. Practice sessions are held in Upper Ferntree Gully and are held on Wednesday evenings every second week.



WA: Swiss Club of Western Australia

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Our **Fondue afternoon** this year was organised a little differently, with the shelter set up with tables for everyone to sit together and three tables equipped with gas stoves for cooking the Fondue.

In previous years, the committee would prepare and cook the Fondue for everyone. This year, however, members had the opportunity to cook their own Fondue, with all the ingredients provided by the Club. For some, this was a new experience, but there were plenty of 'old hands' ready to share their tips and help everyone create the perfect Fondue.

The fruit salad for dessert was a welcome and refreshing finish to the afternoon, and everyone left with a happy heart – and a very full cheese belly!

With the 1 of August falling on a Saturday this year, the Swiss Club of WA had the pleasure of celebrating **Swiss National Day** on the actual day.

Guests were welcomed by the Swiss Alphorn players, which is always a special treat and a wonderful way to begin the celebrations. As in previous years, the shelter was enclosed and the industrial heater kept everyone warm, especially on what was a particularly cold evening.

The traditional buffet of Fleischkäse and hot ham, accompanied by a variety of salads including potato, carrot, beetroot, corn and green salad, was once again enjoyed by all.

At dusk, the bonfire was lit, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Afterwards, the now-famous BYO dessert buffet was enjoyed by everyone. An impressive 31 different desserts were counted, including many traditional family favourites such as carrot cake, Basler Leckerli, Mailänderli and Linzertorte, to name just a few.

A very big thank you goes to the Committee, all the additional helpers and, of course, the Swiss Alphorn players, who all contributed to making this Swiss National Day celebration such a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/11: Annual General Meeting

6/12: Samichlaus/Père Noël/Santa: at Perry Lakes.

For more information, visit our website: <https://swissclubwa.org/> and follow us on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year.



Swiss Festival 2026: a record-setting celebration at Seaworks

The Swiss Festival 2026 brought Seaworks in Williamstown to life with colour, music, and the unmistakable warmth of Swiss community spirit. By the end of the day, the numbers told the story, a new visitor record of 1,800 attendees, making this the most successful festival to date.

The presence of the Swiss Ambassador added a special highlight, with many visitors enjoying the chance to meet him as he toured the grounds. Families flocked to the Kids Zone, where crafts, games, and the lively scavenger hunt kept children busy for hours. The adorable Valais Blacknose Sheep were a crowd favourite, while the St Bernard dogs and Swiss Mountain Dogs drew constant attention and countless photos.

Food was once again at the heart of the festival. The aroma of raclette drifted across the courtyard, sausages sizzled throughout the afternoon, and Swiss chocolates were snapped up almost as quickly as they appeared. The raffle created plenty of excitement, rounding out a day filled with conversation, laughter, and a strong sense of connection.

Swiss Festival 2026 not only broke attendance records but strengthened the cultural ties that make this event so beloved. The organising committee, volunteers, partners, and sponsors can be proud of a festival that truly showcased Swiss heritage in Melbourne.

The next Swiss Festival will take place on Saturday, 7 August 2027, once again at Seaworks, Williamstown. We hope to see you there!

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Looking for Work or Volunteer Opportunities in Australia

23-year-old Swiss male looking for work or volunteer opportunities anywhere in Australia from November 2026. Reliable, open-minded and flexible.

Travelling with my fiancée and a small, well-/housetrained toy Poodle.

Cedric Stark, email: cedric.stark@gmx.ch, tel: +41 78 906 90 08

REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

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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



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