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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Please note:
Next Editorial Deadline
3 September 2018

Editorial:

Please note that issue 4 and 6 of the «Swiss Review» do not have regional pages. Issue 5 will therefore be the last one this year to include the «Regional News Oceania».

Issue	Editorial deadline	Publication date
■ 5/2018	Mon, 3 September	Sat, 29 September

Please send your submissions by the above deadline to risler@csa-oceania.org. As always, I look forward to hearing from you! Contact: +61 (0)412 935 565.

ROLAND ISLER

REGIONAL EDITOR | OCEANIA / COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD | AUSTRALIA

**CSA Oceania**
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad



Go to **www.csa-oceania.org**

■ for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania and **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad

■ Contact the **CSA Oceania** on info@csa-oceania.org

Swiss Parliament delegation visiting New Zealand and Australia

With thanks to the Embassies in Wellington and Canberra for the information and pictures supplies. Ed.

It was against the backdrop of rising interest on the part of Swiss politicians in the strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region that a delegation from the Council of States Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC-S) visited Singapore, New Zealand and Australia between 6 and 13 April. The delegation was led by the Committee Chairman and Vice-President of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Filippo Lombardi (CVP/TI), and comprised of Thomas Minder (Ind./SH), Philipp Müller (FDP/AG), Daniel Jositsch (SP/ZH) and Damian Müller (FDP/LU). A key aim of the visit was to foster contacts with the numerous Swiss businesses and large community of Swiss nationals living in the region.

Arriving from Singapore, the delegation was received at the New Zealand House of Representatives in Wellington by senior government officials. The Swiss delegation discussed with its New Zealand counterparts a number of topics in the field of

international relations, security and trade. It raised, however, also the only controversial issue in the otherwise excellent relationship between the two countries: New Zealand's policy of deducting Swiss AHV (social security) pensions from the New Zealand 'Superannuation'. It was made clear to both opposition and government parties that Switzerland looks forward to a reform of New Zealand legislation removing this stumbling block. The issue was also at the centre of the delegation's encounter with the leaders of the 7000 strong Swiss community in New Zealand organised by the Embassy. More on this topic can be found on the CSA-Oceania website: www.csa-oceania.org

On its next stop in Canberra, the delegation met with representatives from the Australian parliament and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Home Affairs. Talks focused on Australia's role in the region and political and economic relations with the USA and China, as well as the geopolitical importance of the Pacific region and its islands. The delegation was also interested in Australia's efforts to promote free trade and in its immigration and refugee policy in a context of global migration challenges. During their time in Sydney and Melbourne, the delegation had the opportunity to meet the finance ministers of the states of New South Wales and Victoria, and held talks with representatives from Swiss businesses about the economic framework.



In Sydney. From left to right: Thomas Minder MP, Daniel Jositsch MP, Consul General Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, Filippo Lombardi MP, Ambassador Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, Ambassador Pedro Zwahlen, FAC-S Secretary Myriam Bertsch, Damian Müller MP, Philipp Müller MP



In Wellington. The Swiss delegation with Ambassador David Vogelsanger (right)

Community News and Events

PNG: Deadly Earthquake

On 26 February, the Highlands of Papua New Guinea were hit by the strongest earthquake (7.5) since 1922. For thousands of people life changed. No drinking water, destroyed gardens, road and houses, hundreds of people injured and about 150 lives were lost.

Slowly the chain of first aid relief started. Our traumatised church workers were evacuated. Some weeks ago a pastoral team of the Evangelical Brotherhood Church visited the Tari and Kopiago site providing 6 water tanks, two tons of nails for rebuilding their homes and food. The act of love was well received, but aftershocks haven't stopped, the fear is still there! *John Alt*

NZ: Swiss Society of NZ

The AGM will be held at **2pm on Sunday, 3 June**, at the Taranaki Swiss Club in Kaponga, Taranaki. All Society and affiliated club members welcome.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Upcoming Events:

2-4/6: Our Club will be hosting the AGM of the Swiss Society together with the final of the Cowbell Competition. Please contact your Club secretaries, read the Helvetia magazine or ring Marianne on 06 762 8757 or Othmar on 06 278 6878 for further information.

10/6: Jassen at the Swiss Club from 1.15pm.

17/6: Jassen again at 1.15pm; come along and have some fun. The final Championship Shoot will be held from 1pm; junior and the young at heart most welcome. A pot-luck dinner will be held at 6pm, so come and make a day of it...sport, fun and laughter, a delicious dinner with a few drinks!!!

7/7: The popular Anniversary Shoot / Keglen will be held from 1pm and then

the delicious meal will be served. Once again a great social day.

15 & 22/7: Swiss cards again at the club house at 1.15pm.

29/7: We will be treated to great music by the Swiss Army Small Band

Swiss Military Small Band performs on 1 August National Day celebrations in Australia and New Zealand



This year's official 1 August National Day celebrations in Australia and New Zealand will be celebrated in a very special way. On their Asia-Oceania tour and for the first time ever, the Swiss Military Small Band will visit Australia and New Zealand. The formation of more than a dozen young musicians of the Swiss Army will perform in:

NEW ZEALAND

- **28 July Auckland.** Bruce Mason Center, with the Royal New Zealand Navy Band, followed by 1 August celebration at Auckland Swiss Club;
- **29 & 30 July Taranaki.** At the Swiss Club's celebration and at concerts in New Plymouth;
- **31 July Wellington.** National War Memorial and at other places, with the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band. Evening concert in Upper Hutt. On **1 August** in front of the Parliament, with Air Force Band. Evening at the Embassy's National Day celebration, Upper Hutt.

AUSTRALIA

- **2 August Canberra.** National Day celebration at the Residence of the Ambassador, with the Royal Military College Band (RMCB) on its 50th anniversary (on invitation). On **3 August** at the Australian War Memorial, with the RMCB for a joint public lunchtime concert;
- **5 August Sydney / Castle Hill.** National Day celebration with the Royal Australian Navy Band, the Australian Army Band and with the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney (on invitation);
- **6-8 August Melbourne.** Joint activities with Australian military bands, Swiss Club of Victoria and other partners.

Further information:

Please check the websites of the Swiss Embassies in Canberra and Wellington and of the Consulate General in Sydney. You can also follow us on Facebook for updates on the events: www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra

at the Stratford War Memorial Hall, in conjunction with our Swiss National Day celebrations. Further details will be published in the Helvetia magazine.

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

23-25/3: The Hamilton Swiss Club Ruapehu Weekend took place again this year, thanks to the able organisation of Herbert and Willetta Staheli and other helpers. It was a great success, a refreshing and fun weekend for all!

Upcoming Events:

Five card evenings will take place over the winter months starting on **11 May** at the Union Parish Hall in Cambridge. Please check our website: swiss.org.nz/hamilton

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

Some remember the film 'More than honey' by Markus Imhoof. He shows the importance of bees and the threats they face. This year for the first time on 20 May was **International Bee Day**. The value of bees and the danger they face is recognised and hopefully this little busy workers will be more protected. Three Embassies in Canberra keep bees: Slovenian, Swedish and Swiss – the three S's are also the three B's! Bruno Ehrensperger from Bruno's Truffles in Mawson is a passionate bee-keeper too. Only at his place can you find a variety of real Swiss bread in Canberra! The Swiss community has been privileged – for years Bruno generously donated bread for the Fondue night and for the National Day Celebration. He deserves a big thank you!

Upcoming Events:

22/6: Fondue Night.

28/7: National Day Celebration at Lustenberger farm in Murrumbateman.

31/8: Eisstockschiessen, Austrian Club.

20/9: Film Night.

30/9: Go-karting.

Hopefully we see many of you at

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our events. And don't forget our regular events such as Jass every fortnight, choir rehearsals twice a month and the Swiss Radio Program on CMS 91.1FM every Monday night between 6 and 8pm.

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney & Swiss Folksdance Group Alpegruess

The annual Swiss National Day Celebration organised by the Swiss Yodlers and the Folksdance Group Alpegruess, will be held on **Sunday, 5 August** from 11.30 am.

It will once again be held at the Castle Hill Showground, however, at a different site – the Federation Building. Please follow directions.

Special attraction this year is the Swiss Military Small Band. There will also be the BBQ, Swiss Beer, Etter Schnapps, children activities, petting zoo, Swiss market stalls etc.

NSW: Cercle Romand Sydney

So far this year our club hosted a 'petanque' (boules) tournament and brunch, a weekend camping at Toowoomba Bay and a fondue vigneronne (meat fondue) at Fagan Park.

All these outings are very social and most enjoyable! We share good food, good company, good times!

Upcoming Events:

17/6: We are going to the movies followed by an Italian meal in Leichhardt.

5/8: We will be at the Castle Hill Showground to celebrate our Swiss National Day with the wider Swiss community and we will, of course, hold our delicious raclette stand. Come and say hello to us at the stand.

16/8: Our annual general assembly will be held at 11am at the Drummoyne Sailing Club, everyone welcome!

For more informations go to cercleromand.com.au or Facebook @Cercle Romand Sydney or contact us on cercleromand@gmail.com

NSW: Swiss Rösti Clique

Mir sind vo Sydney und suechet Drummler und Pfyffer. Chumm und mach doch mit. Bi eus gits kei Altersgrenze, alli si herzlich willkommen. Mir übe ei Mol im Monet im Centennial Park.

The Swiss Rösti Clique of Sydney is looking for drummers



CSA OCEANIA SWISS CLUB PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE & 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS YODLERS OF SYDNEY

After Canberra in 2014 and Melbourne in 2016, it is now the turn of the Sydney Swiss clubs to host the bi-annual conference of all Swiss Club Presidents in Oceania. This great event is to take place from the **evening of Friday, 28 September to Sunday morning, 30 September**. The conference coincides with the **50th anniversary of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney**, with whom we shall share a Harbour Cruise Dinner on Friday evening and a Gala Dinner on Saturday night. A Sunday Morning BBQ will conclude this event. For information please contact:

Conference Coordinator, Beat Knoblauch – T: 02 9232 7100
Anniversary Coordinator, Martin Scarpino – T: 0422 283 247

and pipers (piccolo players). All ages welcome. We practise once a month in Centennial Park.

For more information, please contact Armin Umhang on 0431 891 454 or arem@outlook.com or Peter Scheidegger on 0431 062 431 or pscheide@bigpond.net.au

QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

8TH AUSTRALIAN JASS TOURNAMENT GOLD COAST – 9 JUNE 2018

The Swiss Society of Queensland is proud to be this year's organiser of the Australian Jass Tournament, held at the Gold Coast, at Nerang Country Paradise Parklands Venue, 213 Beaudesert Road, Nerang QLD 4211.

Together with the Gold Coast members, we have organised a Metzgete for dinner as a double treat at the same location.

Jass Tournament:

When: 9 June 2018, door opens at 8am for a 9am start.

Costs for members: \$30 (includes lunch).

Costs for non-members: \$35 (includes lunch).

Cost for lunch only: \$15 (non-players).

Metzgete:

When: 9 June 2018, doors open at 6.30pm.

Cost: \$38 for Jass tournament participants, members, non-members and guests.

Cost for children under 15 years of age: \$1 per year of age.

Attire: Smart Casual, Sennechutteli, Tracht, etc.

For more information contact Merla on 0408 717 796. Please use the link below for the Jass enrolment form:

<http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/events/8th-australian-jass-tournament-9-june-2018/>

Upcoming Events:

23/6: Raclette. West End Sailing Club, West End. Door opens at 5.15pm, dinner will be served from 6.15pm. Cost: \$30 members, \$34 non-members, \$70 member families.

June/July: Bushwalking in Switzerland. Peter Zuend is offering to take people on walks in Switzerland from the

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end of June to the beginning of July. If you happen to be there and would like to do a walk that you always wanted to do eg. the Alpstein area etc., get in touch with Peter on bushwalker@swissclubqld.org.au

28/7: National Day celebration. Samford Showground, Samford. Lunch will be served from 12pm. There is an extensive program of various performances including yodelling, Lampion procession for the kids and a huge bonfire in the evening. Camping is also available.

29/8: Movie Night. Anglican Church Hall, 56 Racecourse Road, Ascot.

Cost: \$10 includes dinner (frankfurts and bread) and dessert. Movie only: gold coin donation.

More information about any of the events are on the club's website: <http://www.swissclubqld.org.au>

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Upcoming Events in Hervey Bay:

15th of each month: Meet for lunch in local restaurants.

15/7: National Day celebration with 'Woodfire-BBQ' – Bratwurst/ Servelat and Rösti – in Cecile's Backyard. For details contact Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326 or cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com or go to www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Now more than ever people want to re-connect face to face and be part of a local community group, so make this the year you join the Swiss Club of SA.

We welcome everyone at our 2018 Swiss Club of SA events and all details are available on our website: www.swissclubsa.com.au

Thank you to everyone who made this years' fondue night a huge success. Photos of the night are on our website.

Upcoming Events:

4/8: Swiss National Day Raclette Night. Venue and time TBC.

1/8: Swiss National Day Luncheon, 12noon. Walkers Arms, 36 North East Road, Walkerville.

16/9: Annual General Meeting, 4pm, Austrian Club.

21/10: Würstli Brötli, 11am, Kuitpo Forest.

To become a member or advertise in our newsletter please contact swissclubofsa@gmail.com

Our club membership fees are:

- Family (couple including children under 18 years) – \$50.
- Single (single persons or children over 18 years) – \$35.
- Pensioner / Country Couple – \$40.
- Pensioner Single / Country Single – \$25.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram [@swissclubsa](https://www.instagram.com/swissclubsa)

VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Almost 50 eager Jass players attended our Jassabig held on 28 April. The players enjoyed the socialising and were keen to take home one of the many prizes. Zopf is always the favourite! Supper was provided and this time we were treated to Chäspastetli, served with salad and bread. The event is held three times a year. Anyone is welcome to attend. Enquiries: Hans Bruengger 0421 187 314.



Do you speak Swiss?!

27th & 28th October 2018, Melbourne

The Swiss Festival will be back in October 2018! This year's theme is based on our often puzzling variety of languages and will be adequately held at the Eildon Mansion in St Kilda, the home of the French School Alliance Française. Indoor and outdoor space, greenery and security gates make this the perfect new home for our festival.

Let us entertain you for **TWO DAYS** and indulge in Swissness with food & drink, entertainment and fun activities.

If you would like to participate as a stallholder, entertainer, or volunteer on the day please contact Rolf at rolf@swissfestival.com.au

We are a non for profit organisation and appreciate your support. We have various sponsorship opportunities if your company or organisation is interested in being part of our festival.



CELEBRATING SWISS CULTURE

Upcoming Event:

5/8: National Day Picnic. Austrian Club, 90 Sheehan Road, Heidelberg West. Enquiries: Erwin Weinmann 0400 850 816.

11/8: Jassabig, Horticulture Centre, Jolimont Road, Forest Hill, 7.30pm. Enquiries: Hans Bruengger 0421 187 314.

VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess A.S.C.C.

We would like to extend an invitation to all our Senior Citizens over sixty and their partners (none-Swiss partners are welcome) to a wonderful afternoon of coffee, cakes and a chat = Kaffeeklatsch at 2pm on Sunday, 26 August at the Swiss Club.

The event is organised and sponsored by the Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess A.S.C.S. There is no charge for this cosy afternoon, however, our group is always thankful for any donation. Please reserve a place by ringing Marlies Krummenacher on 9503 9921 or 0423 765 986. RSVP by Monday, 20 August.

I like to remind you that we will have the Mystery Trip/Fahrt ins Blaue on 14 November. Sylvia Hochuli OAM

WA: The Swiss Yodellers of Western Australia

Our group meets every first Wednesday evening of the month for a practice session. We are not only a yodelling group, but sing traditional Swiss and Alpine Region songs in different languages. We would be very happy to welcome new members any time. We desperately need new and young(er) blood for our happy band. For more detailed information please contact our manager, Peter Mueller on 9291 8402.

WA: Monatsjass

This is a monthly event and we meet every 3rd Thursday of each month, ie somewhere between the 15th and 21st. We meet and play at the North Perth Bowling Club, 10 Farmer Street, North Perth. Drinks are available from the bar at reasonable prices. We usually order pizzas for those who have not had dinner. Play starts at 7pm. For more detailed information please contact Peter Mueller on 9291 8402.