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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Readers

Victoria's Swiss Connection

On October 1st, 1839, Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Melbourne and was sworn in as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District on October 3rd. He was accompanied by his wife Sophie née de Montmollin from Neuchâtel.

The 150th Anniversary of their arrival was commemorated by various ceremonies — some of them attended by H.E. Dr. A. Hugentobler, Ambassador of Switzerland — such as special church services, memorial lectures, an Open Day at Government House including a special exhibition, as well as a major exhibition "La Trobe and his

Circle" at the State Library of Victoria.

The link between La Trobe and Switzerland was recalled by Mr Stanley Kirby, Representative in Melbourne of the Swiss Bank Corporation, who sponsored the latter exhibition, in his address at the opening with the following words:

"I think there is a tendency to forget Australia's 'Swiss connection'.

In Melbourne, there is a very direct and specific connection with Switzerland from the earliest days of the settlement.

I would like you to think back 150 years ago — it took four months to get from Europe to Port Phillip — a round trip for a letter and reply at least a year.

In an old settled township at the foot of the Jura mountains in Switzerland called Neuchâtel, a man called Charles La Trobe marries a daughter of Neuchâtel, Sophie.

Charles La Trobe was then a well educated, well travelled man of very diverse interests and talents from art through engineering to law. Sophie came from an aristocratic and wealthy family in Neuchâtel. One could well imagine that the match of these two young people was considered highly appropriate.

But then the citizens of Neuchâtel learned that Charles La Trobe was about to take his young wife to the other end of the world — to a primitive settlement on the shores of an almost unknown land.

It would have been a sensation!

It would have caused intense interest amongst the Swiss at such an adventure and an eagerness to learn how matters turn out.

Within 10 years, three nephews of Sophie La Trobe had arrived in Victoria and about 100 Swiss from around Neuchâtel had started to establish extensive vineyards in the area of Geelong.

La Trobe's Cottage became a centre of discussion — indeed support — for the Swiss settlers.

Vineyards were also estab-

lished around Lilydale in the upper Yarra Valley.

The Swiss settlers went into general farming and of course took part in the rush to the goldfields.

Many of the descendants of these early settlers from Neuchâtel are still to be found around Melbourne with many recognisable and prominent names, including the famous Australian marathon runner, Robert de Castella.

From Switzerland, we like to think that Sophie, together with the Lieutenant-Governor, helped draw the Swiss settlers to these shores — certainly they gave them friendly support and encouraged their endeavours.

Much of the discourse between the La Trobes and the family in Neuchâtel, together with mementos, ended up in Switzerland — treasured by the family over the years and ultimately have ended in the safe haven of the State Archives of Neuchâtel.

With the impetus of the 150 year anniversary and the strong historical interest of our present Governor McCaughey, together with several prominent citizens of Melbourne, and of course the continuing interest of Dr. Henry de la Trobe, strong interest has recently been aroused and the records in Neuchâtel as well as in Melbourne, have been searched and examined.

You see here tonight a selection of highly interesting memorabilia and personal items of Charles and Sophie La Trobe, which have come not only from the institutions of this city but from the Archives de l'Etat de Neuchâtel, to whom we are most grateful for their assistance.

The strong connections of Melbourne and Victoria with Switzerland dating from the earliest days, derive from Sophie La Trobe and her husband, the Lieutenant-Governor.

Swiss Bank Corporation is very proud to have played a part in the La Trobe Sesquicentennial celebrations of Charles La Trobe and of this Exhibition."



Important Notice

The next issue of the Swiss Review, Nr. 1/90, will appear at the end of February 1990 and should reach the readers in Australia in March 1990.

Typewritten articles to appear in it must be in possession of the
Consulate General of Switzerland
PO Box 7026
St Kilda Road PO
MELBOURNE VIC 3004
Telephone (03) 267 2266
Facsimile (03) 267 5318

not later than January 9th, 1990.

Please note that the calendar of events should cover the period March to July 1990.

GSMBA

is the abbreviation for "Gesellschaft schweizerischer Maler, Bildhauer und Architekten" in Muttentz, an organisation which, in 1990, will celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Mr. Stefan Bruggisser, a Swiss Sculptor living in Coramba, suggests that this occasion be marked by the formation of an Australian Chapter of the GSMBA. Persons who wish to receive more information or who would like to become members of the GSMBA are invited to get in touch with Mr. Stefan Bruggisser, P.O. Box 45, Coramba, NSW 2450, phone 066 54 4391.

ADELAIDE

Swiss Club of S.A.

P.O. Box 70, Burnside, S.A. 5066

Our Club held the A.G.M. in September. The attendance was much improved, as the big attractions were a Smorgasbord Supper and a prize for a meal at the Alpuette (our thanks to Leo Schadegg!).

Two committee members retired, but Werner Zur Eich is still at the helm as our President. We extend our special thanks to

EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND

Parents with growing children may be interested to know that in Sydney is a newly established office where they can get personal advice and information on private

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Eliza Gubler
International Business Connections
6/2 Munro Street
McMahons Point, N.S.W. 2060
Tel. and Fax: (02) 954 4519

Michael Wilson for a job well done as editor. His successor is Ted McNally.

The following events figure in our social calendar:

Every first Saturday of the month, informal gathering at the German Club, 223 Flinders Street, City. The next meeting will take place on December 2nd.

At the same venue, Jass evening every 3rd Saturday.

Further events:

- 3.12. Swiss Christmas Party and Samichlaus at Tusmore Park
- 11.2. Beach Brunch at Fort Glanville Esplanade
- 25.2. Late afternoon: Musical Zoo Do March/ Probably an autumn bus tour to April Barossa Valley and/or a Metzgete May Our traditional Fondue Night

For details on these events please consult the Club's Newsletter.

Please listen to Kuno's lively music, Swiss news and Club announcements at 6 p.m. every Saturday on Radio 5EBI - FM 92.9 MHz.

The Swiss Club of S.A. wishes all the members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

BRISBANE

Swiss Radio 4EB-AM 1053 kHz

Every Monday from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m.

If you are in the Brisbane region - up to about 50 km from the GPO - you will be able to receive Radio 4EB on AM 1053 kHz and hear the Swiss program every Monday from 3.00 to 4.30 p.m.

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At present, we are very short on helpers to make radio programs and announcers. So, if you have the time and are interested in radio work, here is your opportunity. We will train you and help you in every way possible.

We wish all our listeners a Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. The Swiss Radio Group 4EB, sharing the World with you.

Swiss Community of Mackay

Seventeen Swiss, French and German speaking, represented seven Cantons on July 30th, when the Swiss National Day was

celebrated by an impromptu BYO BBQ at the home of Jean-Paul and Diana Dimier. Young and old enjoyed the informal meeting which included lampions (both paper and turnip varieties) and the traditional bonfire at a nearby beach. Twenty Swiss were known to be living in the Mackay area; we have since discovered more and will try to meet again for St-Nicolas/Samichlaus. In the meantime, any Swiss visiting Mackay can enjoy a good coffee at "The New Deli" in Victoria Street where they will find Max and Rosemarie Kunz. Those looking for a chat in French are welcome to phone Jean-Paul and Diana Dimier on (079) 51 4112.

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Informationen senden wir auf Ihren Wunsch gerne an Ihre Schweizer Bekannten.

Bitte ausschneiden und Ihrem nächsten Brief beilegen!

Die Australien-Spezialisten der Schweiz:

Roger Geissberger + Ueli Bächer





CANBERRA

Canberra Swiss Club

P.O. Box 3211, Manuka, ACT 2603

Tel. President 58 1921

Secretary 58 2090

A large number of members and guests gathered on the Shlager's farm to celebrate the Swiss National Day – a very successful function. The Club is most grateful to Linda and Tony Shlager for again making their property available for this gathering.

Members are notified of all the activities in the Club's Newsletter – please check it for dates and bookings and functions in 1990.

For news and music from Switzerland, listen to Radio 2XX – AM 1008 kHz on the first and third Thursday of the month at 9.30 p.m. You may phone 47 4400 during the transmission to make suggestions for items for the programme or any special wishes.

Newcomers to Canberra are invited to telephone the President or Secretary on the above numbers to get in touch with the Club.

MELBOURNE

The Matterhorn Society Yodel Choir Matterhorn Schwing Club Melbourne

"The Matterhorn House"

229 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield 3126

Tel. 528 4397

After a break over the Christmas/New Year period, the Club's first meeting in 1990 will take place on Wednesday, February 7th.

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Employment Opportunities

Small, international, English-language boarding school would like to hear from Swiss nationals or persons with working permission for Switzerland, interested in full-time employment from September, 1989. Qualified elementary school teachers for English-speaking children 6 to 14, or persons interested in serving as Housemother or Household Assistant or Cook should write to:

WILLIAM LOVELL, Director — Tel. (030) 4 1372



As usual, the club premises will be open every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. and provide the following opportunities:

- to tune your vocal chords at choir practice
 - to keep fit with Schwing training or Gym training
 - to practise your skills with the cards.
- Every first Wednesday of the month:
"Jassabig – Gmuetliche Hock".

Swiss Club of Victoria

89 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

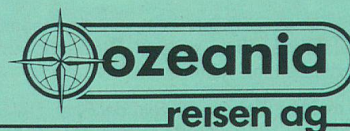
Postal Address: G.P.O. Box 5382 BB,
Melbourne, Vic. 3001

Tel. 650 1196

Our National Day Ball at the Albert Banquet Centre was an outstanding success. Five hundred and forty happy people enjoyed a wonderful evening, and our thanks go to Margrit Schneider and her hard working Ball Committee. Our subgroups, the Yodel-Club Edelwyss and the Folk Dance Group Alpenrose, as well as the Yodel-Club Matterhorn and the Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruuss, deserve our special thanks for their excellent contributions.

I personally had the opportunity to take part in the Auslandschweizer-Kongress in Locarno – a very impressive show with speakers and presentations by outstanding personalities.

The Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruuss re-



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5442 Fislisbach
Inh. Bruno Böckli ☎ 056 84 01 65

cently staged a theatre night and presented "Alles us Verzwiflig", providing a most entertaining evening; and the "actors" must be complimented.

This year again, the Jass Competition was an outstanding success. At the final evening on October 7th, Hans Pecar qualified as

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Sind Sie ein junges, aufgestelltes Mädchen mit Schweizerpass, das für ein bis zwei Jahre seine Heimat kennenlernen und dazu noch Geld verdienen möchte? Dann ist das jetzt die Gelegenheit!

Wir bieten einen guten Lohn, ein angenehmes Arbeitsklima, eine eigene Wohnung und Schichtarbeit mit viel Freizeit.

Bitte melden Sie sich mit Bild bei Fam. Fallegger-Stofer, Hotel Kreuz, CH-6102 Malers (Telefax 041/97 30 67).

Jassmeister of the Swiss Club of Victoria, while Beni Hürlimann was second. A month earlier, Walter Imfeld had qualified as Jassmeister of the Matterhorn Society, followed by Fred Portmann. Alois Schnider, achieving the best overall result at both venues, thus won the Melbourne Interclub Jass Championship. Congratulations to them all!

As 1989 draws to a close, my wife and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, and above all, Healthy New Year.

Primo Calabresi

Social Calendar

- 3.12. Children's Christmas Party
- 24.12. Christmas Eve Dinner - CANCELLED
- 25.12. Christmas Luncheon
- 26.-31.12. Club Closed
- 31.12. New Year's Eve Party
- 1.-22.1.90 Club Closed
- 23.1. Club Reopening
- 10.2. Jazz Night
- 24.2. Carnival
- 4.3. Jodler-Andacht at Kalorama
- 17.3. French Night
- 31.3. Candle Light Dinner
- 14.4. Sauser Evening



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PERTH

Swiss Club of Western Australia Inc.

All correspondence to:

The Secretary,
P.O. Box 328, Cloverdale 6105

Committee 1989/90

President: Roman Sigel, B 481 0245,
H 447 9179
Vice-President: Walter Kunz
Treasurer: Emil Stadler
Secretary: Margaret Iseli, H 279 5973

Social Calendar 1990

- 18.2. Boat Trip/River Cruise
- 10.3. Fastnacht at the Rhein Donau Club
- 8.4. Grümpeltturnier

- 4.,11.+ 18.4. Jassen
- 2.5. Raclette at Miss Maud's, Fremantle
- 13.5. Steam Train Ride, Hotham Valley, and Lunch
- 16.6. Metzgete at the Rhein Donau Club
- 15./29.7. Wood Collecting
- 22.7. Annual General Meeting with Dinner at the Gypsy Baron, Armadale
- 1.8. August 1st National Day Celebration with bonfire at the Old Austria Club
- 4.8. Swiss Night - 699 Years Switzerland at the Rhein Donau Club, major raffle drawing
- 8.8. Ladies' Night
- 18.8. Visit to the Swan Brewery or similar excursion
- 2.9. Fathers' Day Car Rally



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S89.II / D89 / M90.I

Effective September 24, 1989 - March 24, 1990



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