

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 20 (1993)
Heft: 4

Anhang: Local communications : Perth, Tasmania, Sydney, Canberra, Queensland

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Notice of the Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra

Mr Jean-Jacques de Dardel, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission, has joined the staff of the Embassy at the end of May. He is accompanied by his wife Marielle and three little children.

Dear Editors of the Swiss Club News

Please note that the deadline for the first issue of the "Swiss Review" in 1994 will be at the **beginning of February** and should contain programmes from April-July 1994.

Send your articles by Fax (03 866 5907) or by mail (P.O. Box 7026, Melbourne 3004).

New Honorary Consul in Perth

After more than 20 years of dedicated services to the Swiss community of Western Australia, Mr Rudolf Abplanalp has resigned as Honorary Consul in Perth. In the name of the Consulate General, as well as the Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne, I wish to thank him and his wife Elsy for their excellent work during more than 20 years. They understood very well to have contacts with the Swiss community of Western Australia and were always ready to go out of their way when Swiss tourists were stranded or in need. The co-operation the Consulate General received from them will always be remembered. My personal thanks to you, Rudy and Elsy for everything you have done and the kind and efficient co-operation I could always rely on.

With the effect of July 1, 1993, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Berne has appointed Prof Dr Ernst Jürg Weber as Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Western Australia. I am convinced that in Prof Weber we have found an excellent successor, who will follow the tradition established by Mr Rudy Abplanalp. The first few months have already given the proof that he takes his appointment seriously. We have again an excellent Honorary Consul in Perth, who is also very well seconded by his wife Elisabeth, who is the President of the Swiss Club.

Address of the Swiss Consular Agency:
**79 Snowball Road,
 Kalamunda WA 6076**
Phone/Fax 09/293-2704

Leo Renggli, Consul General

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Already 16 countries take part in this exchange programme:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States.

Dates: July 9-August 14, 1994.

Do you feel tempted? Get in touch with your local co-ordinator mentioned below or with the Secretariat for Swiss Abroad. (Don't forget to give your phone number.) Closing date for applications: March 1, 1994.

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 Fax 079 39 12 42

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E. Harris P.O. Box 555, Yeppoon

CONSULAR DISTRICT MELBOURNE

Swiss Club of Victoria

**89 Flinders Lane
 MELBOURNE 3000**

President's Report

Our National Day Celebration was once again an outstanding success, with over 500 guests attending at the Albert Park Banquet Centre. My sincere thanks to all the organisers.

The preparation of the 1993 Oktoberfest is in full flight. This event will take place at the Royal Showgrounds on October 22-24. I hope that all the volunteers will be able to assist the club again this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends and families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Klaus Sieber

Coming functions:

22nd-24th Oct. Oktoberfest
 10th November Ladies' Luncheon
 13th November Oktoberfest Helpers' Party
 23rd December Christmas Luncheon
 31st December New Year's Eve Party
 1st January 1994 - 26th January 1994, club is closed for holidays.

Swiss Club Opening Hours:

Tuesday 11.30 am-3.30 pm
 Wednesday 11.30 am-12 midnight
 Thursday 11.30 am-12 midnight
 Friday 11.30 am-12 midnight

Tuesday and Saturday: open for group bookings and club functions only.

PERTH

Swiss Club of Western Australia

**P.O. Box 328
 Cloverdale, W.A. 6105
 Tel. (09) 293 1765**

The Swiss Club of Western Australia organises a variety of social, recreational and cultural activities throughout the year. Swiss and non-Swiss are cordially invited to join. Application forms are available from the secretary or any member of the committee.

Search for missing person

On February 4, 1993, the judge of the district of Schwyz has approved the initiation for the search of the following missing person:

Hermann Reichmuth, born in Zurich on August 8, 1931, from Unteriberg, son of August Hermann Reichmuth-Zweifel, 1908, deceased in Raleigh (New South Wales) on September 24, 1983, Australia, or his descendants.

Anyone knowing anything about the missing person or his descendants will be required to report it to the judge of the district of Schwyz, Rathaus, 6430 Schwyz. If no information can be made available the missing person will be pronounced dead. 6430 Schwyz, April 26, 1993

*The judge of the district of Schwyz
 lic. iur. P. von Hettlingen*



A large number of people enjoyed a truly memorable 1st August picnic and bonfire on our property. The weather was perfect, the fire huge, the lampions in good supply, and the Swiss Yodellers with the two Alhornbläser provided the authentic musical background for this traditional event. Celebrations continued in a more formal way a week later with the National Day Dance and the draw of our biennial raffle at the Rhein Donau Club.

Every first Wednesday of the month, from 7 pm, a social get-together is held at the Palm Terrace Restaurant/Bistro, 241 Canning Highway, Como. This gathering represents an ideal opportunity to meet informally while enjoying a delicious Swiss meal. Everyone is welcome.

Elisabeth Weber.

Coming Events:

- 30./31.10. Camping and Busy Bee, Rolling Green, Gidgegannup
- 14.11. Sightseeing and historical tour of Fremantle
- 5.12. Samichlaus Celebration and Picnic, Pelican Point, Crawley

Swiss Radio/6EBA

20 View Street, North Perth 6006
Phone 09 227 5958
Talk back 227 5953
Fax 09 227 7692

Co-ordinator: James Kunz
Fax and Phone 09 370 5307

Unser team besteht aus:
James Kunz, Marie-Françoise Meier, Gerry Dauth, Kurt Isliker.

On air — jeden Dienstag: 19'30-20'00
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TASMANIA

Swiss Australian Society

Since the last REVIEW we had a beautiful "Fahrt ins Blaue" to Orford which was very well attended and liked. In June our annual "Jassmeisterschaft" was held which was won by Max Zimmerli Sen., followed by Sepp Eugster and Wally Lutz. For 1 August we had a very nice function on the day at The Lady Clarke House. A lunch of Kasseler, Wienerli and "Surchabis" was on offer and some very fine Tasmanian wine, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Althaus of Stoney Vineyard. Frank Schuster played for dancing and when it got dark a nice "Augustfüür" rounded the day off.

A belated birthday wish to our oldest member — Marie Spörri — who celebrated her 90th birthday.

No function calendar can be issued at this stage as a new committee will have been elected. But things to look out for are:

North Hobart Fiesta in November;
Samichlaus 5. December, as every year in Tolosa Park.

CONSULAR DISTRICT SYDNEY

SYDNEY

Cercle Romand

Président: Marcel Diebold
Tel. 451 3565

Vice-Présidente: Véronique Macherel
Tel. 81 3230

Sorties prévues pour la période novembre-janvier 1994:

Le 27 novembre 1993: Rallye automobile organisé avec le concours du Swiss Club of NSW.

Décembre: Fête de la Saint-Nicolas pour les enfants.

Swiss Community Care Society Inc.

Please take note of our new address:

**P.O. Box 282
Bondi Junction, NSW 2022**

CANBERRA

Canberra Swiss Club Inc.

**P.O. Box 3211
Manuka, ACT 2603**

The Canberra Swiss Club can look back to a very eventful and successful year.

It started in January with Blueberry Picking and was then followed by the Mountain Weekend in Jindabyne. Thanks to our committee member, Peter Roth, we were

Stranger in Paradise

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able to visit the Woodlawn Mines near Tarago in March. Five hundred litres of port, red and white wine were bottled (and tasted) at the Vintage and Sausage Sizzle. Wintertime arrived and for the first time, the Ambassador of Switzerland, Peter Niederberger, opened his residence for a Fondue and Dance Evening. The National Day Celebrations and the Jass-Tournament were well attended.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November. In the beginning of December, the "Samichlaus" will pay us his customary visit and distribute goodies to our members' children.

For more club information contact our President on 06 282 2581.

The Committee wishes all of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Peter Bachmann

QUEENSLAND

*Swiss Yodel and Folklore Group
"Baerg-Roeseli" Inc.*

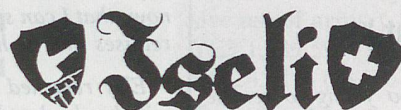
55 Greer Road, Salisbury, Qld. 4107

Pres: Peter von Bergen (07) 275 3250

On 29.5.93 we had our yearly Folkloric Festival. Thanks to "Salvo" the entertainer from Switzerland, it was an outstanding success. We are again in the position to have "Salvo" here in Australia for the month of May 94 for an Australian tour which would hopefully include every Swiss Club in all States.

We are always looking for more choir members. Please give it a go and give me, on (07) 207 7101 or Peter, a call.

Elsy Schuetz



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Swiss Community Care Society (Qld. Chapter)

The Queensland Chapter of the Swiss Community Care Society held its AGM on the 8th August, 1993. The new Committee was elected as follows:

President:

Willy Enggist
50 Mayfield Rd., Moorooka, Qld. 4105
Ph. (07) 848 9003

Vice-President and Liaison Officer for Senior Citizen Affairs:

Mrs Waly McPherson
11 Chewton St., Oxford Park, Qld. 4053
Ph. (07) 355 4715

Secretary:

Mrs Rita Camastral
4 Bogunda St., The Gap, Qld. 4061
Ph. (07) 300 5239

Treasurer:

Walter Billeter
39 Davies St., Oxley, Qld. 4075
Ph. (07) 379 8261

For any information or inquiries please contact any of the above Committee Members directly, as the previously published P.O. Box address had ceased to exist.

Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.

New address:

P.O. Box 10,
Wellers Hill, Qld. 4121

Treas: Peter Weidmann, (07) 397 8359

We are already close to the end of 1993. Our last function of the year will be the Advent Evening on the 4th December with the visit of Santa for our young ones.

Please note that our P.O. Box address has changed. This is due to the closure of our local post office by Australia Post.

Our next function is: Saturday, 4.12. Advent/Santa.

For further details please refer to the Swiss News of Queensland or give us a call.

Did you know that we play tennis every Tuesday and that there is Jass every second Thursday. For further details call Hans on (07) 844 6529.

We wish you all an enjoyable but not too hot Christmas break and hope to see you all healthy and happy in 1994.

WEP

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A Swiss Woman's Life in Australia (cont.)

Although she was too young to realise that she was embarking on a new life when her family left Switzerland, she has many vivid recollections of the six week voyage from Genoa to Australia. "Our bag got knocked down and Tante Clara had put a bottle of schnapps in it. You could see this trickle coming from the cases, and people were sniffing around because of the sweet smell. And coming through into Italy, the orange orchards and the sun coming out and the snow there. I also remember Mount Etna was blowing volcanic ash at the time. But they're things I've never forgotten. We hit Ceylon, and a line of date palms, and underneath there were all these beggars. I'll never, never forget that."

After arriving in Australia the family bought a 40 acre farm just outside of Sydney. The farm mainly consisted of fruit trees, grapes and a winery. Life was difficult with little money and much work to be done on the farm. The farm had only a small, modest house: the bathroom was little more than two tubs under a peppercorn tree in the backyard, while all the cooking was done outside on an open fire for the first few years.

Elsy encountered many problems after moving to Australia, perhaps the greatest of these was language. She only spoke Swiss-German, and neither of her parents spoke any English. She did not learn English until she went to school where she was one of the original 13 students at Prestons Primary School. From her home in Switzerland she was now a pioneer in Australian history.

But language became a greater problem because of people's bias against "foreigners". "Jim (her husband) never liked me to talk Swiss. He hated it. Oh yes. I wasn't allowed to speak even to Muttie in Swiss. He'd get very, very uptight. Because you see when I was younger, Australia wasn't like it is now. Oh you're a wog. It wasn't always very easy at all. Australians were very biased against anybody who wasn't re-

ally Australian . . . He has appreciated me now, that I can speak another language. He realises that he had been stupid."

Elsy returned to her homeland in 1979 with her husband Jim. "I was always proud to be Swiss. That's why I went back in '79, to show Jim that I had a lovely country too. I think everybody should be proud of where they were born. The minute they said we passed over the frontier, I cried. Don't ask my why. I cried the minute I saw Switzerland. But that's how it hit me. It was unbelievable. It was where I was born, and to come back to it after 50 years. It was very emotional to go back."

When she returned to Switzerland, Elsy realised that she could never leave Australia permanently. During the 65 years in her adopted home she has lost many of her Swiss ties. "I'm not saying that I want to live over there, because I don't. I like the freedom of Australia. Maybe because I was brought up here, and my children were born here. It's a different thing all together. But I'm still proud of that heritage."

Elsy now lives on the NSW south coast, in the small beachside town of Vincentia with her husband Jim. It is possibly as far as you can get from Switzerland. She stays in Australia in order to be close to her three sons and five grandchildren. Elsy is very much the matriarch of her tight-knit family, and exudes an air of strength and power.

Tragedy struck in 1972 when Elsy was involved in a horrific accident. While crossing the road she was hit by a semi-trailer, and was so badly injured the doctors did not think she would survive. She was in intensive care for a week, with severe internal injuries and a shattered hip. She has had a number of long operations, some over six hours, in an effort to rebuild and save her hip, and to allow her to walk freely again. Although she must walk with the aid of a walking stick, she still dominates the room as soon as she enters, and everyone listens when she speaks. It is easy to forget that Elsy is 72, even with her walking cane constantly by her tall frame. Because her hip has deteriorated in recent years, she has been told by her doctor that she cannot go back to Switzerland, a prospect she refuses to accept or discuss.

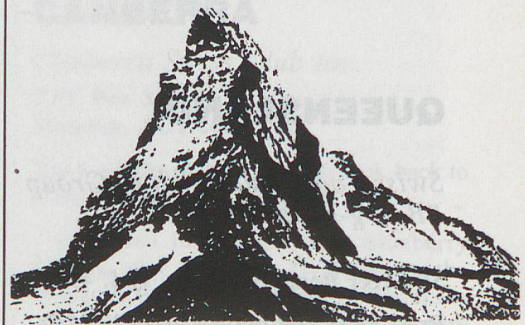
In February 1979 when she applied for a passport to travel back to Switzerland, Elsy was devastated when she was told she was ineligible by the Australian government. She had never been naturalised, and had simply assumed that she would be covered under her father when he was naturalised in 1949. She then applied to the Swiss authorities for a Swiss passport, and was told that she was no longer a Swiss citizen because she had married an Australian and had "lost her

identity during the war" and had not reapplied for Swiss citizenship in the early 1950s.

"I felt dreadful. I'm nothing. I just felt so ridiculous . . . I didn't exist . . . It made me feel as if I was in limbo . . . I now carry a piece of paper with me saying I was born in Switzerland, but now I'm an Australian citizen. That's my most treasured possession to say that I belong to a country. Now in hindsight you laugh about it. But it wasn't funny at the time."

Despite encompassing so much of the Australian culture, Elsy is, and always will be, truly Swiss. She treasures her Swiss heritage and upbringing, but realises that she could never return to live in her native country while Australia is tied so strongly to her.

Leisl Baumgartner



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