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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND

Dear fellow Swiss Citizens,

On 26 November 2004 I had the honour to present my credentials to the Governor General in Canberra, thus taking up my new posting in Australia. Since then I have had the opportunity to see quite a number of places in and around Canberra - and what I have seen, makes me looking forward to my next four years in Australia.

During this time my wife and myself will have the chance of meeting many of you personally, when travelling to the



different States and Capitals. I am looking forward to that; I have already been impressed many times when learning what Swiss emigrants have achieved in this wonderful country. Your activities, your involvement in Australia's development are important in shaping Switzerland's image too; thus each of you is a kind of a Swiss Ambassador, and I would like to thank you for that.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in the activities of Swiss associations and circles, here in Australia. These activities follow old Swiss traditions of individual engagements for a common cause.

May 2005 bring you good health, a lot of success, personally as well as professionally, and a great amount of personal satisfaction in whatever your endeavours are.

Christian Mühlthaler
Ambassador of Switzerland

SWISS REVIEW**NOTE TO THE EDITORS**

The deadline for the 2/2005 edition, covering end of April to middle of July, is 7 March 2005.

Please make sure your contributions, preferably in electronic form (email), arrive in time at the following address:

Consulate General of Switzerland
Level 7, 420 St Kilda Road
Melbourne Vic 3004
Tel. (03) 9825 4000
Fax (03) 9866 5907
vertretung@mel.rep.admin.ch

CONSULAR DISTRICT MELBOURNE**SWISS CLUB OF VICTORIA**

89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000
Tel. (03) 9650 1196 Restaurant
President: Rita Schwaerzler-Abbt
Tel. (03) 9561 7811 Club
ritam@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubvict

Dear Swiss Club Friends,

We hope that the year 2005 has started on a splendid note for you and your families and promises to bring a bounty of good tidings.

A big part of the world had to start the New Year with the aftermath of a colossal disaster caused by a tsunami. The grief, the loss, the pain and trauma is overwhelming and we share the sadness and despair.

It also has shown us how, in an emergency, we feel instinctively that somewhere deep down we are one people, whatever colour or religion we show or proclaim; we are human beings and tied together. This feeling and understanding may have changed us forever and may contribute to more peaceful times.

One says that bad leads to good. Let's learn our piece, although we may have understood as well if the lesson had not been quite as big.

The Swiss Club is our little island within the big scheme of things and we are here to listen, to help and to share in grief and celebrations.

Let's meet often during 2005. The Swiss Club Newsletter and our website will inform you about the happenings.

Wednesday, 6 April 2005
Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 17 April 2005
Volksfest at the Austrian Club Grounds
Until we meet again, take care.
For the Committee of the Swiss Club
Rita Schwaerzler-Abbt, President

LADIES LUNCHEON

The Swiss Club of Victoria
Convener Heidy Giger
Tel. (03) 9889 9321

The Ladies Luncheon of the Swiss Club

takes place every first Wednesday of every second month.

Dates to remember in 2005: 2 March, 4 May, 6 July, 7 September, 2 November.

The Luncheon includes a 2 course meal (set menu), wine, soft drinks, coffee, and provides a guest speaker covering all spectra of life. Members and friends are most welcome.

Bookings are essential with the Swiss Club, Tel. (03) 9650 1196.

Heidy Giger

THE SWISS COMPANION SINGERS

Urs Marfurt
44 Greenways Road
Glen Waverley Vic 3150
Tel. (03) 9802 5182

If you enjoy Swiss music in the mountain air, join us on Sunday 20 March for the Picnic Andacht. This popular annual event, organised by the Swiss Companion Singers, is held at the Wandin East Recreation Reserve (Melway reference 121 K9).

There will be an open-air religious service as well as alphorn-playing by Irma Thalmann, Ländlermusik by 'Kapelle Grüezi Mitenand' and folk songs by the Swiss Companion Singers. Festivities start at 11.30am and continue throughout the afternoon. Entry is free. There is no need to pack any food - Swiss sausages, Nussgipfel and drinks will all be on sale.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Swiss Companion Singers, this is a great opportunity to meet the members as well as conductor Toni Hofmann. New members are very welcome. We rehearse at the Swiss Club on the second and third Thursday evening of every month from 8pm on.

For more information on the Swiss Companion Singers or the Picnic Andacht, please contact me on (03) 9802 5182.

Urs Marfurt

YOUNG SWISS GROUP

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month in the Swiss Club (89 Flinders Lane, Melbourne).

The meeting will give you the opportunity to meet other Swiss who are either

currently living in Australia, have migrated permanently or were born in Australia to Swiss parents.

The get-together is very informal and a good place to network, make friends and enjoy a Swiss meal if you wish. There are no further formal activities but typically someone will organise something and invite others to come along. Generally we number somewhere between 10 to 20 people. Anyone is welcome to come along. If you would like further information, please call Melissa on 0422 951 381.

Melissa Preissner and Aran Fitzgerald

SWISS YODEL CHOIR MATTERHORN

3 Bluegum Court
Upwey Vic 3158
President: Marco Unternährer
Tel. (03) 9752 6996 (h) or
Tel. (03) 9388 8777 (b)
marunt@optusnet.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/matterhorn

We meet every Wednesday (except first Wednesday in the month) at Marco's at the above address at 8pm. If you are tempted to join the choir, take the plunge and turn up or ring Marco at the above numbers, you will be most welcome!

The first of the traditional Jass evenings for the year had to be changed and is now on Saturday, 5 March at the Horticultural Centre, Jolimont Rd, Forest Hill (Melway 62F4). The other dates remain as Saturday, 14 May and Saturday, 13 August.

Walter Schellenberg

SWISS FOLK DANCE GROUP ALPENROSE

President: Sylvia Hochuli
92 Addison Street
Elwood Vic 3184
Tel. (03) 9531 6575
hochuli@bigpond.com

The group continues the tradition of folkdancing.

Before Christmas we visited the Gregory Lodge Nursing Home in Flemington and the Villa Maria Home in Bundoora. Together with the Swiss Companion Singers we performed a mini concert. The alphorn tunes and the singing saw, accompanied

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MELBOURNE

Please note that the address for all correspondence is:

Level 7, 420 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne Vic 3004

by the Schwyzerörgeli, were also a great success with the seniors.

The date for the Unterhaltungsabend at the Swiss Club is 7 May. 'Kapelle Grüezi Mitenand' will entertain you. Please book with Roger Moulet at the Club on (03) 9650 1196. We look forward to see there.

The dates for the Jass nights at the Swiss Club are: 9 April, 18 June, 16 July, 10 September.

We meet every Tuesday night at the Swiss Club for practice. Do come and join us! For more information call me on the above number.

Sylvia Hochuli

TRACHTENGRUPPE SCHWYZERGRUESS / AUSTRALIAN SWISS CULTURAL SOCIETY

President: Brigitte Jukes
25 Tullimbar Circuit
Vermont South Vic 3133
Tel. (03) 9887 8489
b_jukes@yahoo.com

Dear compatriots and friends,

Welcome to the New Year, and may we all enjoy it in good health. Our coffee afternoon was a big success; we enjoyed lots of coffee, cake and chats. The mystery trip in November led us to Williamstown, with lunch by the bay, and from the feedback we received, everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Every year we try our very best to make our outings and occasions enjoyable, so if you wish to join us, we meet every second Wednesday of the month. You can contact me at the above phone number, or email me any time, if you have any queries.

See you at our functions that will be advised in the forthcoming issues.

Bis bald,

Brigitte Jukes

GROUPE ROMAND DU VICTORIA

Présidente: Marianne Puccinelli
Tél. (03) 9561 9595
www.swiss.org.au/chfrvic

Le Groupe Romand a pour raison d'être la promotion de l'utilisation de la langue française. Si vous n'avez pas souvent l'occasion de parler français et que vous souhaitez rencontrer d'autres personnes francophones, joignez-nous et voyez par vous-même.

Nous organisons 5 à 6 sorties par année et les activités proposées conviennent aussi bien à des couples qu'à des familles ou à des personnes seules. Nous comptons déjà parmi nos membres des enfants de tout âge.

Si vous désirez en apprendre davantage sur notre groupe et ses activités, n'hésitez pas à contacter notre présidente ou à visiter notre site internet où vous y trouverez des détails sur toutes nos sorties futures et passées. Nous y publions des photos et des "links" qui pourraient vous intéresser.

Vous êtes tous les bienvenus!

Marianne Puccinelli

SATURDAY MORNING SWISS SCHOOL

Convenor: Barbara Kündig
36 Baker Parade
Ashburton Vic 3147
Tel. (03) 9813 8843
scvmbship@hotmail.com

The children are being taught in a playful and engaging way everything they want to know about Switzerland, its history, culture and traditions. The School takes place every second Saturday morning from 9.30 to 12.30 on the 2nd floor of the Swiss Club at 89 Flinders Lane. Participating children should be 5+. Please feel free to join us any time.

For more information and to join please contact the convenor.

Barbara Kündig

SWISS PLAYGROUP

Ingrid Preston
17 Mary Avenue
Edithvale Vic 3196
Tel. (03) 9772 0516

We meet every 1st Thursday of the month at the Swiss Club (11am to 2pm). For more information, please call the above number.

Ingrid Preston

Tasmania**SWISS AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY**

GPO Box 1087
Hobart Tas 7001
President: Hans Foehn
Secretary: Noleen Foehn
Tel. (03) 6267 4108

Our next function will be a Bee Tour on 6 March. Please contact Paul Wigger no later than Friday, 25 February, on (03) 6228 1802 if you would like to attend.

Noleen Foehn

South Australia**SWISS CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**

64 Castle Street
Parkside SA 5063
President: Regula Müller
Tel: (08) 9337 7548 (day)
Tel: (08) 8337 0333 (evening)
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubsa

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and safe New Year's celebrations. This is going to be an incredible year filled with lots of exciting events.

Our Christmas Party was held at Morialta Conservation Park and the day was a great success. Everyone had a fantastic time conversing with one another on such a beautiful day. All children loved Santa's special appearance and were very pleased with their bags of goodies. Thank you to everyone who spent time making salads, cakes and biscuits for afternoon tea; they were delicious.

The next event is the 'Hockete', which is held on 4 March at the Austrian Association at 11-17 Torrens Road, Ovingham. Join us from 6.30pm onwards for a Schnitzel or just a chat. Held on the first Friday of every month, this gathering welcomes everyone.

On the first Monday of every month is when the 'Schwyzer Frauechranzli' meets. The next event is being held on 7 March at Rosmarie's house at 9 Gray Street, Tranmere. It is a gathering of women who have been friends for a while, however they always welcome newcomers. So why not join them? For further information please contact Rosmarie Copeland on (08) 8336 5932.

On 27 March at 11.30am we will undertake an exciting Easter Bushwalking event. The walk will begin at the Black Hill Conservation Park at the end of Addison Avenue, Athelstone. It is advised to wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Bring water and a packed lunch.

The annual Fondue night will be held on 28 May.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events. We can't wait to welcome a few new faces. Information regarding functions is available from our website or by contacting Regula Müller.

Sibylle Faeh

Western Australia**SWISS CLUB OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

P.O. Box 411
Northbridge WA 6865
President: Claudia Henzen
Tel. (08) 9246 9623
clhenzen@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubwa

Our Annual Picnic at the Swiss Club Property at Rolling Green, near Gidgegannup (now with flushing toilets!) was this year not quite so well attended due to the Yodellers as well as the 'Guggeburras' performing at other functions.

We also held our traditional "Steinstossen" for men and women, but did not, this year, include a children's section because the

children where just too young to handle the "big stones".

Then we had our Father Christmas Picnic at Perry Lakes, which was a great success. We had around 70 children present who were eager to see the Samichlaus. A big thank you to all the sponsors of the cakes and sweets for our cake stall. Jean Claude's Nussgipfel where again a big success and sold out quickly.

We also want to say thank you to all the people who responded to the Survey that was sent out. We received 328 replies which still need to be analysed.

I hope to see you at one of our events.

Claudia Henzen, President

Coming Events:

27 March: Easter Picnic, Whiteman Park
14 May: Metzgete, Old Austria Club, 7pm
June: Wine Bottling, Gabin Estate
30 July: 1st August Ball (venue will be announced later)

Regular Events:**SWISS SPORT CLUB:**

Usually every first Friday of the month at 7pm at various locations. Contact René Henzen (08) 9246 9623 if you want to attend.

Coming events:

4 March: Petanque
8 April: Tennis
6 May: Slot Car Racing, Welshpool
3 June: Go-Carts

JASS EVENING:

Every third Thursday of the month starting at 7pm sharp at Borsalino Ristorante,

35 Hampden Road, Nedlands (Tel. 9389 8141, fully licensed, dinner for \$15). Contact: Peter Mueller (08) 9291 8402.

Coming dates:

17 March, 21 April, 19 May, 16 June

SWISS RADIO PERTH

Swiss Radio Perth broadcasts on 6EBA FM on 95.3 MHz between 7pm and 8pm every Tuesday night. The programme is in French every fourth Tuesday of the month, and the other programmes are in Swiss German. Contact the presenter at the studio on (08) 9227 5953 during the program, or James Kunz on (08) 9370 5307.

THE SWISS YODELLERS OF WA

The Yodellers are the only traditional Swiss folk group in Western Australia. They are a unique experience, presenting Swiss folk music sung in harmony. For enquiries ring Peter Mueller on (08) 9291 8402 or write to 8 Mitchell Road Walliston WA 6076.

THE GUGGEBURRAS

The Guggeburras are the best (and only!) Guggeburras group in Western Australia. Formed 3 years ago for the Fasnacht celebrations, they are enthusiastic, colourful and play artfully out of tune. Please contact Jenny Leutenegger on (08) 9277 7826 or leutech@iexpress.net.au for information about the Guggeburras.

PLAYGROUP

The Swiss playgroup meets every first Friday of the month. If anybody is interested in joining our group or just wants more information please call Karin Villemain on (08) 9203 5953.

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CONSULAR DISTRICT SYDNEY

MESSAGE FROM THE CONSULATE
GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN
SYDNEY

Following an earlier announcement that the entrance to the offices of the Swiss Consulate / AHV/AVS/OASI had been moved, the revised and final street address is now
 101 Grafton Street,
 (cnr. Grosvenor Street)
 Tower 2, Level 23
 Bondi Junction NSW 2022
 The postal address remains unchanged
 (P.O. Box 282, Bondi Junction NSW 1355)

thanks go to Robbert Veenendaal for his efforts as president over the last four years and all the committee members who continue to contribute tirelessly.

During the Samichlaus picnic in December we were very pleased to welcome our new Ambassador to Australia and his wife, Mr and Mrs Mühlthaler. It was an early opportunity for them to meet the Swiss community in Canberra at this warm and friendly event, and it didn't take long before some roots were traced back to similar origins.

In this positive light the following functions are planned for 2005:

11-13 March: Coast Weekend
 15 May: Hike/walk - Corin Forest / Gibraltar Rocks
 17 June: Fondue evening
 10 July: Wood collecting
 31 July: Swiss National Day celebration
 2 October: Jass Tournament
 4 November: AGM
 4 December: Samichlaus

A possible film or trivia night for August/September is also planned.

More details on the events will be available in the newsletter and on our website.

The Canberra Ethnic Radio FM91.1 broadcasts a Swiss program every Monday night from 5-7pm. The program is informative as well as entertaining with

local content and news from Switzerland. So tune in your radio!

Heinz Buettikofer

New South Wales

THE SWISS CLUB OF NSW LTD.

GPO Box 3713
 Sydney NSW 2001
 President: Peter Pluess
 Tel. (02) 9416 6190
 Fax (02) 9416 6508
 swissclub_nsw@hotmail.com

I hope that 2005 has started well for all members and friends of the Swiss Club.

On 19 March we'll have a ghost tour in the Rocks which no doubt will be a lot of fun. Most of us will meet for dinner in the Rocks beforehand. It'll be easier to "endure" the ghosts with a full belly and a couple of glasses of wine in our system to calm the nerves!

Our popular Consul General Albert Mehr will, unfortunately, be leaving sunny Australia soon. Remember the events he organised on 03.03.03 and 04.04.04. Well, his farewell party is going to be on 03.04.05! It will be a very special event which is organised as a "joint venture" between all the Swiss groups in Sydney. As Albert & Renate will be going back to mountains, we thought it would be

appropriate to have this party on one of Sydney's beautiful beaches. You'll find more details about all these functions in the latest issue of the Swiss Community News.

Please remember that Monday nights is Jass night at the Eiger Restaurant and your Swiss Club Committee usually meets every first Monday evening of the month also at the Eiger. Every second Friday of the month the Swiss also get together at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest for a bite to eat and a bit of socializing. Come along and bring your friends to either of these evenings. It's

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Für weitere Auskunft / Broschüre wenden Sie sich bitte an: IMFELD AUTOMOTIVE 2/14 Reid St., Bayswater, Victoria 3153.

Tel (03) 9762 5144 Fax (03) 9762 5940

ACT

CANBERRA SWISS CLUB INC.

Correspondence to:
 The Secretary
 P.O. Box 3211
 Manuka ACT 2603
 President: Heinz Buettikofer
 Tel. (02) 6255 7933
 www.swiss.org.au
 heinz@swiss.org.au

Dear members and friends,

Last year was again a successful year for our club with members and friends taking part in many attractive functions. Many

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always very pleasant and relaxing and the food is great.

Last but not least, please remember to refer new members to us whenever possible and buy the products or services from the organisations and companies that support the Swiss Club either by sponsoring our functions and/or advertising in The Swiss Community News. Thank you very much.

Peter Pluess

SACCI

Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Suite 209,
203 New South Head Road
Edgecliff NSW 2027
Tel. (02) 9326 1986
Fax (02) 9328 7299
admin@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au
Chapters in Victoria and Queensland

SACCI's aim is to promote the expansion of bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and Australian business. To promote Swiss industry and facilitate networking opportunities for our members, numerous functions and events throughout the year are being held across Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

The SACCI secretariat is responsible for handling all commercial related enquiries on behalf of the Consulate General of Switzerland. Please contact us if you have a query or if you would like further information about the chamber and its services.

Dean Storchenegger

SWISS PLAYGROUP SYDNEY

Gabriela Elias:
Tel. (02) 9938 4239
Helena Nobis:
Tel. (02) 9997 4131
nobschiu@ozemail.com.au

We meet every last Friday of the month at 10:30 am at the Austrian Club, Grattan Crescent, Frenchs Forest.

For more information, please contact any of the above numbers.

Helena Nobis

SWISS YODLERS OF SYDNEY

11B Maxwell Street
Mona Vale NSW 2103
President: Martin Scarpino
Tel. (02) 9979 6989
Fax (02) 9997 2769
martin.scarpino@leica-microsystems.com

Dear readers and friends of the Swiss Yodlers,

A warm "Guets Neus" from the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. We wish all our fans and supporters a great 2005 and hope to see all of you at one of our great functions.

Next function? We would like to invite all of you to join us on our traditional harbor cruise on Saturday, 26 February, leaving Birkenhead Point Wharf at 6pm (sharp). We have a great dinner ready for you and, of course, a few hours of good party time, music, singing and laughing and a raffle hard to beat. Please contact Roesli on (02) 9979 3738 or 0421 342 452.

Our main project this year is, of course, the attendance of the Eidg. Jodlerfest in Aarau from 17 to 19 June 2005. We are all excited to participate and we have already done most of the logistic work: flights, hotels/ accommodation, transport, Festwagen, yodel song. We have also already received a lot of support from some Swiss locals and the local Yodelclub Hitzkirch/LU. I am happy to inform that some 5 people from the Yodelclub in Melbourne will join us in Switzerland to add some voice weight during our performance. And then there is our friend Willy Kunz who emigrated to Brazil 15 months ago and will also be part of our group. He is practising our yodel song in tropical Brazil! I am sure we have a significant group together to impress the strict judges of the Swiss Jodel Verband.

Would you like to join our club? We practise every Monday from 8pm at the Salvation Army building, Johnston Street, Chatswood.

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Notre prochaine sortie: week-end camping 11-13 mars, Wiseman Ferry. Détente et convivialité au bord de la majestueuse Hawkesbury River.

Pour tout les détails sur notre programme d'activités, veuillez consulter notre site internet www.swiss.org.au/cercleromand ou par tél. 9874 9096 Anne Resplendino, Présidente.

A plaisir de vous rencontrer,

Pour le comité,

Erik Dupont, secrétaire

SWISS COMMUNITY CARE SOCIETY INC.

c/o Consulate General of Switzerland
P.O. Box 282
Bondi Junction NSW 1355
President: Margrit Bachmann
Tel./Fax (02) 9332 3214
margbach@tig.com.au

We assist and help in many ways but we also need your help to find the community members that need support. Please communicate with us about anyone you believe may need CARE by contacting the president or Ursula Zahnd on (02) 9529 5785, email: zahnd@cia.com.au.

Margrit Bachmann

You may also consider bringing your child to our Chinderchörl (we practise native Swiss children's songs every 1st Saturday morning of each month). For more information please call Esther on (02) 9452 6865.

See all on board of the MV Proclaim on 26 February.

Martin Scarpino
President

THE SENIORS OF THE SYDNEY AREA

Ida Gugger
2/73 Frederick Street
Rockdale NSW 2216
Tel. (02) 9597 7096

The Swiss Seniors of Sydney and surroundings and their friends are cordially invited to attend the luncheon gatherings at the following dates and places in 2005:

12 March: at the new Concordia Club

7 May: at the Eiger

23 July: at Concordia Club

15 October: at the Eiger

17 December: at Concordia Club

The new Concordia Club is situated right opposite Tempe Station, in Richardson Crescent. The Eiger is in Parramatta Road, Petersham.

Further information and bookings as usual with Ida Gugger.

Ida Gugger

SYDNEY/MELBOURNE SBS 'SWISS RADIO'

SBS broadcasts, within the German language segment, a special Swiss half hour every Sunday night from 8.30 pm to 9 pm. It is prepared by Mrs Ursula Schaeppi at the Sydney SBS studios. The Sydney FM frequency is 97.7 and the Melbourne one FM 93.1. Ursula is also allowed to make community announcements, such as functions. So, please give her a ring at home on (02) 9955 7628. Tune in to the latest news and information.

Queensland

SWISS COMMUNITY CARE SOCIETY INC. (Qld Chapter)

85 Moorbell Street
Tarragindi Qld 4121
President: Lorly Wihler
Tel. (07) 3298 5300

We hope you had a good start to the New Year.

We did not have a date for our annual Senior Citizen Day as this article went to print, but it could be as early as May this year. Please do not hesitate to ring Lorly if you would like to know more about this function. Our members will receive their Newsletter prior to the date, and details will be published in the next Swiss Review, at the end of April, and in the Swiss News of Queensland as soon as they are available.

Consider becoming a member to receive our Newsletter twice a year, giving you details about our functions and other information regarding the Society. Ring Lorly for an Application Form.

Ruth Enggist
Editor SCCS Qld

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