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Editorial. Social Security Agreement Special

It has been speculated and talked about a lot, and now finally, the **Bilateral Social Security Agreement between Switzerland and Australia** has been signed and came into effect January 1st 2008.

So how does it work? What does it mean for Swiss living Down Under? In order to give you the big picture, I decided to print both articles explaining the agreement:

- the "official" version from the Embassy in Canberra / Consulate in Sydney
- the article from Peter Meury, CSA/ASO Delegate

It is still early days and only time will tell how the many different cases will be handled.

Marc Godat, Regional Editor Australia

Phone: (07) 3899 8996, or email to: mgodat@off-ice.com.au

Consulate/Embassy. Social Security Agreement

Signed by Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin in October 2006 and ratified by the Parliaments of the two countries in 2007, the bilateral Agreement on Social Security has become effective on January 1st 2008, after the additional Administrative Arrangement has been signed. Some may have read the advertisements published in many newspapers before Christmas by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The texts of the Agreement as well as of the Arrangement can be found on the official Swiss website (www.eda.ch/australia). The website of FACSIA also gives information (www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/internationalagreements-new.htm).

Such bilateral agreements have become a standard for both Australia and Switzerland; that's the reason why both sides pushed for it. It took a long time to elaborate since the two pension systems are totally different. Switzerland's AHV is contributory (according to the income) and guarantees a pension to all those retiring, independently of their income and their assets. The Australian Pension on the other hand is non-contributory and means-tested.

Here in Australia, the Agreement regulates cases of Australian citizens or Swiss nationals, having worked in Switzerland. Both groups can ask for a Swiss pension, now. Such a pension, on the other hand, has to be declared as income in the Australian tax declaration (this has always been the case, but some might have overlooked it). There could be cases where (means-tested) Australian pensions could be reduced due to the additional revenue generated by an AHV-pension. Centerlink, from now on, is entitled to ask for information from AHV-authorities on pensions received by an Australian citizen or a Swiss national who has previously worked in Switzerland. The agreement also covers the cases of Swiss or Australian citizen living in Switzerland and having worked in Australia, in the past.

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney has been notified of some cases already, where Swiss Citizens, living in Australia and having worked in Switzerland at a time, have been asked by Centrelink to get in touch with the AHV-authorities in Geneva, in order to get information on their pension-entitlements.

For further information concerning Old Age Pensions and Survivor's Benefits, please send your queries to:

AUSTRALIA:
Centrelink International Services
GPO Box 273
HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 13 1673
Email: International.services@centrelink.gov.au
Website: www.centrelink.gov.au

SWITZERLAND:
Central Compensation Office CdC
Swiss Compensation Office SCO
Voluntary Insurance, Benefits
Avenue Edmond-Vaucher 18
P.O. Box 3100
CH-1211 GENEVA 2
Phone: +41 22 795 91 11
Fax: +41 22 795 97 03
Email: sedmaster@zas.admin.ch
Web: www.av-s-ai-international.ch

Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra
/ Consulate General, Sydney

Consulate General

Consulate General of Switzerland
101 Grafton Street, Cnr Grosvenor St
Tower 2, Level 23, Bondi Junction,
NSW 2022, Australia

Postal address:
P.O. Box 282, Bondi Junction,
NSW 1555, Australia
Phone: 0061 2 8383 4000
Fax: 0061 2 9369 1334
E-Mail: syd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/australia

Useful Online References

www.revue.ch
www.aso.ch
www.swissinfo.org
www.eda.admin.ch/australia
www.swiss.org.au
www.sacci.com.au
www.av-s-ai-international.ch

Consulate General of Switzerland. News Update

Dear Compatriots, Heads of Swiss companies and organisations,

Another eventful and rather stressful year 2007 ended and I would like to take this opportunity to mention just a few highlights:

After the closure of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Melbourne at the end of September 2006, the OASI/DI-Office (AHV/IV) in Sydney closed for good on 30 June 2007. Since then the Office of the Swiss Compensation in Geneva is responsible for all relevant OASI/DI matters.

From a cultural point of view, Switzerland once more marked its presence here Down Under with some interesting visual art exhibition (Olaf Breuning, Yongjoo-Marbot, Beat Knoblauch Collection, UBS Art Collection, Alfonso Hüppi, Joe Felber etc.) and some delightful musical concerts (Katharina Gohl, Jürg Dähler, Canberra International Chamber Music Festival etc.). As previously mentioned, this Consulate welcomes any suggestions with regards to the Swiss cultural presence in Australia. Should you hear of any exhibition or concert in your area that involves Swiss artists, please let us know as early as possible, so that the event can be included in the cultural calendar of the Swiss Consulate General. Thank you!

Another successful highlight in 2007 was - without any doubt - the event "LOCATION SWITZERLAND" which was organised by the Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) and sponsored by Sacci Corporate Sponsors. This event, with the message - invest in Switzerland - attracted representatives from Australian based companies looking to establish and expand into Switzerland and Europe. Ambassador Monika Rühl Burzi of the State Secretariat for the Economy (SECO) in Bern was one of several guest speakers.

I wish you also on behalf of my team, a happy and positive 2008! This Consulate General will continue to pay great importance to an open dialogue with all of you and I thank you for the fruitful cooperation during 2007. Yours sincerely

Jürg Casserini, Consul General

CSA/ASO Delegates. Social Security Agreement

Late September/early October, the two Houses of the Swiss Parliament (National Council and Council of States) have unanimously accepted the bilateral Agreement which was last year negotiated and agreed at ministerial level between the two Governments. It regulates the question of pension recipients, especially for Australian citizens who have worked in Switzerland and have contributed to the AHV. Alternatively, a Swiss citizen who has worked for some time in Australia has the possibility to receive an Australian State Pension when he or she retires provided they pass the means test.

The Australian Pension is non-contributory, but means-tested, but AHV receivers have contributed in accordance with their earnings (after paying tax when in Australia). It is therefore, necessary that Swiss citizens declare their AHV receipts as Income in their tax return. In case they draw the Australian pension, it means that such pension entitlements may be reduced. At the start of AHV entitlement, Swiss citizens receive a Statement from Geneva indicating their contributions to the Fund. This can be used as a basis for their UPP (undeducted Purchase Price). In effect it means they may receive a more favourable tax treatment. It is suggested that any such issues should be discussed with an accountant.

It should also be realised, that Centrelink has now the possibility to verify whether a Swiss citizen is entitled to receive AHV pensions. We have been informed that details will not be communicated without the consent of the individual concerned. Information exchange is alleged only to be in the interest of social security and details are specified in the Agreement. We understand there is no exchange of lists of recipients between Governments.

Finally, taxation matters are regulated in the bilateral Taxation Agreement between the two countries which has been in force for many years.

Peter Meury, CSA Delegate
p.meury@bigpond.com

Revue Online: Ida Gugger



Revue Online: The story of Ida Gugger...
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Actual News by swissinfo/SRI
EDA - Swiss Representations in Australia
Swiss Clubs on the Net in Australia
Bilateral trade and investment information
OASI/DI and voluntary contributions

Victoria

Swiss Club of Victoria

89 Flinders Lane
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel: (03) 9650 1196 Club
Fax: (03) 9650 3104
President: Rolf Huber
Mobile 0425 805 854
Email: rhuber@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubvic

If you are looking for a place to wine and dine in the heart of Melbourne, with great food and service with a smile, look no further. The Swiss Club Restaurant offers good value for money. Roger Moullet, chef and restaurant manager cooks up a treat. The restaurant is open for lunch from Monday to Friday and for dinner from Wednesday to Friday. All visitors are welcome!

Every first Thursday of the month Kapelle Gruezi Mitenand, featuring the fabulous John Wanner invites you to an entertaining evening. It is a perfect opportunity to experience Swiss Folklore. Bring your friends along and do not forget to book!

Looking back, 2007 was a very successful year with the Samichlaus and the Senior Noel concluding the busy social calendar in December. It is encouraging to have so many young families attending our traditional functions like Swiss National Day and Samichlaus. Likewise, we are pleased with the turnout of our senior members who enjoy our activities with every function virtually booked out. The club endeavors to offer a variety of functions and activities throughout the year with something for everyone.

Going forward, March and April will see plenty of action at the club with the Melbourne Comedy Festival taking place from 17th March to 15th April 2008. The AGM, with a surprise, will take place on 5th March.

If you would like to improve your Jass skills we suggest you play with the champs on 15th March and 19th April. The club's first movie night in many years is planned for 23rd April. As always, you will find more information on our website. But clearly, the focal point of the year is the Swiss Festival (formerly known as the Volksfest) on 6th April.

Victoria Events

- 16/2: Fasnacht - Masked Ball, Swiss Club
- 20/2: Induction New members, Swiss C.
- 24/2: Fin d'été celebration, Gr. Romande
- 28/2: Joint Swiss Ventures Comm. Meeting
- 5/3: Ladies Luncheon, Swiss Club
- 5/3: AGM of the Swiss Club
- 6/3: Kapelle Gruezi Mitenander, entertains at the Swiss Club
- 15/3: Jass Night Matterhorn
- 16/3: Swiss Companion Singers Andacht Wandin East
- 13&27/3: Meeting of the Swiss Festival Committee, (formerly Volksfest)
- 3/4: Kapelle Gruezi Mitenander, Club
- 6/4: Swiss Festival, (formerly Volksfest) - Austrian Club
- 10/4: Meeting of Committees of Joint Swiss Ventures & Swiss Festival
- 19/4: Jass Night Swiss Club
- 23/4: Movie Night at the Swiss Club

The committee is looking for volunteers and would-be or professional entertainers with a Swiss background who are interested in performing on the day. What makes this day so special is the fact that all Victoria-based Swiss community groups are joining forces for the first time to represent Switzerland's culture and many faces. Don't miss the most spectacular event of the year!

Rolf Huber

Ladies Luncheon

The Swiss Club of Victoria
Convenor: Heidi Giger
Tel: (03) 9889 9321

The Ladies Luncheon includes a 2 course meal (set menu), wine, soft drinks, coffee, and a guest speaker talking about all spectra of life. Members and friends are most welcome. Bookings are essential with the Swiss Club.

The Swiss Companion Singers

Convenor: Heidi Giger
107 Glyndon Road
Camberwell Vic 3124
Tel: (03) 9889 9321, or
Herbert Schwaerzler (03) 9561 7811

We are a mixed choir and meet at the Swiss Club every second and third Thursday of the month for practice, singing old and new folk songs.

Young Swiss Group

Convenor: Amy Bohren
amybohren@hotmail.com
www.swiss.org.au/scvyoung

We meet on every second Wednesday of the month. Anyone is welcome to come along. For further information, please call me or join the email group (web).

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn

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

Every Wednesday evening we meet for choir practice at Marco's address (see above) - why don't you join in on the fun one evening!

Some members of our choir will join the Swiss Yodelers and Alphorn Group of Sydney to travel to Switzerland and perform at the Eidgenössische Jodlerfest Luzern, which will take place from 26 to 29 June 2008. Practice for this special event is currently in full swing!

Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose

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

We meet every Tuesday night at the Swiss Club for practice. New members are welcome. We like to continue the tradition of Swiss folk dancing.

Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess / Australian Swiss Cultural Soc.

Vice-President: Silvia Hochuli
(contact details as above)

Groupe Romand Du Victoria

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

Pro Ticino - Pro Down Under

President: Claude Rossi
5 Falls Road, Hoddles Creek Vic 3139
Tel: (03) 5967 4542

Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

SACCI (Victoria)
Directors: Thomas Schmocker & Gerhard Keller
Tel: (03) 9646 9595
Fax: (02) 9223 7211
victoria@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au

For further details, refer to the NSW section.

SANM

Swiss Academic Network Melbourne
info@sanm.id.au
www.sanm.id.au

SANM organizes meetings each second month and alternates between social get-togethers and formal presentations.

Bruno Giger

Saturday Morning Swiss School

Convenor: Andrea Pinch
Tel: (03) 5331 6762
pinch@hotmail.net.au
www.swiss.org.au/scvschool

We aim to foster and support families who speak and teach their children the Swiss German language. For further information, check our website or contact Andrea.

First date for the school year 08: Sat, 2nd Feb.

Swiss Playgroup

Ingrid Preston (03) 9772 0516
Claudia Dahinden (03) 9347 6913
www.swiss.org.au/playgroup

We aim to foster and support families who speak the Swiss German language at home to familiarise the children at an early age of Swiss customs and culture through play. 1st Thursday of each month at the Swiss Club.

South Australia

Swiss Club of South Australia

64 Castle Street
Parkside SA 5063
Regula Muller
Tel: (08) 8337 7548 (work)
Tel: (08) 8337 0333 (evening)
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubsa

Gruezi mitenand!

By the time you read this Swiss Revue most of the New Year's resolutions will be 'out the window' but at least the exceptionally hot summer days around Adelaide should be over. The Swiss Club of SA usually starts the year with a Beach Day but this time we made it a Camping weekend at Pt. Elliot. The committee is dedicated to getting more Swiss and their friends involved in the activities - so what is stopping you to pick up the phone and joining us?

Upcoming Events

- 24/3: Easter Monday Swiss Club Bushwalk

For further details please look us up on the web, contact Sibylle Faeh for a newsletter on (08) 8294 8203 or call Regula Muller on (08) 8337 7548.



Swiss Festival

Sunday, 6th April 2008
Austrian Club, 76-90 Sheehan Road, Heidelberg West
(Melway 19 F9)
From 11am to 4pm

Come and experience true Swiss culture and folklore. Enjoy Swiss food from many parts of Switzerland and dance, sing or yodel along to well known tunes. Be part of the action when for the first time all Swiss community groups in Victoria celebrate the Swiss Festival (formerly known as Volksfest) It is the biggest event yet! Bring your families and friends and have a good time! Games for children, trash and treasure stalls. Everyone is welcome! Ample parking is available.

Swiss Festival Committee, c/o Swiss Club of Victoria,
89 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000, Ph 03 9650 1196,
email: swissclubvic@swiss.org.au www.swiss.org.au

- Following organisations or groups will attend:
- The Swiss Ambassador to Australia
- Honorary Consul of Switzerland (Victoria)
- Australian/Swiss Cultural Society
- Groupe Romand du Victoria
- Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (ASO)
- Swiss Academic Network Melbourne (SANM)
- Pro Ticino
- Saturday Morning Swiss School
- Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Swiss Club of Victoria
- Swiss Companion Singers
- Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose
- Swiss Society of Victoria (Benevolent Society)
- Swiss Playgroup
- Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn
- Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess
- The Young Swiss Group



"Hockete" stands for a casual get-together - everybody is welcome to join us on the first Friday of the month at the Austrian Association at 11 - 17 Torrens Road, Ovingham from 6.30 pm onwards. Come along for a delicious meal and the chance to brush up on your 'Schwyzerduetsch'.

The "Schwyzer Frauechraenzli" meets on the first Monday of the month. We are group of 50+ aged ladies who enjoy a good time out, be it a visit to the movies, lunch in the park or an excursion. You are welcome to join us. For further details please call Rosmarie Copeland on (08) 8336 5932.

Swiss Radio 5EBI Adelaide
Listen to the Swiss Corner every Saturday between 6 - 7 pm on 103.1FM. Phone-ins are welcome on (08) 8211 7066. Why not surprise a loved one with a special song?

Keep in touch with your 'Heimatland' and attend a Swiss Club function.

Maya Schnider, Secretary

Western Australia

Swiss Club of Western Australia

Correspondence to: PO Box 411 Northbridge WA 6865
President: Peter Gabathuler
Tel/Fax: (08) 9296 3960
anpega@oceanbroadband.net
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubwa

Sali mitenand und a "GUETS NEUS"

The Annual Picnic: What a glorious day it turned out to be at our own resort in Rolling Green. Surrounded by Swiss flags and the Australian bush environment, people renewed old friendships and made new ones. The smell of grilled steaks, Bratwürscht and Cervelas, plus the sound of Alphorn and Swiss folklore music were enjoyed by everybody. "Schtei-Schtossa" and Dart throwing were the main games for the adults, in addition to sack races, etc. and "Päckli fischa" were favoured by the children.

The Samichlaus event had been organized by the Playgroup with hands-on help from the committee. Our traditional grilled Bratwürscht and Cervelas with crusty "Schwyzer Brot, Nussgipfel, Lebkuchen and homemade Wienenachts Guezlie" were, as always, in big demand. Sixty-four children waited patiently with gleaming eyes for their turn to speak to the Samichlaus and receive their Samichlaus bag. It was great to see so many children, parents and people from our Swiss community attending this traditional event.

All the best until the next issue.

Peter Gabathuler

Upcoming Events

- 8/3: Busy Bee at Rolling Green
- 6/4: The Playgroup's Easter Picnic at Rolling Green

Regular Events:

Jass Evening. Every Third Thursday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m. at the North Perth Lawn Bowling Club, Woodville Reserve, Farmer Street North Perth. Most players meet for a casual dinner at the Bowling Club at around 6.30 pm. Please book your dinner, \$ 10.00 p.p., by ringing Markus on 0417 982 339 or email shiralee21@hotmail.com.

For more information, ring Peter Mueller on (08) 9291 8402 or email pelimu4243@yahoo.com.au

Swiss Radio 6EBA 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 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. For enquiries, contact Peter Mueller on (08) 9291 8402, pelimu4243@yahoo.com.au or write to 264 Grove Road, Lesmurdie, WA 6076.

The Guggeburras

...need to be seen and heard to be believed. They get together every Tuesday evening to practice new songs for the coming Fasnacht Season. Any carnival-inspired person is welcome to join this fun group, especially brass players and drummers. Contact Jennifer Leutenegger on (08) 9277 7826 or guggeburras@swiss.org.au.

Play Group

The Swiss playgroup meets every first Friday of the month. Mums, check em out, they are great fun. For more information or how to join, ring Alexandra Schaub on 08 94032241.

Northern Territory

Swiss Social Club Darwin

PO Box 241, Nightcliff NT 0814
President: Fritz Risler
Tel/Fax: (08) 8981 4147

The Swiss Social Club in Darwin is a small group of Swiss people and friends who meet a few times throughout the year for a variety of activities. Our main aim is to run social events on a casual basis, giving people a chance to enjoy themselves, reminisce and experience some Swiss culture.

ACT

Canberra Swiss Club Inc.

Correspondence to:
The Secretary, PO Box 3211 Manuka ACT 2603
Tel: (02) 6246 5722
President: Heinz Buettikofer
email: heinz@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/canberraclub

At the AGM in November, the committee was re-elected with two positions changing:

Heinz Büttikofer	President
Werner Albrecht	Vice president
Maria Reed	Secretary
Gaby Hoffmann	Treasurer
Sonja Gasser	Membership Secret.
Hans Brüngger	Property officer
Chris Mill	Newsletter editor
Alice Brüngger,	Committee members
Gaby Hasler and Hedy Zimmermann	

Upcoming Events

- 22/2: Film Evening 'Reise der Hoffnung'
- 7-9/3: Beach Weekend at North Durras
- 19/7/4: Brewery Tour at Zierholz Brewery

The Ambassador Mr Mühlethaler spoke highly of the Canberra Swiss community activities and expressed appreciation for the commitment and the good volunteer work that is being done.

Any confirmation or changes of dates will be announced well in advance in the newsletter, on our website and on Monday radio. If you need more details, please refer to these information channels, or get in touch with any of the committee members.

If you would like to join in on any activities please write to us or give us a call or simply turn up to one of the functions. We are always pleased to see new faces and welcome anybody who would like to participate.

Canberra Ethnic Radio FM91.1

...broadcasts a Swiss program every Monday night from 5-7pm. Werner and Gaby present an informative and entertaining program with local content and news from Switzerland. So tune-in your radio on Mondays.

Heinz Büttikofer

New South Wales

Swiss Australian Cultural Association Inc. (SACA)

SACA President: Marjorie Anderson
Tel: (02) 9247 2490
marjorie@andersonknight.com.au
Membership Sec: Elizabeth Isele
Tel: (02) 9498 4475
elisele@ozemail.com.au
www.swiss.org.au/saca

SACA members welcomed the warm weather with a weekend visit to Canberra in October. The visit included a private tour of the Mount Stromlo Observatory, dinner and drinks with the Swiss Ambassador and his wife followed by a night tour of Canberra. The success of the weekend has prompted a visit to the Mudgee wineries to be planned for April 2008.

In November 2007, SACA members enjoyed the annual Arcadian Artists Studios open weekend, located in the beautiful Dural countryside. A highlight of the day was the visit to Ulrich Steiner's studio where he exhibits with fellow Swiss artist, Evelyn Hadfield-Zuercher.

The Swiss+Oz Art Expo is SACA's major activity for 2008, which will be open from 4 March to 15 March at the Bondi Pavilion Gallery at Bondi Beach. The exhibition will showcase the work of a selected group of Swiss Australian artists, highlighting the creative talent within the community. A range of styles will be on show including painting, drawing, printing, photography and sculpture.

Upcoming Events

- 4-15/3: Swiss+Oz Art Expo, Bondi Pavilion Gallery
- 26-27/4: Weekend visit to Mudgee wineries and surroundings

Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

SACCI (Head Office):
Dean Storchenegger, General Manager
Level 5, 23-25 O'Connell Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9233 7222
Fax: (02) 9233 7211
admin@sacci.com.au
www.sacci.com.au

SACCI's aim is to promote the expansion of bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and Australian business. Celebrating over 20 years, SACCI continues to promote Swiss industry and facilitate networking opportunities for our members. We provide a variety of services to our members including the forwarding of trade leads, business partner searches and a trade magazine, through to numerous functions and events held across Victoria and NSW.

The SACCI Secretariat is responsible for handling all commercially 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. Please also consult our website for more details.

Swiss Entrepreneurs

Contact: Silvan Frei
Tel: 0410 297 606
info@swissentrepreneurs.com.au
www.swissentrepreneurs.com.au

Meet Swiss entrepreneurs and promote your business; we meet every first Wednesday of the month at Lord Nelson Brewery Hotel in the Rocks, Sydney. For more information please visit our website.

The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd.

GPO Box 3713
Sydney NSW 2001
President: Noemi Guyer
Tel: (02) 9486 3443 / 0416 160 919
Fax: (02) 9486 3442
swissclubnsw@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/swissclubnsw

The committee meets at the Eiger every first Monday of the month and the Jassers get together at the Eiger every Monday night. Every second Friday of the month, we also have a meeting at the Austrian Club in Frenchs Forest for a meal, a chat or a Jass.

New members are always very welcome. If you or your friends with a Swiss connection are not yet members give it a go. You can join through a membership form online in our website. We have also introduced new memberships for Partners. Please contact the club for more details.

So if you feel like a bit of friendly Swiss company and a nice glass of wine or beer and some delicious food, come and join us at the Eiger or the Austrian Club or at one of our upcoming functions.

Events: We have lots of exciting things coming up and lots of new ideas for 2008. Some of the events include the Jazz Picnic in February and a Turkish food tour of Auburn in March as well as continuing our Jass School and film nights. Please see the Swiss Community News and our website for updated details of events and functions.

Upcoming Events

- 15/2, 14/3, 11/4: Get-together Austrian Club
- 17/2: Jazz Picnic @ Berry Island
- 3/3, 7/4: Committee Meeting
- 8/3: Seniors Lunch
- 15/3: Turkish Food Tour or Auburn
- 19/4: Combined function (with all Swiss Organisations in Sydney) (details tba)

Other Events: Jass School for beginners will be from February to April on the same nights as the committee meetings, commencing at 8pm.

I would personally like to thank all the members and friends of the Swiss Club for their support in 2007 and look forward to welcoming you to events and functions this year. If you have any ideas of things the club should or could get involved in, please let us know.

Noemi Guyer

Swiss Playgroup Sydney

Helena Nobbs 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.

We all contribute something for morning tea or lunch on the day. New families coming from Switzerland can easily make friends here and find lots of helpful information. If you are interested in coming along, please call.

Schwyzerdütsch For Kids

Beatrice Sidari: Tel: (02) 9602 9395
bsidari@bigpond.com or
Anna Papadimitriou: 0416 744 949
annap@1earth.net

We are a group of Swiss, Swiss-Australian, Swiss-International families who get together every first Sunday of the month. What a great opportunity to catch up on the Swiss German language and some fun traditions like: Fasnacht, Easter 'Eiertuetsche' und 'Chlaeusle'. Other times we meet at a park to have a Picnic or BBQ, ride push bikes and play outdoor games together.

If you are interested in joining our group or would like to get some more information, please call or email Anna or Bea.

Swiss Yodelers and Alphorn Group of Sydney

27 Burra Road
Artarmon NSW 2064
President: Alois Kretz
Tel: (02) 9419 7277
akretz@bigpond.net.au

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at our various functions during 2008.

At the seniors Christmas luncheon, we had the pleasure of singing to an enthusiastic audience and we'd like to acknowledge Ida Gugger's long standing involvement with the Swiss Seniors.

The Rocks reverberated to the sound of cow bells, alphorns and yodelling in early December, when we performed one Sunday outside the Lowenbrau-keller. Diners and pedestrians alike were intrigued, bemused and delighted with the performance, after which, we descended into the keller for a well earned repast and liquid refreshment.

The Sydney Yodelers and Alphorn Group are celebrating 40 years in 2008. Our annual Harbour Cruise will take place on Saturday, 23 February, 2008. This delightful evening never ceases to satisfy all participants, and we look forward to welcoming you on board. Also in April, we will be joining with the Swiss Club, for a dinner dance to be held at the Austrian Club 19 April, 2008.

Alois Kretz

Cercle Romand Du N.S.W.

Présidente: Anne Resplendino
505 Blaxland Road
Eastwood NSW 2122
www.swiss.org.au/cercleromand

Le cercle romand regroupe toute personne intéressée par la pratique et le maintien du français.

Le cercle est basé à Sydney; il a pour but de créer des contacts entre nos membres par le biais de sorties et réunions régulières.

Nos activités sont réparties tout au long de l'année: soirées pub le premier jeudi de chaque mois, tournoi de pétanque, bowling, beach volleyball, randonnée, week-end camping et les tous jours très appréciées journées fondue et raclette

Prochaines Activités

6/3, 3/4, 1/5: Soirée Pub, The Ranch, Marsfield, Cnr Herring Rd/Epping Rd
28/2-2/3: Week-end camping, Gerroa Shores Holiday Park

Comme d'habitude, nos membres seront informés par courrier/email séparé. Pour tout les détails sur notre pro-gramme d'activités, veuillez consulter notre site internet ou par tél. 9874 9096, Anne Resplendino, Présidente. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer.

Pour le comité, Erik Dupont, secrétaire.

SBS "Swiss Radio"

Sydney 97.7FM / Melbourne 93.1FM

Swiss Community Care Society

P.O.Box 282, Bondi Junction, NSW 1355
President: Armin Roth
Tel: (02) 9669 1749
arminroth@bigpond.com
Contact / Support Officer:
Ursula Mooser: (02) 9428 5593
mooserclan@exemail.com.au

The past year 2007 has seen some unique support activities to the community. The "downunder Helvetia" series being compiled and followed-up by Margrit Bachmann continue to appear in the Swiss Community News and are found to receive increasingly good feedback. Come and meet with us at the Seniors Luncheons organised by Ida Gugger which are again planned for five dates during 2008. Thank you for your continued support.

Armin Roth

Swiss Seniors of Sydney Area

2/73 Frederick Street
Rockdale NSW 2216
Contact: Ida Gugger (02) 9597 7096

Swiss Folk Dance Group 'Alpegruuss'

President: Marco Nussbaumer
7 Wallace Street
Willoughby NSW 2068
Tel: (02) 9560 0666

For info about our group call Marco on 0412 403 741 or Astrid on 0418 268 150.

Queensland

Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.

PO Box 10, Wellers Hill QLD 4121
President: Sybille Goss
Tel: (07) 3358 5183

ssq@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/ssq

Gruezi, bonjour, buongiorno, g'day to all Swiss in South East Queensland. We are well into 2008 already and this 'summer' has been a rather chilly one for us in QLD. It almost felt like Christmas back in CH!

I am sure all of you who came along to any of our functions last year enjoyed them and we are again looking forward to a busy 2008.

As usual, we invite anybody with a Swiss connection to come along to any of the events. There is always a real mix of nice people you can meet and mingle with. This is what our club has planned for the next few months:

Upcoming Events

2/3: Picnic at Paradise Point (GC)
16/3: Easter Bunny
16/3: Bushwalk
6/4: Combined picnic SCCS & SSQ
13/4: Bushwalk
20/4: Jass Championship

We also play Jass every 2nd Thursday and Tennis every Wednesday night.

Please check our website for the most up-to-date information and don't forget to read our publication, the "Swiss News Queensland". I look forward to meeting many of you soon!

Sybille Goss, President

Gold Coast Group

Contact Bruno Vogt, (07) 5559 4600
or Franz Huber, (07) 5530 5061

There are few sacrifices one has to make for living in one of the world's best climates on the Gold Coast. But, what hurts the most, would surely be, to miss some of the Swiss local customs such as the Fasnacht, the Winterschiessen, the Alpaufzug...

Nevertheless, we try to make up for it with a vigorous local Swiss Group! Why not join us? It only costs \$15 per year, for the entire family! We have many events throughout the year.

You might get this too late for the Family Picnic at Runaway Bay on the 2nd of March 2008 at Paradise Point, but we will have lots of events to suit the family, as well as a few "adults only" outings. Now, that got you thinking, didn't it?!? - Wrong - I refer to a Movie Night sometime in April, and the Metzgete on the 7th of June. And that's just the Gold Coast Group. Of course, also join in any of the Brisbane Club's events such as the Jass Championship on 20th April (looking to field a complete Gold Coast Team). To get specific details, simply call me at the above numbers. Best do it right now, before you forget it!

Franz Huber

Young Swiss Group.

Contact: Matthias Neurohr
Tel: (07) 3376 1786
mneurohr@swiss.org.au

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg-Roeseli

President: Jakob Berger
Tel: (07) 3206 6101
Secretary: Elsy Schuetz
Tel: (07) 3207 7101

We would also love to hear from anybody who would like to join the Choir. We meet every 2nd Thursday for practice with Mark, our music teacher, who guides us through new songs.

We, as well as the Swiss Childrens dancegroup, will be performing at the Fraser Coast Multicultural Festival on March 30th in Harvey Bay. For more information about the program and transport to the festival please contact Jakob closer to the date. I hope to see many of You up there.

Jakob Berger

Swiss Community Care Society (QLD Chapter)

Postal: SCCS, c/- Toby Meier,
6 Cornell Street, Robertson 4109
President: Lorry Wihler
Tel: (07) 3298 5300
Secretary: Toby Meier (07) 3343 6733

Contact Sunshine Coast:
Ursula Sheldon, Tel: (07) 5443 4272

Have you considered becoming a member and receive our Newsletter three times a year, giving you details about our functions and other information regarding the Society?

We have two yearly functions and organise visits when something is amiss or when we know a person would like a visit. Anyone interested, please give us a call. Kind regards.

Lorry Wihler

Fraser Coast Group

Contact: Cecile Scherrer
Tel: (07) 4128 6326
cecile@swiss.org.au
www.swiss.org.au/page.php?ID=105

Our get-togethers are very informal, no membership fee. Many partners and children are English-speaking but most are Swiss German and few are French speaking.

Upcoming Events

30/3: Fraser Coast Cultural Event with Performance Baerg-Roeseli
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For more details about the festival, please visit www.culturalfestivals.com.au.

Cecile Scherrer

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast

54 Mahogany Drive
Pelican Waters QLD 4557
President: Peter Schüpach
Phone: (07) 5492 3825
peter.schuepbach@exemail.com.au
Treasurer: Vreni Bachmann
Phone: (07) 5437 0530
verena.bac@bigpond.com

Our club is young and we welcome new members to come join us for regular functions throughout the year. Our Christmas celebration at the lovely Kenilworth Winery was a great day enjoyed by over 50 Sunshine Coast Swiss!

We are planning a beach BBQ in February, bushwalking in April, a fondue night when it gets cooler and a 1st of August celebration in the country.

Please talk to us and get updated information about our events.