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## Swiss National Day with melodic notes

**On 31/07/ the official Swiss National Day celebrations took place in the beautiful gardens of the Swiss Ambassador's residence in Pretoria. 200 guests attended the event.**

A sophisticated construction by Oasis, partner of Nuessli International Ltd, a Switzerland based expert in temporary event buildings, covered the pool. A tent, decorated with the Swiss flag and matching red and white flower bouquets, offered shade and a welcoming venue. In his address, Ambassador Baerfuss highlighted the excellence and the cordiality of the Swiss – South African relations. He recalled the many promising joint ventures between our two countries, the most successful probably being Roger Federer, son of a South African mother and a Swiss father. As one of the currently running and successful projects between Switzerland and South Africa, Ambassador Baerfuss mentioned the Swiss – South African Cooperation Initiative SSACI, a public-private partnership in development. Being the first of its kind, it is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), on the one hand, and Swiss private companies trading in South Africa, on the other hand. It provides financial and technical support to vocational skills training and job creation projects for disadvantaged young South Africans. Since its inception in 2001, SSACI has funded over 50 development projects. By June 2009, this had resulted in 4'700 youths being enrolled for training. 3'500 of these youths, i.e. 92% of those, have graduated up to now.

Deputy Minister of Justice Andries Nel was the guest of honour. He conveyed the congratulations of the South African government and thanked Switzerland for its assistance with regard to the so called small claims courts.

These courts were created to settle minor civil disputes in an informal manner.

The soprano Stella Mendonça, a native Mozambican on her way to acquiring Swiss nationality, added a warm musical note to the celebrations: She sang the Swiss and the South African national anthems in the different official languages that are used by the two countries, thus pointing to a common feature of Switzerland and South Africa, which is the diversity of our societies united in our respective states.



*From the left: Deputy Minister of Justice Andries Nel, Beatrice Bärffuss, Stella Mendonça, Ambassador Rudolf Bärffuss*

### Goodbye to Erwin Lüthi

Erwin Lüthi, Head of the Swiss Business Hub South Africa, will be leaving shortly to take up new responsibilities at the Swiss Consulate General in Hong Kong. During his tenure the Swiss Business Hub was officially opened by Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard (Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs) on 7 May, 2007 becoming the 16. Swiss Business Hub to be set up worldwide. Since then Osec's new export promotion strategy has been successfully implemented and a number of Swiss companies have shown interest in investing in South Africa. Amongst numerous other activities organised by

the SBHSA, the network office has compiled a directory of over 200 Swiss companies operating in SA and produced a newsletter to keep them and Switzerland informed about what is happening in the region. Both publications have received overwhelmingly warm responses. The SBHSA regrets that Mr Lüthi is leaving, but wishes him all the best in his new position and we are sure that he will handle those responsibilities as competently and effectively as he has done here in South Africa. Mr Lüthi's successor will be taking over in November.

### Dinner with Saki Macozoma

At a dinner of SwissCham Southern Africa – South Africa Chapter, Liberty Life Chairman, Saki Macozoma, was invited to deliver the keynote address. His topic centered around the regime change in South Africa and the impact of the global economic crisis on the local economy.



*Saki Macozoma*

New members of SwissCham are: BCC Pharmaceuticals,

Deloitte & Touche, Eikendal Wineries, Friedland Hart, International Coffee Equipment (Jura), Juerg Schalch Consulting, Mark Daniels Commodities, Lonrho, Novartis, Pannonia Precision Engineering, Safin, Sicpa and Swisafin.

### ASR Report

**The Swiss in South and Southern Africa were represented at the inaugural ASR Meeting and 87th Annual Congress from 7–9/08/ in Luzern by your re-elected delegates Rolf Schudel and Peter Muller.**

The previous President Jean-Simon Eggly was re-elected as President. He delivered his President's Report on the activities of the ASR and the Secretariat with Dr Ruedi Wyder as Director. The shortfall of CHF 500,000 for producing the 6 issues annually of the Swiss Review was again highlighted. Furthermore the world-wide information platform produced for amongst others the Auslandschweizer by Swiss Info, has also had a massive cut in budget. It is ironic that the theme of this year's congress was the importance of the Auslandschweizer for Switzerland, yet at the same time the Swiss Government has seen fit to reduce the

*Continued overleaf/...*

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## ASR Report (contd)

money allocated to inform these very valuable Swiss Ambassadors world-wide. The importance of physical Consulates even in these days with the emergence of E-Consulate was highlighted. Honorary Consuls, while better than no representation at all, cannot adequately replace the closure of major Consulates-General such as Hamburg in Germany.

The newly constituted ASR debated a catalogue of objectives for the period 09-13. Undoubtedly, the exercising of the political rights of the Swiss Abroad, as well as maintaining a strong information flow, remain top priorities.

Next year's congress will be in St Gallen from 20-22/08/10.

**Peter Muller**



### IMPRESSUM

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Das öffentlich-rechtliche ZDF bietet neben beliebten Familienserien, Krimis und attraktiven TV-Movies, musikalische Unterhaltungssendungen, sowie Nachrichten und politische Magazine mit viel Hintergrundinformationen.

**DW TV**  
Wer über Politik, Kultur und Wirtschaftsgeschehen bestens informiert sein möchte, ist hier goldrichtig. Deutsche Welle-TV liefert weltweit Informationen über aktuelle Ereignisse - in deutscher und englischer Sprache.

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Der Sender für Sportfans: RTL bietet Formel 1, Wintersport und viele andere Sportarten. Bei Quiz- und Gameshows kommen die schnellen Denker auf ihre Kosten. Auch die Liebhaber von Soaps kommen nicht zu kurz.

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**Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events**

**JOHANNESBURG**  
Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, office: Debora Lanz, T/F 011 805 3039, C 082 651 6152, swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za, Swiss Country Club Restaurant «The Courier», Wolfgang Wallauz, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat - 11-21h30 Restaurant, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h Christmas Lunch (over 55) on 6/12/. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, SkittingClub, Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 4640.

**PRETORIA**  
Swiss Embassy 012 452 0660 Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com  
On 1 August we celebrated Swiss National Day at our usual venue at Fountains Valley in Pretoria. We were honoured by the attendance of Ambassador Rudolf Baerfuss and his wife Beatrice, and also Mario Valli, President of the Swiss Club Johannesburg and his wife Meggie. On a sad note we have to inform you that our member Tony de Klerk passed away after being admitted to hospital. His wife Alexandra Costide de Klerk has decided to return to Switzerland. Our thoughts are with her in this difficult time.

**CAPE TOWN**  
Swiss Consulate General T 021 418 3665 Swiss Social and Sports Club, Nick Eppenberger, Nicky Rodrigues T 072 218 5759, membership secretary email: eppenberger@telkomsa.net, www.swissclub.co.za  
Negotiations for the new Club building are well on its way. The club will be situated next to the Urban Park on the Green Point Common. We should be able to move in by April. 7/11/ All over 70's and their partners are invited to join the Swiss Choir for their Annual Tea Party at the Pinelands Club. Please R.S.V.P to Adolphe Linder by 1/11/, on 021 681 2746. 5/12/ Samichlaus will be visiting Jonkershoek.

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**  
Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com

18.10.9h GREEN BOWLING, Hollander Crescent Hall, Morningside Sports Club/Durban; 14.11.19h SWISS CULTUR FILMABEND, Westville; 11.12.19h PREIS JASS EVENING, Westville; 16.12. from 11h END OF YEAR SOCIAL GATHERING+BRAAI, Chruetti Buur Farm/ Cato Ridge; 17.1.10 10h TEN PIN BOWLING, Pavillion Ctr Westville; 21.2.10 9h OUTING TO NATURE RES. IN DURBAN ENVIRONMENT+ BRAAI; 14.3.10 11h AGM+LUNCH, venue TBA. JASS EVENINGS SCN: We meet every 2nd Friday of the month at 18h, Westville Bowling Club House near the old Westville Civic Centre, William Lester Rd off Buckingham Terrace Rd. TARGET SHOOTING PRACTICE SCN: Practice at the Dave Nicol shooting range, Nottingham Rd/KZN Midrand; 22.8. from 9h, Final chance Obligatorisch+Feldschiessen and St Galler Auslandschweizer Fernschiessen Program; 26.9.+24.10. from 9h, Intertown program +individual practice; 30./31.10. 60th CTN Jubiläumsschiessstreffen Kapstadt; 28.11. from 9h, Ementhaler Rapid Shooting Comp.; 4./5.12. Nottingham Rifle Club-Christmas Shoot.

**SWISS CLUBS EASTERN CAPE**  
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Walter Middleton, President T 041 964 1008, Comm.member Mark Kreyser C 082 3281098, T w 041 3671422

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Bring&Braai; 24./25.10. Farmweekend Teufelsbach; 21.11. Jahresabschluss „Aloe Rest.“, Polytechnic; 5.12. ab 17h Chlauskegeln/Grittibänze, SKW.

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Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Restaurant, T (h) +268 416 1095, T (w) +268 416 1187, C +268 602 8545, calabash@swazi.net

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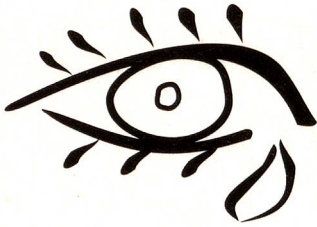
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