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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial



Dear readers,

2013 is just around the corner. The Council of the Swiss Abroad or Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) is now actively searching for two new delegates to represent the Swiss living in Southern Africa.

Please see Peter Mueller's appeal in this issue, he describes what the position is all about and which duties are part of the job.

The next election term runs from August 2013 to July 2017. I would like to motivate everybody to consider taking up this honour to represent the 10000 Swiss living in our part of the world.

GISELA PIERCEY
Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

Two delegates representing Southern Africa sought

The Auslandschweizerrat is calling for possible candidates for the election term 2013-2017.

The Council of the Swiss Abroad or Auslandschweizerrat (ASR) as it is known in Switzerland, is the most important organisation that Swiss Abroad have to represent their interests and concerns vis a vis the Swiss Government represented by the Bundesrat, the Dept. of Foreign Affairs (EDA), and the Swiss Parliament.

The Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria is attending the Swiss living in South Africa (except for the Cape Provinces), Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Consulate General in Cape Town offers consular services to the Swiss living in the Cape Provinces as well as the Swiss in Namibia. South Africa is

entitled to send two delegates to the ASR, which meets two times annually in March and August in different Swiss cities.

The meetings last for a full day with a usually packed agenda covering many aspects concerning the Swiss Abroad world-wide. Fluency in a Swiss national language (German, French or Italian) is a pre-requisite as English is not accepted. Delegates are expected to pay their own transport costs from their countries of residence to the meeting place in Switzerland, as well as any accommodation and other charges. A finger-luncheon as well as CHF 100 is offered to delegates on the day of the meeting.

It is therefore not a paid political position, but an honour to represent and reflect the views, complaints, needs and aspirations of the 10,000 Swiss abroad who reside in Southern Africa.

The next election term runs from August 2013 to

July 2017. During the past few years, you have been represented by Rolf Schudel (nominated by the Swiss Club Johannesburg), and Peter Müller (nominated by the Swiss Club Cape Town). Rolf Schudel resigned in March 2012, and therefore a vacancy exists.

We are hereby calling for possible candidates. Any Swiss citizen or Dual-National is eligible. If you are interested, please make this known to the President of one of the nine Swiss Clubs that are recognised by the Auslandschweizer Organisation in Southern Africa, or contact the undersigned, who will put you in touch with the Swiss Club nearest to you.

PETER MÜLLER
ASR Delegate

Swiss Ambassador salutes Langkloof Bricks

The first energy efficient brickfiring kilns installed at Langkloof Bricks in Jeffrey's Bay under the auspices of the SA-VSBK Project last year, received an official stamp of approval from the Ambassador of Switzerland, Christian Meuwly, as well as the Swiss Consul General, Irene Flueckiger, following an official visit to this pioneering brickmaking factory.

The SA-VSBK Project forms part of the Swiss Government's Climate Change Mitigation Programme, which aims to introduce this energy-efficient brick firing technology to South Africa, as part of a commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

Langkloof Bricks is the first clay brick manufacturer in South Africa, to participate in this Open Source

Technology initiative, which has been made available through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), with the implementation undertaken by the consortium Swisscontact (Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation) and Skat (Swiss Resource Centre and Consultancies for Development) who in turn consult with a team of local experts in the field of clay brick manufacturing.

"The SA-VSBK Project is the Swiss Government's first successful technology transfer programme into South Africa and we are very pleased with the results. The VSBK technology has been championed by the SDC as a viable solution to reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of the global clay brickmaking industry," said Mr Meuwly.

The VSBK originated in China in the 1970's. The SA-VSBK Project Team was put together to oversee the implementation of the technology in South Africa and to perfect the existing VSBK designs, as had been developed in other parts of the world. It is in this light that Langkloof Bricks has been able to expand and add on some of the existing designs.

"I laud Langkloof Bricks for coming on board, as our first South African partner to take advantage of this Open Source Programme. The Blake family have enthusiastically embraced this technology, and after much engineering and experimentation can be lauded for constructing one of the most technologically advanced VSBK kilns in the world to date," added Meuwly.



Swiss delegation at Langkloof Bricks SA-VSBK Shafts

The Clay Brick sector in South Africa is a modern, state-of-the-art industry as far as mining and brick production is concerned. However, faced with impending environmental regulations, the SA-VSBK brickfiring technology offers the brickmakers, especially those making use of some of the more traditional firing methods a cleaner and more, energy efficient alternative.

The VSBK is a continuous updraught kiln that contributes for as much as a 50% reduction in energy consumption during the brick firing process, resulting in dramatically reduced carbon emissions, fuel consumption, manufacturing costs and exceptionally low breakage percentages.

"South Africa is ranked as the twelfth highest Green House Gas (GHG) emitter in the world, with the building and construction sector accounting for as much as 30% of the country's GHG emissions," said Meuwly,

lauding the commitment of the South African Government to reduce its carbon emissions by 32% in 2020, below a "business as usual" growth trajectory.

"The SA-VSBK kilns at Langkloof Bricks have proved unequivocally that this energy efficient brickmaking technology aligns with the South African Governments objectives of realising this goal, adds Meuwly.

Possible breakthrough in malaria research

South Africa, Switzerland and Australia joined forces to eradicate the malaria apocalypse.

International science and technology collaboration has once again presented their value with the recent discovery of a compound that could potentially curb malaria and interrupt the source-pathway-recipient cycle of the plasmodium parasite. The World Health Organisation ranked the malaria

apocalypse as the third biggest contributor to the under-five death map in developing countries. Australia, South Africa and Switzerland as part of the Medicines for Malaria Venture, based in Switzerland, joined forces to attack the malaria causing parasite commencing with the screening of at least 6 million compounds by the Griffith University in Australia.

Subsequently, the Drug Discovery and Development Centre situated at the University in Cape Town, South Africa, took over the compound search where they drilled deeper into this host of compounds. The end results were the identification of a novel compound that holds the potential of a single-dose

cure against malaria. Strengthening the research in South Africa was the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel and the University of Monash in Australia providing the parasitological support and the latter the pharmacological support.

The South African Minister of Science and Technology, HE Naledi Pandor lauded the outcome on 28 August 2012 being evidence of "top science undertaken in South Africa and also the power of continental and international scientific collaboration in addressing the societal challenges of our time".

Contributing to this discovery is the 'malaria project' supported under the Swiss South Africa Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP) which is a collaboration between the University of Witwatersrand, the Medical Research Council and the Swiss TPHI to device a model to 'map' morbidity and mortality malaria incidents. The modeling tool will specifically aid the planning of preventative malaria interventions and generally provide a novel statistical tool that could be used for application in a number of environmental burdens of disease.

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Our 1st of August Celebration was quite well attended by + 600 people. Even the weather was a real stunner. Thank you all for your generous support. Congratulations to the winner of the Raffle Ticket 1st Prize of the Swiss International Airlines return flight to Switzerland for two Mrs Helende Wilde. The Skittling Interclub Challenge was held on the 8th of September, we had a great afternoon of fun with members of the Swiss Embassy, Swiss Club Alpina and the Swiss Choir attending.

The "Fernkegeln" will be held on Saturday 17th November. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. 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; Please diarize our "Swiss Christmas Lunch" for young and old on Sunday 2nd December.

Active sub-sections are the Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies continue to meet monthly - last Wednesday of every month. For more information on the above sub-sections, please contact info@swissclub.co.za or André Häberli, Membership & Advertising, Phone +27 (0)21 551 48 98, Skype andre.haberli, Fax +27 (0)86 532 80 02, Cell +27 (0)76 933 03 04. Forthcoming events: 10 November: Over 70s tea party , 07 December: Rifle Club Year end Dinner, 15 December: Christmas Dinner. Our newsletter is distributed via email

and postage (as per request), but regular updates can be obtained on our website at www.swissclub.co.za.

The Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg shoots every 4th Saturday of the month, starting at 09h00, 27/10, 24/11, 26/1. The majority of the members are Swiss as it is also a social gathering. We normally are shooting 2 different programs with the highlight being the Feldschiessen and the Obligatorisch. The shoot is done with Swiss Rifles which are provided by the club. We have the Karabiner (K31) and the Sturmgewehr (STGW 57 & 90). Ammunition is supplied by the club costing presently R2.50 per round. We are starting 09h00 and keep going until everybody has finished. The day ends with a bring & braai. Please contact the secretary of the Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg, Daniel Wyser, for more information, srcjsa@gmail.com C 0825699146.

PRETORIA:

Swiss Society Alpina,
Hans-Georg Bosch, President,
T 0123478310, C 0825510222,
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,
Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary
Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

One event remains on the annual programme for 2012: Year end function, Johanneskirche Church Hall 24 November.

CAPE TOWN:

Swiss Social & Sports Club,
Bill Peters Road, Green Point,
www.swissclub.co.za.
PRESIDENT: Stefan Pflocksch,
stefanp@execsontthemove.co.za
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mwbischof@telkomsa.net
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The club remains open every Wednesday and Thursday evening for dinner. If you are not on the data base to receive the "catering newsflash" please contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on +27 21 4348405.

SWISS CLUB NATAL:

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JASS EVENINGS: Westville Country Club, Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavilion exit towards Westville). As before the Jass evening takes place every second Friday evening of the month 18.00 for dinner. 19.00 start Jassen: 9/11, 8/12 (prize jassen), 11/01/2013, 8/02, 8/03. TARGET SHOOTING: Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, KZN Midland starting at 9h00: 27/10, 24/11, 8/12, 26/01/2013, 23/02, 23/03. OTHER EVENTS: Sunday 21/10 9h00 Green Bowling, 16-18/11 High Over Nature Weekend, Sunday 2/12 11h00 Year End Function, Sunday 20/01/2013 Ten Pin Bowling, Saturday 16/2 18h00 Culture Evening (Swiss Film Abend), Sunday 10/3 10h30 AGM.

PORT ELIZABETH:

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At the AGM we decided to celebrate the First of August in the afternoon instead of an evening. On Saturday the 28 of July we invited our members to come along at 13:00. This opened new possibilities, like having the children with us. It turned out to be a great success. We had 43 adults and 12 children at the party. Also in attendance was third time around Marianne Jenni from the Swiss Consulate in Cape Town. We had a traditional Swiss Menu with Servela, Bratwurst from Mr. Butcher Werner Läderach and Kartoffelgratin, Zwiebelsauce and Salad from Gerard Baltus. Everybody enjoyed this new way of celebrating. To round the party up we handed out lampions to the kids and witnessed a traditional Lampionumzug.

No doubt, we will do it next year the same way. As soon as Verena Zollinger is back from a 3 months stint in Switzerland we will organise a Fondue party.

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An der ersten Komitee Sitzung vom 2.Juni wurden die Ämter wie folgt verteilt:

Präsident: Peter Hess;
Vizepräsident:
Ruedi Imhof (neu);
Kassierin: Tilly Neuenschwander;
Aktuarin: Nelly Kuebli (neu);
Sekretärin: Christa Hess;
Beisitzerin: Irmela Jordi (neu).

Daten zum Vermerken: Oktober:
Besuch des H.E.S.S. Projektes auf der Farm Gölschau, Gamsberg.
November: Jahresabschluss – Essen. Verschiedenes
Das Komitee möchte regelmässig ein "Kaffeekränzchen" für die Mitglieder organisieren. Bitte meldet Euch bei Christa Hess, Tel. 25 29 43, wann es Euch am Besten passt. Wochentag, Zeit und Ort.

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Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa: Gisela Piercy, P.O. Box 408, Kenton-on-Sea 6191, South Africa, Phone 0466482632 Fax 0866020489, gisela@africantwisttravel.com. Please make a note of all the Southern African Regional issues in 2013:

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