

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 41 (2014)
Heft: 1

Anhang: Regional news : Southern Africa

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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial



Dear readers,

2013 was an emotional year for South Africa. Madiba has passed on and the nation is left with a big vacuum to fill. The legacy he leaves behind is worth so much more if all South Africans and the South African government truly honour it. It is up to us to make South Africa a better place and it starts in our own personal environment. Let's make it happen, let's make Madiba proud.

All the best,

GISELA PIERCEY

Editor Swiss Review Southern Africa

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Ueli Maurer, represents Switzerland at Nelson Mandela's memorial service

On the 10th of December the President of the Swiss Confederation Ueli Maurer joined the 90 heads of states and many government representatives and eminent persons to commemorate the life and achievements of former South African President Nelson Mandela, who passed away on December 5.

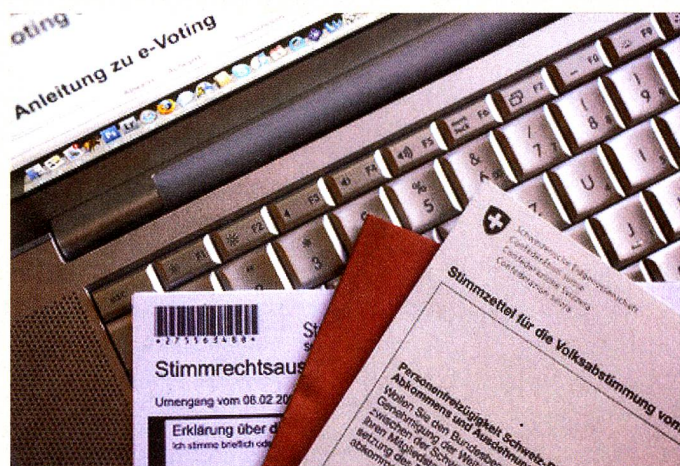
He was welcomed by one of his South African

counterparts, Minister for State Security Siyabonga Cwele, and expressed his condolences to South African leading personalities like Gwede Mantashe, Zweli Mkhize (General Secretary and Treasurer General of the ANC, respectively) and Lindiwe Mazibuko (leader of the Parliamentary Group of the Democratic Alliance). After the Memorial Service at FNB Stadium in Soweto, broadcasted in the entire world, President Maurer stayed in Pretoria to pay his last respects to Nelson Mandela, as his remains lay in state at the Union Buildings on 11th of December. Until the passing of Mr Mandela, Switzerland had usually sent

former heads of state in order to honour late former heads of state. With regard to Mr Mandela, it was therefore an exceptional gesture, that an acting head of state came to pay his respects to a late former head of state. This also shows the importance given by the Swiss Government to Mr Mandela's achievements.

E-voting draft presented in March

Following in the footsteps of the Honorable Peter Müller and Rolf Schudel, I am writing my first official Swiss Review article.



Auslandschweizer will be able to vote electronically in the future

Looking back at the two meetings held in March and August, one has to admit that while some topics were not materially important to Swiss living in Southern Africa, the importance of networking and in particularly networking

with the Bernese officials is of utmost importance in order for us as representatives to support and advice our people. Of great significance are of course the hot topics of E-voting and the proposed law on Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizergesetz).

Following is a short extract regarding E-voting; "Der Bundesrat hat die Aufgabe der Wassenaar-Klausel im Rahmen des Vote-Electronique beschlossen. Schweizerinnen und Schweizer, welche in Ländern leben, welche das Wassenaar-

Abkommen nicht unterzeichnet haben, wurden durch diese Klausel von elektronischen Wahlen und Abstimmungen ausgeschlossen. In Zukunft werden Auslandschweizer, welche in diesen Ländern leben, auch elektronisch wählen können, sofern ihre Stimmgemeinde diese Möglichkeit anbietet. Die Auslandschweizer-Organisation freut sich über diesen Entscheid, welcher jenen Auslandschweizern, die E-Voting am dringendsten brauchen, erlauben wird, am politischen Leben ihres Landes teilzunehmen."

Regarding the law on



President Maurer in Pretoria

Auslandschweizer, it was announced that the draft version will most probably be presented at the March 2014 meeting in Bern. The important aspects are:

- Consolidation of all Auslandschweizer interests in one department
- Elimination of discrimination of Auslandschweizer
- Furtherance of mobility of Auslandschweizer

Slow progress on Auslandschweizer bank account issue

Another very interesting debate is what appears to be the unjustified handling of Auslandschweizer bank accounts / holdings by Swiss Banks. This matter is receiving attention from the ASR, but due to constant pressure from the USA and certain EU countries against the Swiss banking industry, progress is slow.

Last but not least, I wish to take this opportunity and once again thank Peter Müller, who represented Southern Africa in the ASR for 35 years, and Rolf Schudel for their outstanding contribution as ASO Delegates to the Auslandschweizer and their families.

Your ASO delegates, Marcie Bischof and Hans-Georg Bosch wish all Swiss Citizens living in Southern Africa a prosperous 2014.

MARCIE BISCHOF,
mwabischof@telkomsa.net

Three new swiss music CD releases

ASO in Bern regularly receives new releases of amongst others, Swiss music collections. As your former delegate, ASO has passed some of these on to me for my comment during the past few months.

The three I have before me are:

1. Moitié – Moitié by Les amis de la Gruyère

There are some 16 songs and dances on this CD, some new, others rewrites of original compositions. A pleasant recording which would more admirably suit a Swiss community abroad with some French-speaking Swiss.

2. Mosibuebä : Vo früener bis hüt

This is a collection of 29 songs and dances, most of which have previously been recorded throughout the years as the title suggests. Again, a recording which should please most Auslandschweizer clubs.

3. Ruedi Rymann: Zur Erinnerung an einen grossartigen Jodler und Menschen

A collection of 3 CDs containing 47 songs originally performed by the legendary Ruedi Rymann who has won many awards particularly for his „Dr Schachersepli“. Three wonderful CDs which can be

highly recommended.

These CDs, of which the undersigned has only 1 copy, may be obtained, on a „first come, first served“ basis from: Peter Müller, sargro@bluewin.ch or P.O.Box 123, 5103 Wildegg, Switzerland, by any of the Swiss clubs who are active in the 11 Southern African countries which our Consular District represents.

News from the foundation governing the Auslandschweizerplatz in Brunnen

As you know, the undersigned is one of the Foundation members looking after this Auslandschweizer property since its acquisition 20 years ago. The site is the beginning and/or the end of "Weg der Schweiz" which was inaugurated to celebrate the 700th Anniversary of Switzerland in 1991.

The property was originally acquired for +/- CHF 2 million from the adjoining Hotel Waldstätterhof.

Essentially it is part of the Brunnen Esplanade and serves as a well frequented public open space although it is in private „Auslandschweizer“ hands.

As a result of various rezoning attempts, it could be that the value of the land could be reduced as a result of it being essentially a public open space with various building restrictions.

The Foundation of which the undersigned is a member, is fighting to retain the value, yet at the same time, trying to co-operate with the wishes of the Brunnen Municipality. Needless to say, the dilemma of a public open space being in private hands, will have to be solved if one is to come to an agreement.

Peter Müller,
sargro@bluewin.ch



Fighting to retain the value of the Auslandschweizerplatz in Brunnen

IMPRESSUM

Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:

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Number	Deadline Date	Date of distribution
02/2014	12.03.2014	16.04.2014

Dear readers, for address changes please contact the official Swiss representation in your country.

swiss arts council

prohelvetia

Building Platforms for Creative Collaboration in the SADC region

Pro Helvetia Johannesburg has, since 1998, been investing in transnational collaborations, exchanges and joint projects among organisations and creative practitioners operating across the SADC region, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

They intend to use this year, 2014, to refresh and renew the existing approach in this area, with a view to providing a basis for medium to long term investments in networks and platforms that have a shared interest in building a stronger regional creative fabric.

In this context, they are inviting organisations that have either an established or emergent engagement in this area to propose a joint initiative or project that would involve partners in at least two other countries in the region, and which would in turn furnish a basis for developing plans for a more

extended collaborative engagement over the ensuing 3-5 year period.

In 2014 they have the possibility to fund up to 4 initiatives on a modest scale (circa ZAR175 000) to develop and test possibilities for enabling future regional collaboration among organisations that would address one or more of three broad priorities that they think are important based on their past work in this area:

- The circulation and presentation of new work and creative talent across the region, building new markets and audiences
- The development of the professional capacities of creative practitioners and organisations
- Regional cooperation in the area of cultural policy research, advocacy and lobbying

Under this definition the SADC region is understood to include the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania,

Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Please feel free to lodge any inquiries via communications@prohelvetia.org.za.

SDC: Highlights of the coming years



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

The regional programme Southern Africa will combine both instruments of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid. SDC will improve its articulation of its regional approach with its country offices, the global programmes and UN agencies active in the region and supported by SDC.

In view of the limited means of SDC, the concentration on two out of previously three domains of intervention will increase its efficiency and effectiveness:

Agriculture/Food security: Increased resilience in food security in particular of smallholder farmers in SADC region with a focus on the promotion of a harmonised seed system, post harvest management and Disaster Risk Reduction.

HIV/AIDS: Prevention of HIV/AIDS among young

women and men and access to care and support to contribute to the overall goal of reducing HIV/AIDS incidence and vulnerabilities in particular among children and youth.

Governance (equitable, responsible and accountable allocation and use of public resources in the two domains) and gender (agriculture women farmers, vulnerability of women and girls in HIV/AIDS) will be tackled as transversal themes.

In the regional Programme Southern Africa (RPSA) the approach will bring together regional policy interventions and their translation into selected countries where also interventions on the ground and pilots are taking place. The component in Zimbabwe will contribute to the regional objectives in agriculture/food security and HIV/AIDS. Water, as a key component of food and health security, will be also addressed. Part of the flexible budget will be allocated to health or governance issues in a broader perspective depending on the context's evolution.

Beyond the RPSA, the Global Programme Climate Change will increase its mitigation portfolio focused on South Africa.



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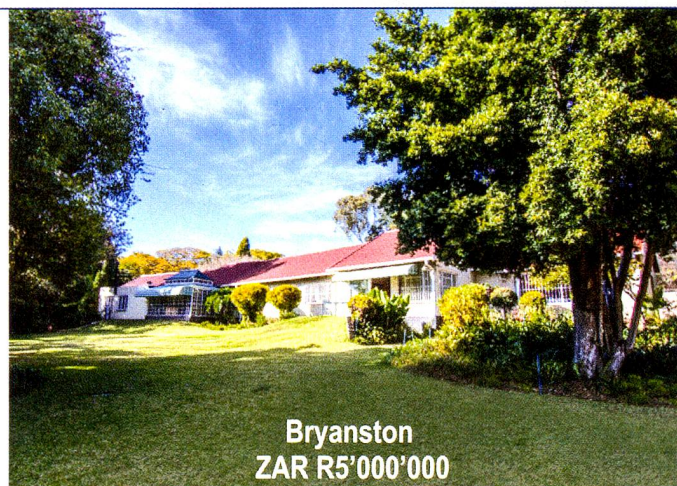
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Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Wolf, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152,

www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier»

We hope you all had a good festive season and "an guete Rutsch" into the New Year! The traditional "Fernkegeln" against our "ex-pats" in Switzerland was held on the 16th November 2013 and Team South Africa won again – Congratulations! We are particularly proud to have a good turnout again (100 persons) at the Christmas Lunch held on 8th December. Thanks to the efforts of the Swiss Embassy which reached all the Swiss in Gauteng. We trust however that everybody enjoyed a nice afternoon at our club with the Swiss Choir having entertained us with some delightful Christmas songs as well as typical Swiss Folklore songs with Alphorn tunes and we look forward to indeed seeing you again this year. Our AGM is scheduled for April 2014, the date has to be finalized.

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. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 09h00. We normally shoot two different programs. This is done with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. For more info visit our Facebook site or call Daniel on 082-5699146.

SWISS CLUB IN 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

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:

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SECRETARY: Marcie Bischof mwbischof@telkomsa.net T 021 554 0176, C 082 925 2280

The club remains open every Wed and Thu 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. Active sub-sections are the Rifle Club, Cycling Club & Tennis Club. The ladies meet monthly – last Wed of every month. For more info 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 Our newsletter is distributed via email and postage, regular updates can be obtained on www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL:

Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com; Philippe Lanz, Secretary, pl@swisscontact.co.za, C 082 4932673

For more up-to-date information please visit our website www.swissclubnatal.org.za. 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: 14.2, 14.3, 11.4., 9.5., 13.6., 11.7., 8.8., 12.9., 10.10., 14.11., 12.12.2013 (Price Jassen): . TARGET SHOOTING: Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Road, KZN Midland starting at 9.30 am: 28.2., 28.3., 25.4., 30.5., 27.6., 25.7., 29.8., 26.9., 31.10, 28.11., 12.12.2013 . OTHER EVENTS: 25/1/2014 Swiss Film Evening, 16/2 Ten Pin Bowling, 9/3 AGM.

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