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REGIONAL EDITION

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OCEANIA



Editorial:

Welcome to the third Oceania issue of the Swiss Review. If you have an interesting story to share, or like to advertise in the next issue, please get in contact with me.

MARC GODAT, REGIONAL EDITOR «OCEANIA»

Consulate Sydney: Mobile unit for biometric Swiss passports

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney is pleased to inform that it is planning to operate a **mobile passport station in Victoria and Tasmania** as stated below:

New in 2015: The appointments for the dates below will be available for all Swiss citizens, regardless of where in Australia they live. Please note this option will only be available if the number of applicants from Victoria and Tasmania does not exceed our capacity.

- **Hobart 12. October 2015**
- **Melbourne 14./15./16. October 2015**

We are about to determine the required amount of appointments that need to be scheduled and whether there are sufficient numbers of people interested in using this service. Please note: In case there are only a very limited amount of people interested in having an appointment in Hobart, for economic reasons, we will have to limit our presence to one single location. This would be in Melbourne.

If you intend to make use of one of the above-mentioned dates, please let us know the number of applicants, their full name, their date of birth, their valid email address and the preferred location (Melbourne or Hobart) **by 14.06.2015 at the latest** via email only to syd.passport@eda.admin.ch.

We are looking forward to receiving your tentative bookings and will send out more information about the next steps in July 2015 by email. Therefore it is essential that the email-address which you submit with your booking is valid and does not block incoming emails from syd.passport@eda.admin.ch.

Please be advised that it is always an option to get your biometric data registered in a cantonal passport office in Switzerland for example during your holiday. Please lodge your application online at www.schweizerpass.ch and indicate that you are a Swiss living abroad registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney. In the section "additional remarks" please state the dates of your stay in Switzerland and the preferred passport office.

CSA: Spring Session from 21.3.2015 in Bern

Like every year, the Council of the Swiss Abroad held its annual spring session in Bern. Over a full day and 20 agenda points, we enjoyed the presentations from different interest groups and engaged in lively discussions. Here are few of the more interesting points brought up in a short form:

- **Swiss Abroad Act:** On 26.9.2014, the Federal Assembly adopted the "Federal Act on Swiss Persons and Institutions Abroad", in short the Swiss Abroad Act. The law itself does not introduce any fundamentally new rights or obligations but brings together the most significant aspects for the over 730,000 Swiss Abroad in a single act so they are no longer distributed between various laws, ordinances and regulations. It is due to be introduced by 1.11.2015.
- **Federal elections 2015:** The federal elections for the National Council and the first round of voting for the Council of States will take place on 18 October 2015. All 142,000 Swiss citizens abroad registered on an electoral roll can vote for their National Councillors on this date. The ASO has prepared a platform via www.2015elections.ch where you will find all relevant information.
- **E-Voting progress:** Out of the 142'000, 70% (or 14 cantons) have now access to e-voting. There are still 3 different voting systems though, and the fact that it is voluntary for the remaining cantons to jump on the e-voting wagon, it may still take a while until everybody will be able to vote electronically.
- **Bank fees:** A big thank you goes to all of you who voiced their opinion about the outrageous banking fees. It seems that the message slowly gets through and just to name a few, the "Neue Helvetische Bank", "Valiant" und "Migros Bank" are now offering their services to Swiss expats. If you still experience problems with your bank, speak to them first as they may slowly start to listen to your requests...

Marc Godat, CSA Delegate

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Victoria: Events

- 2/8** National Day Celebration
8/8 Jassabig (Matterhorn)

Swiss Festival Australia

Swiss National Day Celebration & Family Picnic: Join us in celebrating our Swiss National Day in the beautiful outdoor area of the Austrian Club in Heidelberg West on Sunday 2.8.2015. Complete with bonfire, grilled sausages, raclette, Swiss beer & wine, Gluhwein, Nussgipfel and entertainment.

Australian Capital Territory: Events

- 12/6** Fondue night
2/8 National Day celebration

Canberra Swiss Club

The coast weekend in March was again relaxing, enjoyable and full of interesting moments. Swimming, walking, tennis, golf, there is always something for everyone to do. Traditionally there was a raclette on Saturday night. This year one day was very windy and exceptionally we had blue bottles in the area - but only for a short time. A dead seahorse caught our at-



tention as well. In anticipation of the oncoming Easter, one of the "residential" monitors showed us how to eat an egg - he swallowed it whole.

Winter time is Fondue time. We have our traditional Fondue night 12th of June. National day celebration will be on the 2nd of August. Other events will be announced in the newsletter or by e-mail.

Did you know?

■ Australia Top 7: Australia takes position number 7 when it comes to the number of Swiss expats living overseas.

■ Grand Tour of Switzerland: Make sure you check this out on your next visit. Let your Aussie friends know about it too, as it presents Switzerland at its best. <http://grandtour.myswitzerland.com/en/>

■ ASO Congress 2015 in Geneva: Don't forget to register for the ASO Auslandschweizerkongress 2015 in Geneva; it might be worth a visit to check out for yourself what the ASO and the CSA are all about. It will be held from 14-16.8.2015. <http://aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/congress-2015>

Canberra
Swiss Club
Coast weekend

Swiss Play Group

For Easter Mathias Kienholz assisted in bringing all the craft and goodies to the community centre – thank you Mathias for your efforts. The children got to make Easter bunnies and collect Easter Eggs. In April we painted plates for mothers day.

Schwyzerdütsch For Kids

This year we went camping at Glenworth Valley near Gosford, a fantastic location for a few families to get together! We built and strengthened friendships, explored nature and enjoyed the camp fire! We cooked up a storm on the BBQ: Sausages, Ice-cream cones with melted Mars bars and fruit, Brownies, Schlangenbrot/Damper and of course not to forget the giant marshmallows! And guess what: It was lots of fun and none of the kids asked for electronic devices once!

Swiss Play Group
toilet paper roll
people event
is on May 29



The Swiss Society of Victoria's purpose is to assist fellow Swiss in Victoria, old and young, who are in need of financial or social support. If you are experiencing difficulties, or you know of someone who does, please contact us. We are here to help.

Franz Schellmann – M: 0412 203 893 – E: schnellmann@dodo.com.au
 Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645 – E: patalbertaus@gmail.com



Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

The Yodlers and Alphorn Players performed at a cheese and wine fundraiser for a Swiss family early this year at the Greenwich sailing club. There was so much camaraderie amongst the guests that the vintner had difficulty in being heard at the time, maybe it had something to do with the wine consumed.

We will be performing on 25 July at the Swiss Seniors Luncheon, together with the Alphorn Players, Dance Group and Regula Scheidegger, violinist.

Our Swiss National Day Function will be held on Sunday, 2 Aug 2015 at the Castle Hill Show Ground. Applications for Swiss style stalls are now open.

Queensland: Events

- 21/5 Movie Night
- 7/6 Buderim Lunch (SCCS)
- 19/7 Bushwalk
- 1/8 SSQ National Day Celebration
- 1/8 National Day (Fraser Coast)
- 2/8 National Day (Gold Coast)
- 20/8 Movie night

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg-Roeseli

This year we are taking the relatively new and highly popular "Steinmandli-Juiz" back into our program after it was requested several times. Only our Scottish born teacher could make the connection between a song about a rock pile in form of a little man on top of a Swiss mountain and the city of

Cairns in North Queensland. While explaining to her the meaning of the song she told us that cairn is the Scottish word for "Steinmandli" and this is where Cairns got its name.

I hope you can come and listen to this interesting Juiz at one of our performances.



Schwyzerduetsch
for Kids: Camping
Weekend in Glenworth
Valley March 2015

QLD: Gold Coast Jass Group

The Gold Coast has now also a regular Jass group. We play every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at the German Club Gold Coast, Cnr of Gooding Dr & Jondique Ave, Merrimac, from 7pm. If this is too early for you just turn up when you can, most likely there will be a way to fit you in or release somebody else.

Dates: 15/5 5/6 19/6
3/7 17/7 7/8 21/8

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast

The Club is organising a Jass/Games night in May or June, and a picnic for this year's Aug 1 celebration.

PNG: Swiss Community PNG

Some years ago the mobile phone was introduced to Papua New Guinea. However, with the blessing of the mobile internet a big challenge arises to the people. The mobile is often misused to consume unhealthy content.



Lukas Schadegg has been in PNG since 2013 and works for CRMF (Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship). CRMF takes the opportunity of the growing mobile market to provide WiFi Bibles free with healthy content to download to their mobiles.

WIFIBibles are placed in public areas where digital Bibles can be downloaded without any connection cost. See: www.wifibible.org

New Zealand: Events

- 18/5 ASC AGM
 30/5-1/6 Trip to Wellington (Taranaki)
 5/6 Film night, Penrose
 12/6 Jass night, Penrose
 21/6 Final Champs. shoot (Taranaki)
 3/7 Pub Night, Auckland
 4/7 Anniversary shoot (Taranaki)
 10/7 Jass night, Penrose
 1/8 National Day, Penrose
 7/8 Pub Night, Auckland
 14/8 Jass night, Penrose

Auckland Swiss Club

The weekend in Coromandel, which was shared by the Auckland and the Hamilton Club. 36 of us stayed in tents or cabins for two nights, and greatly enjoyed each others company. We were blessed with fabulous late summer weather. On the Saturday we proudly walked the Coromandel Walkway from Fletcher Bay to Stoney Bay. It is part of an old bridle path and can be highly recommended.

The club also had the usual Jassen, and Pub nights, and the shooters had a good start to the year, with a couple of new rifles. Now we are looking forward to the Swiss Society AGM in Wellington on Queen's Birthday Weekend,

where we get together with members from the other three North Island clubs. Unfortunately Auckland lost in the Cowbell Semifinal against Hamilton. Well done guys, you can now take on Taranaki at the Swiss Society AGM on Queen's Birthday weekend.

Taranaki Swiss Club

The busy part of our Club year has started. The Keglen (9-pin bowling), Jassen (Swiss cards) and Shooting events have all started, with our meal functions coming up too. It would be great to see some new faces, not that we mind seeing our regulars! We also hold Karabiner Shooting if you're interested.

The Swiss Society medals competition will be held on 17th of May with 20% of competitors winning a beautiful medal, with Juniors competing in a separate competition.

On 30th of May we're heading to the BIG SMOKE of Wellington to compete in the final of the Cowbell competition and attend the AGM of the Swiss Society,

Hamilton Swiss Club

19/4 was our annual Cowbell Compe-



lunch break at the coromandel walkway

tion against the Auckland Club. The shooting had already been won by Auckland and it looked as if the bowling was all in their favours, but the last couple of Hamilton bowlers made all the difference. It all came down to the card playing where Hamilton managed to win, so now the Hamilton Club will make their way to Wellington on Queen's Birthday weekend for the final against the Taranaki Club.

During the day the Hamilton Club welcomed the Ambassador and his wife Laura who had made the big trip from Wellington up to the Mighty Waikato. 28 people attended the AGM. The highlight was a very enlightening and informative speech in the Swiss dialect by the Ambassador.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN SYDNEY
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 10 CUSTOMHOUSE QUAY
 WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND
 PHONE: 0064 4 472 1593
 E-MAIL: WEL.VERTRETUNG@EDA.ADMIN.CH
 WEB: WWW.EDA.ADMIN.CH/WELLINGTON

SAMOA
 SYLVIE SALANO, HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL APIA@HONREP.CH
FIJI
 ROLF FGELLER, HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL SUVA@HONREP.CH

CONTACT DETAILS OF SWISS CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS AND GROUPS
 Swiss Cham Australia, Sydney (02) 9290 1928 office@swisscham.com.au
 SAAN (Swiss Australian Academic Network) info@saan.id.au
 SBS Radio (on air in NSW, VIC, ACT) www.sbs.com.au/german
 VIC: The Swiss Club of Vic, Melb. 1300 893 968 info@swissclubvic.com.au
 Swiss Festival Australia 0425 805 854 www.swissfestival.com.au
 Ladies Luncheon (03) 9889 9321 Heidy Giger
 SwissKids (Esther Blaser) 0424 220 523 esther.blaser@gmx.ch
 The Swiss Companion Singers (03) 9889 9321 Heidy Giger

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn (03) 9754 7390 helvet@bigpond.com
 Swiss Folk Dance Grp Alpenrose (03) 9531 6575 hochuli@tpg.com.au
 Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess / Australian Swiss Cultural Soc. (as above)
 Les Bavards French conversation 0416 088 000 Sigrid de Castella
 Groupe Romand Du Victoria (03) 9571 2835 remy@favrerecraige.com
 Pro Ticino - Pro Down Under (03) 5967 4542 Claude Rossi
SA: Swiss Club of South Aust. Bruno Zueger swissclubofs@gmail.com
 Schwyz-Frauenraenzi (08) 8336 5932 Rosmarie Copeland (08) 8211 7066
 Swiss Corner Radio 5EBI FM Adelaide
WA: Swiss Club of Western Aust. 0466 658 411 president@swissclub.org.au
 The Guggeburras (08) 9277 7826 guggeburras@swiss.org.au
 Play Group 0404 671 913 petrajost00@gmail.com
 Monthly Jass / Swiss Yodellers (08) 9291 8402 petimu424@yahoo.com.au
 The Swiss Club Down South (08) 9755 5297 mayfamily@westnet.com
 Hon.Consul (Dr. Juerg Weber) 0407 452 666 perth@honrep.ch
NT: Swiss Social Club Darwin (08) 8927 5794 swissclubdarwin@hotmail.com
ACT: Canberra Swiss Club Inc. 0402 858 903 heinz@swiss.org.au
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 The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd. (02) 9680 4299 sydney.chapter@alumni.ethz.ch
 Swiss Play Group 0416 160 919 info@swissclubnsw.com
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 The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney (02) 9419 7277 bsidari@bigpond.com
 Cercle Romand Du N.S.W. (02) 9874 0906 akratz@bigpond.net.au
 Swiss Community Care Society (02) 9428 5593 www.swiss.org.au/cercleromand
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 Swiss Folk Dance Grp Alpegruess (02) 9560 0666 Ursula Mooser www.swiss.org.au/alpegruess
 Swiss Historical Society Inc. (02) 9363 9131 mail@thesswissinnsw.com

QLD: Swiss Society of QLD Inc. (07) 3314 8344 tarif@swiss.org.au
 Jass (Brisbane) (07) 3289 1183 Fredi Vogel sandralandolt@yahoo.com.au
 Swiss German Playgroup 0402 655 158 swissgermanplaygroup@outlook.com
 Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Berg-Roeseli, (07) 3871 1339, syfg@swiss.org.au
 Swiss Community Care Soc (QLD) (07) 3298 5300 Lorly Wihter
 Gold Coast Group 0414 97 0666 Franz Huber
 Jass Group (Gold Coast) 0418 982 480 Rachel Dorig
 Fraser Coast Swiss Group 0409 286 326 cecile@swiss.org.au
 Swiss Club Sunshine Coast (07) 5447 7548 cecile@swiss.org.au
NZ: Swiss Society of New Zealand 021 101 4432 tanja.latham@swiss.org.nz
 Wellington Swiss Club 04 568 6772 wellingtonswissclub@gmail.com
 Auckland Swiss Club 09 832 0366 adrian.blaser@swiss.org.nz
 Hamilton Swiss Club 021 962 708 anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz
 Taranaki Swiss Club 06 278 6878 otmar.hebler@swiss.org.nz
 Christchurch Swiss Club 021 044 4595 christchurchswissclub@gmail.com
PNG: Swiss Community PNG 00675 7373 40 43, orobiga.sebm@gfch.ch

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Regional Editor Marc Andre Godat mgodat@off-ice.com.au
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