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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA



Editorial:

From a very warm and green Switzerland, I wish our readers all the best for 2016. Hope to see many of you at the Auslandschweizerkongress to celebrate the ASO's 100th anniversary.

MARC GODAT, REGIONAL EDITOR «OCEANIA»

Consulate/Embassy: Mobile Passport Station 2016

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney informs: In 2016 the mobile passport station will operate in the following cities:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Darwin NT | (second half of May) |
| ■ Canberra ACT | (second half of May) |
| ■ Brisbane QLD | (second half of October) |
| ■ Townsville QLD | (second half of October) |
| ■ Cairns QLD | (second half of October) |

Registered citizens will be contacted by e-mail or letter two months prior to the visit with detailed information regarding dates, venues and procedures. If funding and staffing levels are not cut, we hope to provide this service in all capital cities every second year.



SWISS

Culture Caf

Thursday 3rd March

10am till 12 Noon

Hervey Bay Community Centre
22 Charles Street, Pialba

\$3 per person

ph 4194 3070

A Taste of Switzerland at the Culture Caf in Hervey Bay, Queensland
Helpers wanted! Contact Cecile from the Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Samichlaus id
Swiss Society
of Queensland

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Victoria: Events

- 4/2 Kapelle Gruezi Mitenand
- 17/2 Swiss Club Movie Night
- 24/2 Social Jass - all levels
- 27/2 Jassabend, Horticulture Centre Forest Hill (Matterhorn)
- 2/3 Ladies Luncheon
- 5/3 Kapelle Gruezi Mitenand
- 16/3 AGM (SCV members)
- 19/3 Jass Night / Competition
- 23/3 Mar Social Jass - all levels

Swiss Club of Victoria

The Swiss Club of Victoria is the center for Swissness in Melbourne. We offer a club restaurant and year round various Swiss activities and events. Wed and Thur are club nights with social Jass, live Swiss Music on the 1st Thurs of the Month, regular Swiss Movie nights and much more.

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn

After a difficult 2015 for the Choir, with insufficient singers to continue practice sessions and performances, 2016 looks very positive. We will start practicing on the first Wednesday in February and hope to be performing again later in the year. New singers are very welcome .

Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose / Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess, / Australian/Swiss Cultural Society

The very best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year. The Seniors had a fantastic afternoon at the Kaffeeklatsch in the Swiss Club.

The mystery trip in November was attended by over 100 guests. The weather gods made sure, that we could leave the umbrellas at home. A fantastic day for all.

The Swiss Folk Dance Group and



Victoria: Companion Singers and the Swiss Folk Dance group together at the nursing homes

the Companion Singers performed in nursing homes in November as an early Christmas present.

Western Australia: Events

- 6/2 Fasnacht, Rhein Donau Club &
 - 7/2 Kinder-Fasnacht (Guggeburras)
 - 20-21/2 Bickley Dam Summer Splash
 - 28/2 General Assembly
 - 27/3 Easter Picnic, Gidgegannup
- Early announcement:
12/6 Australian Jass tournament, Perth www.jasstournament.com

Australian Capital Territory: Events

- (tba) Film night
- 12-14/2 Multicultural Festival
- 12-14/3 weekend @ the coast

Canberra Swiss Club

The last event from the Canberra Swiss Club was the visit from “Samichlaus” and “Schmutzli”. Many families came for the picnic to see the two visitors. “Samichlaus” spoke to children from all ages – and he also called some adults. Amazing to hear he had to say much the same as


he did when we adults were children. “Schmutzli” could give all the children a “Grittibänz” and a bag with goodies.

The Swiss Choir was again singing at a nursing home. This performance became one of the very special events bringing joy to all, the listeners and the singers.

Hopefully you all had a good start into the New Year. Our first event will be a Film night in February. For several years we have been privileged to join the Swiss Jodlers of Sydney on their harbour cruise, so hopefully this year too. Also in February, the Multicultural Festival takes place in Canberra. Usually on Saturday the Swiss and German Radio Programs have a time slot where they broadcast live from the Festival. In March traditionally the Club spends the weekend at the coast.

Santa in Canberra





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

Supporting the Swiss Community of Victoria since 1879

New South Wales: Events

- 27/2 Harbour cruise (Yodlers)
- 12/3 Senior Luncheon (SCCS)
Il Bolognese, Gladesville
- 17/3 Senior Luncheon Central Coast (SCCS)

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

We are pleased to announce the establishment of our own website: www.swissyodlersofsydney.org

In November some of us linked up with the Melbourne yodlers in Wagga Wagga for a long weekend.

Once again Elizabeth Norrison

was instrumental in making our time there most enjoyable.

Our alphorn players and bell ringers took part in the promotion of the Readycare Swiss October Fest in its Alexandria HQ. We also sang recently, at the Swiss Community Care's annual Christmas luncheon.

The yodlers welcomed and joined a Swiss tour party for dinner in a private home, which gave the tourists the opportunity to talk with expats about life in Australia. The tour party were welcomed by the Consul General, Mr. Ernst



Swiss Yodlers of Sydney: tour party dinner

Steinmann. The evening buzzed with conversation and laughter.

Our annual harbour cruise will be held on Sat 27 February.

Queensland: Events

- 7/2 Bushwalk Noosa Heads NP
- 7/2 Carnival @ the beach or pool (Fraser Coast)
- 24/2 Movie Night "der Verdingbub" Anglican Church Hall, Ascot
- 3/3 A taste of Switzerland Culture Caf (Fraser Coast)
- 5/3 Bus Trip
- 9/3 Cinema Club: Clouds of Sils Maria, Maryborough (Fraser)
- 13/3 Easter Bunny Wellington Pt.
- 13/3 Family PicNic Gold Coast

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast

Monthly Lunch – held on the first Friday of the month. Other venues and details will be published on the Club's website and sent out by email.



Santa, Auckland style

New Zealand: Events

- 12/2 Jass @ Danish house
- 14/2 Picnic (Taranaki)
- 20/2 Field Shooting @ Swiss Farm
- 21/2 Family day (Wellington)
- 28/2 Beach party 2016
- 4/3 March Pub night
- 11/3 Jass @ Danish house
- 20/3 Egg decorating (Wellington)
- 28/3 Committee meeting
- 17/4 Shooting / Society games
- 23/4 Comp.shooting @ Swiss Farm

Swiss Society of NZ

The Battle of Morgarten (1315) and other anniversaries in Swiss history were celebrated in style on Saturday 14 November. Our Ambassador David Vogelsanger and his team, as well as the Wellington Swiss Club, put on a great day to remember not only Morgarten, but also the Conquest of Aargau (1415), the battle of

Marignano (1515) and the congress of Vienna confirming Swiss neutrality (1815). Over 500 Swiss and friends enjoyed the cultural and culinary experience in Lower Hutt / Wellington. The St. Bernard and Bernese Mountain Dogs were one of the many Swiss attractions. We thank all the organisers for making this day such a success.

'The First Swiss in New Zealand' – a fascinating history about the first wave of Swiss immigration in the 19th century, was compiled in 1967 by Irène Weber-de Candolles, wife of the then Chargé d'affaires. David Vogelsanger kindly got the booklet to be re-printed. The members of the NZ Swiss Society and clubs received a copy with their recent Helvetia Magazine. If interested in a spare copy, please contact the secretary of the NZ Swiss Society, nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz.

COMING UP: AGM of the NZ Swiss Society, Queens Birthday Weekend Saturday/Sunday 4/5 June, in Auckland. This has traditionally been a fun weekend, with lots of socialising, competition between clubs, lovely food, and not to forget the purpose, reflecting on the past and deciding on the future direction

of the society. 2016 will see the hand-over of the presidency from Auckland to Hamilton

Taranaki Swiss Club

The Swiss Club members were busy all year round, most recently on two weekends in November: A good contingent attended the memorable Morgarten Celebration in Wellington. The early Christmas function on 29 November drew a large crowd. It was particularly pleasing to see three generations of many families. We look forward to our regular Kegeln (9 pin bowling), to the picnic on 14 Feb, and much more.

Hamilton Swiss Club

In September the Hamilton Swiss Club held their annual Fondue Evening at the Matangi Hall with 138 people attending. Early November was a bush walk amongst the Nikaus in the Pirongia Forest Park on a lovely spring Waikato day, and in December the year finished with a very well-attended Family Christmas Party at the Newstead School.



Auckland Swiss Club

We look back on a busy, happy year: Santa, Carol singing, Picnic, walks, Jassen, Shooting, film nights, pub nights, family functions. A brand new event proofed a great success: The Kaffeekränzli and great NZ bake-off. 17 aspiring chefs competed with an amazing selection of goods. Live music and a music quizz made it a memorable afternoon for the 55 participants. Much is on offer for 2016.

Wellington Swiss Club

Wellington enjoyed an active year too, including two well attended functions in December – Santa on the 6th, and Christmas dinner on the 12th. Many events are planned for 2016. Don't miss the family day at the beautiful Jäggi Park (Akatarawa Valley) on Sunday 21 Feb, and the egg decorating on Sunday 20 March.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN SYDNEY

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MARITIME TOWER, LEVEL 12
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 SALANOA, HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL APIA@HONREP.CH

FIJI

ROLF GFELLER, 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 Heidi Giger
SwissKids (Esther Blaser) 0424 220 523 esther.blaser@gmax.ch
The Swiss Companion Singers (03) 9889 9321 Heidi Giger

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn (03) 9754 7390 helvet@bigpond.com
Swiss Folk Dance Grp Alpenrose (03) 9531 6575 hochuli@tpg.com.au
Trachtengruppe Schwyzgrueuss / Australian Swiss Cultural Soc. (as above)
Les Bavards French conversation 0416 088 000 Sigrig de Castella
Groupe Romand Du Victoria (03) 9571 2835 remy@favrecrenagane.com
Pro Ticino - Pro Down Under (03) 5967 4542 Claude Rossi
SA: Swiss Club of South Aust. Bruno Zueger swissclubofsas@gmail.com
Schwyzer-Frauechraenzli (08) 8336 5932 Rosmarie Copeland
Swiss Corner Radio 5EBI FM Adelaide (08) 8211 7066 heinz@swiss.org.au
WA: Swiss Club of Western Aust. 0466 658 411 president@swissclubwa.org
The Guggeburras (08) 9277 7826 guggeburras@swiss.org.au
Play Group 0404 671 913 petrastost00@gmail.com
Monthly Jass / Swiss Yodellers (08) 9291 8402 pelimu4243@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
Canberra Swiss Club Choir FM91.1 r.neilson@netspeed.com.au
Canberra Community Radio (Gabry and Werner) ursu.lsch@gmail.com
NSW: Swiss Australian Cultural Assoc. Inc. (SACA) info@swissclubnsw.com
Swiss Entrepreneurs info@swissentrepreneurs.com.au
ETH Alumni Sydney Chapter Roland Stocker sydney.chapter@alumni.ethz.ch
The Swiss Club of NSW Ltd. (02) 9680 4299 info@swissclubnsw.com
Swiss Play Group 0416 160 919 noemi@ustavkaser.com.au
Schwyzerdütsch For Kids (02) 9602 9395 bsidar@bigpond.com
The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney (02) 9419 7277 akretz@bigpond.net.au
Cercle Romand Du N.S.W. (02) 9874 9096 www.swiss.org.au/cercleromand
Swiss Community Care Society (02) 9428 5593 sccs@swiss.org.au
(incl. Swiss Seniors of NSW) (02) 9428 5593 Ursula Mooser
Swiss Folk Dance Grp Alpegrueuss (02) 9560 0666 www.swiss.org.au/alpegrueuss
Swiss Historical Society Inc. (02) 9363 9131 mail@thesswinnsw.com

QLD: Swiss Society of QLD Inc. (07) 3314 8344 tari@swiss.org.au
Jass (Brisbane) (07) 3289 1183 Fredi Vogel
Swiss German Playgroup 0402 655 158 sandralandolt@yahoo.com.au
Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg-Roeseli, (07) 3871 1339, syfg@swiss.org.au
Swiss Community Care Soc (QLD) (07) 3298 5300 Loryl Whiler
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 scsc@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 othmar.hebler@swiss.org.nz
Christchurch Swiss Club 021 044 4595 christchurchswissclub@gmail.com
PNG: Swiss Community PNG 00675 7373 40 43, orobiga.sebm@gfc.ch

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REGIONAL EDITOR INFORMATION / NEXT EDITION

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