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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA

Consulate: Communication with the Consulate General in Sydney
Dear fellow Swiss in Australia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

For some of us the use of electronic communication has become challenging. I am not so nostalgic as to wish back the times when phones had a round wheel to dial a number, but have sympathy for those who struggle to cope with new technologies. The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney has been equipped with a new phone system. The number remains unchanged 02 8383 4000.

A computer voice will guide you through a menu which will connect you to the consular officer responsible for the letter of the alphabet your family name starts with. Currently there are 7 consular officers, all Swiss nationals, who provide consular services for the 25'000 plus registered Swiss citizens. The consular staff has different work schedules; therefore you might not always speak with the same person.

■ **We answer phone calls** during the following times (AEST)

Mon-Thu: 09.00-12.30, 13.30-16.00 and Friday 09.00-12.30

■ **Our office is open** to the public: Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 12.00. If it is difficult for you to come to the Consulate during these hours, please speak with the consular officer in charge of the consular service you require, as they may be able to arrange an alternative appointment time with you.

■ **Swiss Passports and ID-cards:** Applications for Swiss passports/ID cards must be completed online: www.schweizerpass.ch or www.passeportsuisse.ch or www.passaportosvizzero.ch. To complete an application in English, please use the link "Application procedure for Swiss nationals living abroad" which can be found underneath the second logo on the above websites. Applicants without access to the internet can receive assistance from the consular officer in charge of your particular file. If you wish to have your biometric data registered while visiting Switzerland or in another country with a Swiss representation (which has a passport station) you can do so by **prior arrangement** with the Consulate in Sydney. The list with the available offices is also on the website.

Important: When completing the application, please mention under remarks where and when you would like to have your biometric data registered.

You need an appointment to register your biometric data (photo, fingerprints) at the Consulate General in Sydney. Once your online application has been submitted, checked and approved, you will receive an email with a link to make an appointment in Sydney. We process biometric data during office hours from Monday

to Friday. On a trial basis, this service will be available in Sydney in 2016 only on the following Saturdays (09.00-13.00):

■ **2 April / 4 June / 2 July / 6 August / 3 Sept / 5 Nov and 3 Dec.**

The staff of the Consulate is very committed to a good and personal service to you. Do not hesitate to contact me personally if you have any feedback in this regard or if you were particularly happy about something, which, thankfully, is generally the case. Email: sydney@eda.admin.ch

Consulate: Swiss volunteer receives Australia's highest honour

Over 50 years of volunteer service to any community shows huge generosity and yet one of the latest recipients of the pre-eminent Australian award, the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), seems genuinely surprised by being recognised for her work.

Sylvia Hochuli, born 1942 in Koppigen, Switzerland, was granted the treasured Medal for service to the Swiss community in Victoria on Jan 26 2016. The Ambassador, Marcel Stutz, and the Consul General, Ernst Steinmann, attended the ceremony at the Swiss Club of Victoria to commemorate the occasion.

Mrs Hochuli has been engaged with the Swiss community and the community at large in Victoria since her arrival in Australia in 1964. Ever since, she has been fostering and promoting cultural relationships within the Swiss community as a member of the Swiss Club of Victoria (now as honorary life member) and as president to this day of the Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose. She was also an inaugural committee member of the Trachtengruppe



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Schwyzergruess (Australian / Swiss Cultural Society), before becoming President thereof in 1986, a position she still holds today.

However, it is the other work of this previously unsung volunteer, which led to her nomination by the community for the award. Since her arrival she has worked tirelessly to regularly visit and assist elderly people at home or in nursing homes, arrange seniors afternoon teas, 1st August luncheons, organise social outings and so forth. She has also spent countless hours listening, which in a recent interview with Adrian Plitzco from Echo Helvetia (SBS German Radio) she terms as vital. She explains that the biggest thing is to make time, to just listen, which is often difficult for members of the families of the senior citizens who lead such busy lives.

Sylvia Hochuli came to Australia inspired by a visit to Switzerland in 1963 by her late husband, Fritz Hochuli. They were married for 49 years and spent a large part of their marriage working side-by-side in their butcher shop in Ormond and raising their son, Dieter, who has now gone on to become a professor at the University of Sydney. Fritz Hochuli was also a very generous person, packaging up off-cuts from his work, which the couple would then distribute to people less fortunate.

their time, she cautions to remember how important it is not to expect anything back if you give to others.

Consulate: New appointment in Melbourne - Manuela Erb

Please be informed that as of the 1.2.2016 there is a new Honorary Consul and a new location of the Consulate of Switzerland in Melbourne. The Federal Councillor, Didier Burkhalter, has appointed Mrs Manuela Erb as the new Honorary Consul. She is taking over the role from Mrs Erika Kimpton-Etter.

The Consulate General of Switzerland thanks Mrs Erika Kimpton-Etter for her dedicated and tireless service to the Swiss Community for over 9 years and warmly welcome Mrs Manuela Erb in her new role.



Manuela Erb (left), Erika Kimpton-Etter (right)

The Consulate of Switzerland in Melbourne is now located at:

■ 7 Yertchuk Avenue, Ashwood VIC 3147

Tel: (03) 8637-7175

Fax: (03) 8686-1440

The Consulate supports the Swiss representations in safeguarding Switzerland's interests in Victoria. For all consular matters regarding Swiss Citizens or in an emergency please note the primary point of contact is always the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

SWISS AWARD

20 OCTOBER 2016
SYDNEY

Nominate yourself before June
2016 online

[HTTPS://WWW.COGNITOFIRMS.COM/
SWISSCHAM/SWISSAWARD20162](https://www.cognitofirms.com/swisscham/swissaward20162)

Mrs Hochuli is also very grateful to the Australian community and friends who helped her establish her life on this vastly different continent. As a parting thought to others thinking of volunteering



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

Website: Learning resources for German speaking kids

The first of its kind website www.Germanwithkids.com provides a free German learning resources link list to German-speaking families with primary school children living abroad. Sydney based mother Mrs Selby, an education project professional and teacher with primary school age children created this unique website to share the researched knowledge with the global German speaking community. This will help families looking for suitable resources to keep up the German language.



First and only not-for-profit website to find information about learning GERMAN WITH German-speaking KIDS abroad



Now and then we all get homesick and miss Swiss scenery, food and culture...

We can't move the Swiss Alps for you but our aim is to bring some Swissness to the heart of Melbourne by providing a platform for a celebration of Swiss Culture, Music, Food, Products and Entertainment.

AND YOU CAN BE PART OF IT!
If you are interested in exhibiting your product, being a sponsor or making a donation, we would greatly appreciate your support and participation.

Please contact Rolf from the Swiss Festival Committee on 0425 805 854

swiss festival

Sunday, 9 October 2016

Queensbridge Square

Southbank Melbourne

www.swissfestival.com.au



Victoria: Events

- 30/4 Jassabend, Forest H. (Matterh)
- 7/5 Unterhaltungsabend
- 23/5 Biggest Morning Tea

Swiss Club of Victoria

Next time you are in Melbourne, come by the Swiss Club. There is always a friendly Swiss around! 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. Don't miss the Unterhaltungsabend on Sat 7 May always a highlight on our so-

cial calendar or join us for a Cuppa on the Biggest Morning Tea on Mon, 23 May for a good cause.

Western Australia: Events

- 27/3 Easter Picnic, Gidgegannup
- 8/5 Creative BBQ @ Kieliger in Shelleys
- 12/6 Australian Jass tournament, Perth www.jasstournament.com

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

The club has started the year with a film night (Langer Leben), some members joined the harbor cruise of the Swiss Jodlers in Sydney and traditionally a group of members spent the March long weekend at the coast.

The sub groups of the club have as well met to sing and play Jass.

We also seek your input into our 50th birthday celebration next year. Do you have a memory or story to share? Any ideas how we can celebrate? Your input is much valued! Now we look forward to see you at our bush walk first Sunday in May or at the Fondue in June



Canberra Swiss Club March long weekend



Yodlers Harbour Cruise

New South Wales: Events

- 21/4 Committee meeting (SSCS)
- 10/5 Seniors Luncheon (SSCS)
- 16/6 Central Coast Luncheon (SSCS)
- 23/6 Lunchtime Concert (SSCS)

Qld Events (cont)

- 18/5 Movie night
- 29/5 Lunch, Buderim (SSCS)
- 4/6 Metzgete (Gold Coast)
- 5/6 Bushwalk
- 25/6 Raclette

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

The annual Harbour Cruise was most enjoyable; the weather and a bigger, better boat provided a perfect ambience for a relaxed and musically rewarding evening. Ruth served up our favourite fare, "Chrigu" from Melbourne entertained us with his "Schwyzerorgeli", and the Yodlers' performance was greatly enhanced by the good acoustics aboard the "Vagabond Princess"

Woodgate Beach Camping, Sunshine Coast Swiss Club



Swiss Club Sunshine Coast

In mid February 2016 a group of members spent a few days camping at Woodgate Beach, Queensland, staying at the Woodgate Beach Tourist Park, enjoying swimming, beach walking, fishing, kayaking, relaxing and socialising (the photo was taken at the entrance to the caravan park around a bench sponsored by a Swiss couple from Maryborough/QLD).

Queensland: Events

- 10/4 Bushwalk
- 24/4 Qld. Jass Meisterschaft
- 7/5 Fondue Night
- 7/5 Beach BBQ (Fraser C)

PNG: Swiss Community PNG

EBC Church Health Services have existed since 1975 and employs currently about 90 staff. The service reaches mainly the most remote

places in the rough terrain of PNG. A core object is Health prevention and care for AIDS orphans and PLWA clients. The recent 40% church health budget cut by the government strains the limited man power in the already neglected regions of PNG. What has been started 60 years ago

PNG: Members of the AIDS Work Team



by dedicated Swiss Mission pioneer missionaries has developed into a professional health service we can be proud of run by nationals.

New Zealand: Events

- 7/4 Keglen (Taranaki)
- 10/4 Jassen (Taranaki)
- 17/4 Jassen & bore shooting (Tar)
- 21/4 Keglen (Taranaki)
- 24/4 Walk in Mangere (Auckland)
- 7/5 Swiss Market Day (Auckland)
- 4-5/6 Queens birthday (Swiss Soc)

Swiss Society of NZ

AGM: Meet Swiss from all over the North Island in North Auckland for a fun filled weekend. Join us for a casual dinner at the Swiss farm in Kaukapakapa on Sat 4th, the Cowbell final, then lunch and AGM at the farm on Sun 5th, or the big Auckland Birthday celebration dinner / AGM conclusion with live music and other entertainment at the Coatesville Settlers Hall on Sunday evening.

Taranaki Swiss Club

On Feb 27th, 23 members of us ventured south to Wellington to compete in the semi-finals of the Cowbell Competition (Auckland and Hamilton are the other semi-finalists). The disciplines are shooting, shot put, keglen (9-pin bowling) and

jassen (Swiss cards) and although keenly contested, the rivalry is friendly. Wellington out-muscled us in the shot put, the shooting ended up in a draw, and we were lucky to win the keglen and jassen. Now at the upcoming AGM, we will compete against the winner of Auckland and Hamilton. Thank you very much to the Wellington Swiss Club for the wonderful, friendly hospitality.

Hamilton Swiss Club

February was a busy month for our club, starting off with two Saturdays of medal shooting followed by our annual picnic on Sun 21st. We had a very big attendance for our picnic largely thanks to perfect weather. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to participate in Keglen and Shotput competitions as well as the delicious selection of grilled sausages and home-made baking. The children enjoyed the traditional tug-of-war as well as lots of other games and activities. As for many years now, the Swiss Cross Orchard from Whakatahane delivered a big quantity of Zwetschge, which had been pre-ordered and very much appreciated.

Auckland Swiss Club

It has been a busy start to the new year. The Auckland Swiss Club has made the most of the beautiful summer weather by hosting our annual society games at the Swiss Farm. It wouldn't be the same without some delicious Swiss sausages and pastries. A huge thank you to all our helpers to make these events happen. Our calendar is filled with a raft of activities to attract our various members. We've got the weekend away with Hamilton Swiss Club to look forward too, a walk in Mangere on Apr 24, a and of course the legendary Swiss Market Day on May 7. Additionally we have our monthly Pub and Jass nights. We will celebrate our 60th Birthday at the Society AGM

Grilled sausages on Queens Birthday.
at Hamilton Picnic



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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@dmx.ch
The Swiss Companion Singers (03) 9889 9321 Heidy Giger

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn (03) 9754 7390 http://swisschoir.wix.com/swissyodelchoir
Swiss Folk Dance Grp Alpenrose (03) 9531 6575 hochuli@tpg.com.au
Trachtengruppe Schwyzgruess / 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
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Swiss Play Group 0416 160 919 noemi@gustavkaser.com.au
Schwyzerdütsch For Kids (02) 9602 9395 bsidar@bigpond.com
The Swiss Yodelers of Sydney (02) 9419 7277 akretz@bigpond.net.au
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