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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA

Consulate: Mobile Passport Station Queensland in October 2016



Between **24.10.2016** and **28.10.2016** the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney is planning to operate a mobile passport station in the following cities:

- Cairns
- Townsville
- Brisbane

3 months prior to the visit all Swiss citizens registered with the Consulate at an address in Queensland will be informed about the procedure by e-mail or letter. **Please do not register your applications for this visit before receiving those instructions.**

Please make sure you have your current data and family members registered with the Consulate. In the past years several people missed out because their birth or change of name had not been registered beforehand.

Should you not be able to meet the Consulate's staff with its mobile passport station at the locations and dates mentioned above, you can always apply for a new identity document at our Sydney office as per the regular procedure. Please refer to our website: www.eda.admin.ch/sydney under "services".

You may also have your biometric data registered in Switzerland or in another Swiss representation abroad should it be more convenient for you. However please note that you always have to make an online application on www.schweizerpass.ch beforehand with a remark saying where and when you wish to have your data taken. After checking your passport application it will be transferred to the passport office you have chosen.

In addition to the usual Monday to Friday the Consulate in Sydney will process biometric data for Swiss Passports and ID-cards on the following Saturdays: **4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December**. This service will be provided with minimal staff and will therefore be strictly limited to the taking of biometric photos, fingerprints and electronic signatures. Please apply for a passport early (but not more than 3 months in advance) on www.schweizerpass.ch if you wish to secure an appointment, since the number of applicants is limited for each date.

CSA: Being a CSA Delegate / Upcoming Vacancy for 2017 Term

During the most recent spring session of the CSA Delegates meeting in Brunnen, one of the topics was that the expat community does not really know the services of the ASO, or what we as CSA Delegates actually do.

A good starting point is the ASO website www.aso.ch, a very helpful resource of all the services and different sub-organisations.



"The Council of the Swiss Abroad represents the interests of Swiss expatriates before the authorities and public opinion in Switzerland" says it in short of what we CSA Delegates do. Besides the bi-yearly CSA sessions held in Switzerland (for which we are encouraged to attend - travel at your own expenses), we may also inform the expat community about all ASO specific topics.



After 12 very fulfilling years as CSA Delegate and recently Editor of the Swiss Review for Oceania, I will resign both posts by August 2017. There will be re-elections coming up in due time, and I hope many of you put your hand up for these interesting posts.

Marc Godat, CSA Delegate and Editor Swiss Review

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(image on first page)
CSA meeting at
Seehotel Waldstätter-
hof in Brunnen.

The "Auslandschweiz-
erplatz" in Brunnen,
CH now open to the
public; only the lawn
is still missing. Worth
while a visit on your
next Swiss trip.



Victoria: Events

- 7/8** Swiss Nat. Day Celebration
Austrian Club, Heidelberg West
13/8 Jassabend, Horticulture Centre
Forest Hill (Matterhorn)
14/8 Kaffeeklatsch (Trachtengr.)



Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn

The Melbourne Swiss National Day Celebration on Sunday 7th August will again be held at the Austrian Club, 90 Sheehan Road, Heidelberg West. This celebration is supported by the different Swiss groups in Melbourne and will be an occasion for the whole family to enjoy traditional entertainment and Swiss specialities.

Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess.

14/8 Kaffeeklatsch. It is sponsored by the Group. All Swiss and none Swiss partners are welcome. Please book with Marlies on 9503 9921 or Rosmarie on 9583 9048. We look forward to welcome you

Suuser Fest,
Swiss Club of
South Australia

South Australia: Events

- 6/8** Swiss National day celebration
2/10 Swiss Club of SA 50th Anniversary

Swiss Club of South Australia

In March our President listened to the 'Heimweh-Schweizer' and organised a Suuser Fest, where we could enjoy the fresh grape juice just before it turned into proper wine.

In October we will celebrate 50 years Swiss Club of SA with a 'Buure Z'morge' (brunch), live dance music and dinner to finish an eventful day. If you have a story, old photos or a special memory you would like to share.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

Our next event will be the popular Fondue night. This year it is also a farewell night for our Ambassador Marcel Stutz and his wife Esther. A new posting in Havanna means he and Esther are leaving by the end of June. We thank the Ambassador for all his support and the positive and



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

SWISS AWARD

20 OCTOBER 2016
SYDNEY

Nominate yourself before June
2016 online

[HTTPS://WWW.COGNITIFORMS.COM/
SWISSCHAM/SWISSAWARD2016](https://www.cognitiforms.com/swisscham/swissaward2016)

cooperative relationship with our Club, members and non members. It has always been a great pleasure to have his and Esthers' company. We also say farewell to two more members of the Swiss Embassy: Sandra Cadien and Tamara Kucera Schmid. Ambassador Stutz will be replaced

by Ambassador-designate Pedro Zwahlen (Australia) and Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen (PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Island, Kiribati and Nauru).

Every second Wednesday we have a Jass evening. Everybody is welcome – beginner or expert. Once a month our choir rehearses at the German Club. Reading notes is not necessary - the love of singing is what counts. Every Monday night from 6pm to 8pm you can listen to

the Swiss Radio Program on 91.1FM. Every contribution is welcome.

Finally, the next Club events will be the Fondue Night on **3/6**, a Film Night with place and date to be announced and our traditional National Day Celebration on the **31/7**.

New South Wales: Events

- 23/7** Lunchtime Concert (SSCS)
- 7/8** Nat.Day family picnic (Yodlers)
- 23/9** Organ Rec. @ Opera House (SSCS)

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

The yodellers had the pleasure to sing at the funeral of fellow compatriot, Tony Kalt on Feb 29.

We are very pleased to welcome the return of Honorary Member, Martin Scarpino to the group, after many years working in Asia. On 23 July, 2016 we will perform at the Swiss Seniors 1 August luncheon at the Concordia Club in Tempe. Our Swiss National Day Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, 7 August, 2016 at Castle Hill Show Ground.

Queensland: Events

- 3/7** Bushwalk
- 30/7** Nat Day Celebration Brisbane
- 31/7** Nat Day Celebr. (Gold Coast)
- 31/7** Nat Day Celebr. (Fraser Coast)
- 24/8** Movie Night
- 4/9** Bushwalk
- 18/9** Barefoot bowling



PNG: EBC Kassam Training Centre

PNG: Swiss Community PNG

EBC Kassam Training Centre near Yonki Dam in Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea, has existed since 1968. The core objects of the church run carpentry- and mechanical training is to train young people in a 2 - 4 years' training program in basic practical and spiritual skills to provide service for local communities, church projects or by joining the commercial sector. Over 600 young vital people have been trained in the last 48 years with a tremendous benefit to the nation of Papua New Guinea. A Swiss investment with eternal value.

Swiss Society of Qld Jass Championships



New Zealand: Taranaki Swiss Club

At our recent Club Annual General Meeting we were very pleased to welcome youth on our committee – thank you so much Sonja Werder and Andrea Hebler for offering your services to our Club!

During March we participated in two parades – the Multi-ethnic Parade in New Plymouth and the Kaponga Primary Schools' 125th jubi-

lee parade. Thank you to the Bernese Mountain Dog Club for joining us ... your dogs were a hit and added so much to our float. It was great to see younger members with their small children taking part too. Thank you all for coming.

Our new programme has just been sent to members with many functions in the next few months and we look forward to great support!

Hamilton Swiss Club

14 members from the Hamilton Swiss Club set off to the Tokoroa Alpine Club at Mt Ruapehu for a weekend of planned Tramps. Friday evening started with a dinner of Swiss Alpine Macaroni and apple sauce, all eaten up followed by swiss baking/coffee/cards. On the Saturday, after a cooked breakfast we attempted to walk but the weather would not oblige, more coffee/cake/cards, but decided to walk in the rain in the afternoon, 6 braved the elements and walked the Taranaki Falls, always beautiful regardless of weather, returned and warmed up with hot showers. Happy Hour followed by dinner, we had Speck/sau-

Taranaki Swiss Club



sages, sauerkraut and potatoes. Sunday morning, the weather was still not kind to us, but it was decided after breakfast, that most of us would all walk somewhere in the rain, some did the part of Whakapapaiti walk and others did a shorter walk on the Whakapapanui walk, returned to lodge and had a late lunch and cleaned up the lodge and returned home again. The planned tramps will have to wait for another year

Auckland Swiss Club

We've had a flurry of activities over the summer months and enjoyed spending time at the Swiss Farm! Unfortunately the South Auckland walk had to be cancelled due to rain. But rain did not deter the Hamiltonians and Aucklanders to participate in the Cow Bell Semifinals in Auckland. It was a close competition – Hamilton won it, and will compete in the finals at Queens Birthday.

Pub Nights: our monthly get togethers at a local pub are always enjoyable and nice to catch up with friends. **Jass:** the competition for a block of cheese or other spot prices can get heated at times.

Come along to one of our future events to make new friends!

1/7 Movie Night: we will showcase the new Heidi film, typically Swiss and very much recommended.

31/7 Swiss National Day Celebration - we will celebrate Switzerland's Birthday in style with a brunch at the Swiss farm.



Auckland: Rained-out bowling at society semifinals

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SwissKids (Esther Blaser) 0424 220 523 esther.blaser@gmx.ch
The Swiss Companion Singers (03) 9889 9321 Heidi 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
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Les Bavards French conversation 0416 088 000 Sigrid de Castella
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Swiss Historical Society Inc. (02) 9363 9131 mail@thewswissinnsw.com

NZ Embassy: Mobile Passport Station in Auckland in Dec. 2016

In December 2016 it is the turn of the Embassy of Switzerland to fly the extra mile!



Swiss citizens residing in New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Niue and American Samoa will have the opportunity to apply for a new Swiss Passport and/or ID in Auckland instead of flying to Wellington for this purpose. This service will be offered exclusively from the 5th till the 9th of December 2016.

All Swiss citizens registered with the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington will be informed about the exact details and procedure by e-mail or letter three months before the date. **Please do not register your applications for this visit before receiving those instructions.**

Please make sure that your personal data are up-to-date and that also your family members are duly registered with the Embassy in order to receive the detailed announcement and to be able to benefit from this service.

Should you miss the opportunity of having your biometric data captured in Auckland, you can always apply for a new identity document at our Wellington office under the regular procedure. Please refer to our website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington under "Services".

You may also have your biometric data registered in Switzerland or in another Swiss representation abroad. Please note, however, that you have to lodge an online application on www.schweizerpass.ch beforehand, with the indication "Wellington" as your place of registration and a remark mentioning where and when you wish to have your biometric data taken. After our verification, your passport application will be forwarded to the passport office you have selected and you will get a confirmation.

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