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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA



Editorial:

Dear friends and readers. This will be my last Swiss Review as Editor. It was great working with you all and I wish all the Swiss communities and friends all the best for 2017.

MARC GODAT, REGIONAL EDITOR «OCEANIA»

Consulate: Consular services in the Digital World

Many articles are published about "digital disruption". Whether we support or get irritated by the constant changes, there is little alternative other than to find a way to move forward together. Consular services make no exception to this development. A growing number of citizen requests more sophisticated services and ask for information to be provided quickly and accurately. Ever more public services are provided through the internet only.

My colleagues and I work hard to meet your expectations and I promise to help those who have no access to computers and internet or face difficulties using them. I admit there is room for improvement (e.g. Consulate's website) and thank you for your patience while we are working on it.

The general trend in public services goes towards enabling the citizen to search and find information online. The cost for mailing-outs by postal services greatly exceeds the cost of e-mails. Please be aware that the Swiss Review is the main official publication and source of information that might be relevant to you. In this edition, the focus is on important changes in the Federal Act on the Acquisition and Loss of Swiss Citizenship that will take effect on the 1.1.2018.

Swiss Passports and ID-cards are the most requested services. All applications have to be completed online:

- **D/F/I** www.schweizerpass.ch (choose language on top)
 - **E** www.schweizerpass.admin.ch/pass/de/home/application.html
- Options where to register your biometric data are:

- **In Sydney:** Once your application has been approved, you will receive an email with a link to book an appointment at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney. We process biometric data from Mon to Fri and - on an extended trial basis - on the following Saturdays: **4 February, 4 March, 1 April and 6 May 2017.**

- **In Switzerland or in another country:** If you wish to have your biometric data registered while visiting Switzerland or in another country with a Swiss representation, you can do so by prior arrangement with the Consulate in Sydney. When completing the application, please mention under "remarks" where and when you would like to have your biometric data registered.

- **Mobile passport station** in your state. Individual information will be sent to the communities approximately 2 months before the visit.

- Adelaide, SA 10 and 11 February 2017
- Tasmania (town tbc) 31 March 2017
- Perth, WA 15 to 21 May 2017
- Melbourne, VIC: 30 October to 5 November 2017

We answer phone calls during the following times:

Mon to Thu: 09.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.00 (AEST) and Fri 09.00 to 12.30 (AEST). If your call is not answered, please leave a message with your name and contact number and we call you back.

Our office is open to the public: Mon to Fri 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 service you require, who may be able to arrange an alternative appointment.

Change of Address: Consulate of Switzerland in Brisbane

The office of the Consulate of Switzerland in Brisbane is located at:
Level 5, 189 Grey Street Mr. Daniel Gschwind, Consul
South Brisbane, QLD Tel. + 61 (0)7 3238 1978
Australia Fax + 61 (0)7 3236 4552
Postal address: Mob + 61 (0) 419 219 795
PO Box 12382, George Street, E-Mail: brisbane@honrep.ch
Queensland 4003

Please note: All consular matters are handled and processed at the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney.

CSA: Update about Swiss Banks

In a recent email, the ASO informed us about their progress on the topic "Swiss Banks" and a recent survey they conducted in Nov. This page is worth a read and also contains their results as a PDF. <http://aso.ch/en/consultation/living-abroad/swiss-banks>

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CSA: Elect the new Council of the Swiss Abroad

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) is the representative body in Switzerland for Swiss people living abroad. Australia has four seats on the CSA. Elections for the Australian delegates of the CSA for the term 2017–2021 will take place in June.

Who can vote?

Swiss citizens in Australia, 18 years and over who are registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney, will be able to elect their representatives. In an effort to reform the election process, Australia is one of only two countries taking part in an e-voting pilot program. The aim is to conduct the elections in a more democratic way and to broaden the voter base.

CSA Oceania
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

www.csa-oceania.org

the new website of the Council of the Swiss Abroad
for the Swiss Community of Oceania!

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Swissinoceania/>

The elections will be carried out by electronic means, utilising the e-voting system provided by the Canton of Geneva. There will be no ballot paper. To partake in these elections, it will be a condition that the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney has registered your email address. If you have not yet provided the consulate your personal email address, you may do this via the online desk on <https://www.eda.admin.ch/> or by contacting the consulate on syd.vertretung@eda.admin.ch. Further details about the e-voting process will be published in the next Swiss Review.

Who can be elected?

All registered Swiss citizens, who are 18 years and over and are residents of Australia are eligible to stand for election. In addition, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Candidates must demonstrate an interest and commitment to the Swiss Abroad community in Australia.
- In addition to English, candidates must be fluent in either German or French (spoken and written).
- Candidates must be prepared to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of a council member. Please see the ‘Pflichtenheft’ (G) / ‘Cahier des charges’ (F) on the website of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) <http://aso.ch/en/politics/csa-elections-2017>

Call for Council of the Swiss Abroad Candidates
Your opportunity to represent the Swiss in Australia!

to stand as a candidate for a seat on the CSA representing Australia, please complete the registration form and send it to direction@aso.ch no later than **31 March 2017**.

The election registration form as well as further information can be found on: <http://aso.ch/en/politics/csa-elections-2017>

For information about the current delegates and the services they provide go to <http://www.csa-oceania.org/>

Victoria: Events

25/2 Jassabig Forest Hill (Matterh)

Western Australia: Events

12/3 AGM (1:30pm), followed by 40th Anniversary Celebration Swiss Club (from 3pm), both @ Rhein Donau Club

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

Happy 2017! For the Canberra Swiss Club it is a special year – it is the Club’s 50th Birthday. This milestone will be celebrated with a special

50th Birthday party on Easter Saturday, 15th April 2017 at the Yarralumla Woolshed. Please mark this date. It will be a day of good food and fun for young and old. You can expect brunch, birthday dinner, entertainment for children and adults, music (including the club’s very own Crèmeschnitte-Chörli, special lucky door prize, tombola, and lots of other surprises). Members and guests will be welcome, with bookings required closer to the event. More detailed information will be published regularly in the SWISS Club Newsletter, on the website www.swiss.org.au/home.php?ID=4 and also will be broadcast on the local radio FM91.1 on Mondays 6pm – 8pm.

Earlier in the year we will have a film night and the

coast weekend will be on the Canberra long weekend 11th to 13th March. Soon choir rehearsal and jass will resume. As usual details are in the SWISS Club newsletter.

A special welcome to Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen (who will be the Ambassador for the accredited islands) and Soraya Zwahlen. Both arrived end of 2016 in Australia to join Ambassador for Australia Pedro Zwahlen and Linus who arrived in September. We wish the Ambassadors family a happy, successful and

enjoyable time in Australia.

To all our members and friends: may 2017 be a happy, healthy and content year. I look forward to see many of you at our events.

NSW: Events

5/2 Petanque & brunch (Cercle R)

NSW events (cont.)

7/3 Visit ABC Studios & lunch @ TAFE restaurant (SCCS)

10-12/3 40 Years Celebration (Cercle)

16/3 Central Coast Luncheon (SCCS)

Cercle Romand Sydney

To welcome the new year, the Cercle

Romand will host the Petanque and Brunch at the Park on Sunday 5 February at Clarkes Point Reserve Woolwich. Members and non members welcome.

The Cercle Romand is to celebrate 40 years in 2017! To mark this celebration les Romands are heading to Canberra for the weekend of 10-11-12 March with plenty of activities organised.

Please check the Cercle Romand website for all event updates and a great photo gallery of past/present events. www.cercleromand.com.au

QLD: Sunshine Coast Swiss Club

The Swiss Club Sunshine Coast held its Christmas Lunch on Sunday 4 December 2016 in Noosaville. 42 members and guests started the event off with an “apero” cruise on the Noosa River, followed by lunch at the Boathouse Restaurant, Noosaville. The weather was perfect and an enjoyable few hours were spent catching up with friends and enjoying a beautiful lunch.

The monthly luncheons on the first Friday of the month will continue also in the new year.

Swiss Club
Sunshine Coast
Christmas Lunch
Noosaville, QLD



Just a reminder that winter has finally arrived in Switzerland. Hope you enjoy it. Photos by Marc Godat



Embassy NZ: Email Adresses needed

Dear fellow citizens. Most business is done online nowadays. It is therefore very important to have your e-mail address registered with your Embassy. The advantages are numerous:

- Communication is much more rapid.
- In case of an emergency, the Embassy can contact you straight away.
- You do not need to be at home in order to receive your correspondence.
- A lot of paper is saved. This is good for the environment.
- It's cheap.

Should you already have your e-mail address registered, you can disregard this communication. If not, please fill in the online form on this webpage: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington -> Services -> Registration and deregistration, Change of Address -> Change of address abroad.

The “Swiss Review” has been delivered online since as standard. If your e-mail address is registered with the Embassy, you will receive the “Swiss Review” by e-mail unless you specifically desire the printed version.



New Zealand: Taranaki Swiss Club

The annual committee barbeque was held at the Club house on the 25th of November. This is a really social event, with members enjoying a catch up and laughs without having to organise a function for others. Othmar thanked the entire committee for their dedication and valuable contribution to our Club.

On Nov 27 we held our Christmas Shoot / Keglen with an increased number of participants. Claire Hunn organised activities for the children which they all really enjoyed. A pot-luck lunch was held, followed by Father Christmas making an appearance giving out presents and lollies. The adults' prize giving was held, followed by Mark distributing the Mystery Prizes. Grateful thanks must go to Mark Kiser for organising this fabulous day. Next events:

- **2&16/2** Keglen recommences. These are fun evenings with a chat, laugh, a bit of sport and a delicious supper. Enquiries Heidi 06 2734286.
- **11/2** Semi-final of the cowbell competition against Wellington. Strong shot putters, accurate shooters, skilful jassers and keglers with prowess are needed. If you can help, ring Othmar on 06 2786878.
- **12/2** Our annual picnic ... the BIGGEST event of our Club calendar. The day starts around 11.00am with Swiss music, barbequed Swiss sausages, ice creams, beverages, Schwingen (Swiss wrestling) and much more. We will also be hosting a farming group from Switzerland ... so come along and see old friends and make new acquaintances!!! A day not to be missed!

Hamilton Swiss Club

The Family Christmas party was held on Sunday 4th December where Santa had a huge welcome from lots of children and their parents. The children were busy with biscuit decorating and Christmas crafts while the parents enjoyed lots of delicious Swiss sausages. After lunch the

children participated in a nativity scene and sang Christmas carols. Next events:

- **18/2** 50 metre shooting competition for Swiss Society medals
- **19/2** annual picnic, Newstead House (near Hamilton)

Auckland Swiss Club

On Nov 6 the club did a family walk from Onehunga to Stonefields and on Dec 6 they held their Samiclaustag at the Swiss Farm and welcomed Santa who arrived from the North Pole by helicopter.; well attended day by many families. Next events:

- **12/3** Family Picnic and Society Games at the Swiss Farm

Wellington Swiss Club

On Dec 4 the club held their Samiclaustag with 20 children.

- **4/3** Celebration of 60 years Wellington Swiss Club together with Aelplerchilbi to be held at the Ambassador's residence in Lower Hutt.

Santa watches the nativity play at Hamilton Christmas party



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 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@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
 Trachtengruppe Schwyzgruess / Australian Swiss Cultural Soc. (as above)
 Les Bavards French conversation 0416 088 000
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 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
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 www.swissinfo.org Actual News by swissinfo/SRI
 www.swiss.org.au Swiss Clubs on the Net in Australia
 www.avs-ai-international.ch OASI/DI and voluntary contributions (AHV)
 www.swisscommunity.org Internet platform for the Swiss Abroad

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