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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA

Next Submission Date:
4 January 2018



ROLAND ISLER
REGIONAL EDITOR | OCEANIA
COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD | AUSTRALIA

Editorial:

Dear friends and readers.

The Congress of the Swiss Abroad and the assembly of the Council were held in Basel on 18-20 August. At this most important annual event for Swiss Abroad to connect with Switzerland – and vice versa, the Swiss community in Oceania was well represented by your newly elected CSA delegates. You can find their report on the CSA Oceania website: www.csa-oceania.org

These are the last «Regional Edition Oceania» pages for this year. I thank you for your interest and I especially thank those that have contributed with stories, news and information.

The «Swiss Review» is published six times per year. Four of those editions contain the «Regional Edition Oceania» pages. Submission dates for articles and advertisements for next year's «Regional Edition Oceania» are:

- 1/2018 – Thursday, 4 January
- 2/2018 – Monday, 5 March
- 3/2018 – Monday, 30 April
- 5/2018 – Monday, 3 September

Dates for your calendar!

Please send your contributions by the above deadlines to: risler@csa-oceania.org. I look forward to hearing from you!

NEW NETWORKING GROUP: UZH Alumni and Friends Sydney

The University of Zurich (UZH) is Switzerland's largest university. Founded in 1833, UZH is one of the foremost universities in the German-speaking world. The university welcomes staff and students from all over the world and 55% of all professors, 42% of all PhD and 19% of all students at UZH are international. To date, twelve UZH scholars have been awarded the Nobel Prize. Their achievements have contributed considerably toward establishing the excellent reputation of the university.

UZH has close ties with Australia. It maintains collaboration agreements with several Australian universities, and there is also an active exchange of students between Australia and Zurich. In May, UZH joined 'Universitas 21', founded in Melbourne in 1997 and since then, has grown to a leading global network of universities with a mission to promote internationalisation processes in research and higher education.

'UZH Alumni and Friends Sydney' is a networking group bringing people together who share a common experience by having worked or studied at the University of Zurich, or have a connection to it in one way or another. The group's objective is to create opportunities to meet and connect, socially as well as professionally, and to build bridges between the Sydney area and Zurich. The group is supported by the University of Zurich, working together with partners such as the Swiss embassy to build new partnerships in science and higher education.

The alumni chapter is holding monthly gatherings at the Swissotel in Sydney, which will also be open to exchange students and members of the UZH community who are traveling in Australia, be it for business or pleasure. The world is becoming increasingly networked, and the half-life of knowledge is getting shorter and shorter. The dialogue within such networks will

become ever more important in the future, and therefore our invitation goes out to alumni, professors and students alike: "When in Sydney, get in touch!" We can also support any initiatives to set-up other UZH Alumni chapters across Australia.

For more information contact Dr Mario A Bassi, UZH Alumni and Friends Sydney Chair, uzh.sydney@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

14 September, 18 October & 15 November 2017, 6pm onwards,
@ Crossroads Bar, Swissotel, 68 Market Street, Sydney 2000 NSW



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Community News and Events

PNG: Books for Life – Swiss impact on literacy

There is a high demand for valuable literature in Papua New Guinea. Evangelical Brotherhood Church (EBC) is spreading good books throughout the country. In June 2017 EBC opened its sixth bookstore in Kundiawa, Chimbu Province. The only bookstore within a range of 33km with its committed staff, supported by Swiss and German missionaries, is serving a population of about 400,000 people. Volunteer Pidgin School teachers run classes in remote areas. As a result people become literate – a live changing impact.



NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

National Day celebrations took place on Sunday, 30 July at the Matangi Hall with a lunchtime function. We had about 100 people attend our very successful occasion and it was a delight to see so many people in their traditional Swiss costumes as well as a small group of children enjoying the lampion parade. Lunch consisted of home-made Sauerkraut, Speck, Ham and sausages followed by coffee with or without Schnapps and a big selection of home-made baking. Many thanks to Judith Mouron who treated us to some very professional solo yodelling.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

We held our Swiss National Day celebrations with a good attendance. The Singing Group sang the National Anthem followed by a mix of four different traditional songs. We were fortunate to have the talented Conrad, Aaron and Bernhard play music for us; a great Swiss tombola with a beautifully hand-carved wooden chair kindly donated by Ruedi Kull and various fine meats kindly sponsored by the

Swiss Deli amongst other prizes; and to top it off we had a delicious supper of fine Swiss fare and a huge selection of sweets – a real treat!!! Several trophies were presented: the Jassen Cup to Heidi Seifert; the Keglen trophies to Othmar Hebler and Heidi Werder; the ladies shooting cups to MaryAnn Whakatutu and Vonnice Ngatai – congratulations to all! Thank-you to everyone who ensured the success of this evening, and especially to those members who came along, we really appreciate your support.

Upcoming Events:

5&19/10: Keglen. 7.30pm. Ring Heidi on 06 273 4286 for information.

15/10: The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot and Championship Shoots. 1.00pm. Ring Mark on 06 278 6266 for information.

2&16/11: Keglen again.

19/11: The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and the Championship Shoots will be contested from 1.00pm.

26/11: The Christmas Shoot. 10am. A great social day. Father Christmas will make an appearance. For the competition everyone please bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10. Ring Mark on 06 278 6266 for information.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

During the winter month, people in Europe play ice stock sport, which is similar to curling. Competitors slide ice stocks over the ice with the aim to come closest to a target. The game can also be played in warmer month on a tarmac or concrete surface. The Canberra Swiss Club members recently played at the Austrian Club with their stock sport team. It was a very interesting and fun afternoon.

We look forward to the upcoming events, such as Jass tournament, Gokart, Film night and 'Samichlaus'. For the 'Crëmschnittechorli' Christmas time is a rewarding time when the choir performs at concerts in nursing homes. Both listeners and singers thoroughly enjoy these concerts. Choir practice is every second Thursday. Every second Wednesday Jass enthusiasts come together to play. All are welcome – beginners or experienced Jass players.

Every Monday evening from 6 to 8pm a Swiss program is broadcast on FM91.1. You can see, the Canberra Swiss Club is an active club with events for all ages and interests. Many events can only happen with the help of volunteers. A big 'thank-you' to all those who have contributed their time. And a 'big thank-you' for those who have hosted the Club or have given donations for the various events.

WA: Swiss Club of Western Australia

3/12: Santa visits. 1pm at the Perry Lakes Reserve.

VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess A.S.C.C

8/11: 'Fahrt ins Blaue'. We would like to invite the retired community (over sixty) to our mysterious and exiting **Mystery Trip**. Cost is \$40 per person, which includes a three course lunch.

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SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

We are searching for helpers to be part of our committee for 2017/2018, all positions are open for nomination so please come to the AGM to participate (details below). Whether it's a once off event or ongoing assistance, this could be the year YOU make a difference. If you are interested please email Sarah at swissclubofsa@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome at our events and all details can be found on our website: www.swissclubsa.com.au

Meet the newly elected team of Oceania delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Over the past six months, the election of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the term 2017-2021 was held worldwide. The constituent assembly of the new Council took place on 18 August during the Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Basel. The elected team representing Oceania is looking forward to serving the community for the next four years. Please get in touch with them if they can be of any assistance or if you have an experience to share. For contact details, or to find out more about each delegate and the election, please go to www.csa-oceania.org



Peter Ehrler (NZ)



Peter Canziani (NZ)

Delegates in New Zealand

The two representatives on the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand were chosen from among members of the four regional Swiss Clubs – Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington. **Peter Ehrler** and **Peter Canziani** (Deputy) were re-elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, held on 4 June 2017.



Carmen Trochsler (SA)



Roland Isler (VIC)

Delegates in Australia

■ A successful e-voting pilot project

The election campaign for the Australian delegates – eight candidates were standing for election – was run through social media, the CSA Oceania website, the «Swiss Review», e-newsletters and emails from the Consulate General of Switzerland and through communication channels of the Swiss Clubs.

Not only was it the first time that such an election campaign was held in Australia, more importantly, it was also the first time that the majority of the Swiss community in Australia was able to have a say who their representatives are. Of the 25,148 registered Swiss citizens in Australia, 14,850 (59%) were eligible to vote. Eligibility criteria were

to be a registered Swiss citizen living in Australia, being over the age of 18 and – as the election was part of an e-voting pilot project – having an email address registered with the Consulate General.

The canton of Geneva was making its e-voting platform available to the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), to conduct the election. On 12 June, login codes were emailed to all eligible voters, who had until 27 June to cast their electronic ballot. The authorities in Geneva received 1,104 valid votes, which equates to a participation rate of 7.4%. The results were announced on 28 June. The incumbent team of **Carmen Trochsler** (SA), **Roland Isler** (VIC) and **Beat Knoblauch** (NSW) was re-elected and new, to hold the fourth seat, is **Katja Wallimann Gates** (QLD).

This election has been a great opportunity for Swiss in Australia to democratically choose their delegates and for those elected to gain legitimacy as the representatives of the Swiss community in Australia. Thanks to all those that have participated in this pilot project and in doing so, have put themselves at the forefront of reforming the election process of the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

Upcoming Events:

22/9: Annual General Meeting. 5.30pm for a 6pm sharp start. Swiss dinner at 7.30pm at the Austrian Club, 11 Torrens Road, Ovingham.

29/10: Würstli Brötli. 11am Kuitpo Forest, Chookarloo Camp Ground (look for the Swiss flag).

2/12: Christmas Baking. Cookies Galore (venue and time to be confirmed).

10/12: Christmas Celebrations. 11am in Morialta Park with Sami Klaus.

Further details on these events are on our website and in our newsletter. To become a member please contact swissclubofsa@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @swissclubsa

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Consulate: A Farewell Note from the former Consul General

Dear Citizens,

My term in office as Consul General ended on 30 June 2017. Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown has taken over as my successor; she was previously Consul General of Switzerland in Cape Town.

The four years in Oceania will forever remain a highlight in our lives, both for the personal and professional experience. Edith and I are very grateful for all the wonderful moments spent and personal contacts made in the 'lucky country'. Our 11th and last posting for the Swiss Foreign Affairs Department will be in Stuttgart (Germany).

The improvement of the consular services to you was my priority, in particular for those living far away from Sydney. With the mobile passport station my colleagues reached out to many Swiss who had never before met a consular officer. This year's information campaign about



Ernst Steinmann and partner Edith Hueck

the 'Swiss Citizenship' attracted over 1000 interested persons in Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. I hope this will encourage more citizens to exercise their right to vote in Switzerland.

While many see Australia as a country of immigrants, the majority of the Swiss community today was actually born in Australia and has never gone through the difficulties or emotions typically

experienced by migrants. This 'new' majority of members in our community needs more adequate information and deserves efforts by Clubs and Associations to facilitate a continuation of their attachment to the country of their ancestors. Many have lost their citizenship because their birth was registered too late. This situation can easily be avoided with the help of family members who are more familiar with Swiss legislation, by updating the registration with the Consulate and by reading the «Swiss Review» which provides important information. There are legal time limits to secure citizenship, but no penalties apply for late registration. I strongly encourage all those who have forgotten to register or update their details with the Consulate, to reconnect with us.

I thank you for the many friendly encounters and constructive feedback. Your ongoing interest and support of members of our communities is valuable and highly appreciated.

ERNST STEINMANN | CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND

Embassy NZ: mobile passport station in Kaponga and Timaru

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 card in Kaponga or in Timaru instead of flying to Wellington for this purpose.

■ **This service will be offered from 2 to 6 October 2017.**

All Swiss citizens registered with the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington will be informed about the exact details and procedure by e-mail three months before the date.

Please make sure that your personal data and your e-mail address 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 Kaponga or Timaru, 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.



CSA Oceania
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

www.csa-oceania.org

links, new, views and information for the Swiss Community in Oceania – brought to you by your delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

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THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN OCEANIA

There are over 32,000 registered Swiss living in the region of Oceania.

The CSA Oceania – the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing the Swiss community in Oceania – consists of a team of six elected council members, two from New Zealand and four from Australia. Together they work on behalf of the Swiss Abroad in Oceania, representing their interests as Swiss citizens living in this region.

The CSA Oceania website is a source of news and information for and about the Swiss Abroad in Oceania, about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad** and the **CSA Oceania** and their services. It facilitates networking and provides a point of contact for community groups, official Swiss representations (Embassy, Consulate) and Swiss organisations in Oceania and Switzerland. Go to www.csa-oceania.org for a complete list of:

■ Swiss Community Groups ■ Swiss Organisations ■ Swiss Consular Representations

ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING IN THE «REGIONAL EDITION OCEANIA»

Contact the Editor Roland Isler, T: +61 (0)412 935 565, E: risler@csa-oceania.org