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# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA



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

### Editorial:

Dear compatriots and friends,

■ The **Congress of the Swiss Abroad** and the assembly of the Council were held in Visp on 10-12 August. At this most important annual event for Swiss Abroad, the Swiss community in Oceania was well represented by two CSA delegates from Australia and two from New Zealand. You can find a report on the CSA Oceania website: [www.csa-oceania.org](http://www.csa-oceania.org)

■ The bi-annual **CSA Oceania Swiss Club Presidents' Conference** held in Sydney concluded on 30 September. This event is an initiative by your elected Australian Council delegates to bring together the leaders of Swiss clubs, organisation and groups in Oceania. The aim is to foster closer ties and provide an opportunity for information exchange between the

Swiss representations and the community. Read all about it on the CSA Oceania website: [www.csa-oceania.org](http://www.csa-oceania.org)

■ The next edition of the «Swiss Review» will not contain regional pages. This edition is therefore the last one this year to include the «Regional News Oceania» Please take note of the editorial deadline for the first issue for 2019:

Issue	Editorial deadline	Publication date
1/2019	Fri, 4 January 2019	Thu, 31 January 2019

■ I am very pleased to announce that from next year onwards, the «Regional News Oceania» section will increase from four pages to eight. With your support, I welcome the opportunity to bringing you an even greater variety of stories and news about our diverse Swiss community in Oceania. Please send your submissions by the above deadline to [risler@csa-oceania.org](mailto:risler@csa-oceania.org). I look forward to hearing from you! Contact: +61 (0)412 935 565.

## Swiss Military Small Band Oceania Tour

In New Zealand, Swiss National Day was celebrated this year in a very special way. For the first time ever, a Swiss Army Band has visited New Zealand! There have been several visits by New Zealand Military Bands to Switzerland in the past and also a memorable performance of the civilian Top Secret Drum Corps from Basel at the 2016 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Wellington. But now Ambassador David Vogelsanger had convinced the Department of Defence to send a formation of the Swiss Army Band on the longest trip they have ever taken.

From 27 July to 1 August, the formation of sixteen young musicians gave a dozen performances in Auckland, Taranaki, New Plymouth and Wellington. The Swiss Military Small Band joined forces with their New Zealand counterparts, the New Zealand Army Band, the Royal New Zealand Navy Band and the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band. The bands never failed to delight spectators with their brilliant musicianship and extensive and sometimes surprising repertoire.



During the **Australian leg** of their first ever tour in Oceania, the Swiss Military Small Band gave five concerts together with Australian musicians in three cities: in Canberra, the performances for the celebration of the Swiss National Day at the Embassy

happily coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Australian Army Band Corps. The Swiss Band also performed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to commemorate the end of the First World War one hundred years ago. In Sydney, the Band played at the National Day Celebration

of the Swiss Yodlers, and the next day they performed at the Swiss Club of Victoria in Melbourne. On 8 August they delighted audiences at Federation Square right in the heart of Melbourne, concluding their extensive Oceania tour. For a visual as well as auditory sample of that performance go to: <https://youtu.be/RLJ5PSFes7M>

To join the Swiss musicians for combined performances, Australia mobilised the Australian Army Band, the Royal Australian Navy Band and the Royal Australian Air Force Band, as well as the Royal Australian Military College Band. The musical harmony between the bands was a strong symbol for the solid friendship and reliable cooperation between Switzerland and Australia.

This series of performances was organised by the Swiss Embassy in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney, with support from RUAG Australia.



Go to **[www.csa-oceania.org](http://www.csa-oceania.org)**

■ for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania and **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad

■ Contact the **CSA Oceania** on [info@csa-oceania.org](mailto:info@csa-oceania.org)



## Community News and Events

### **PNG:** 1000 reasons to be thankful

It wasn't just a simple bonfire our Swiss community enjoyed on the 727th birthday of our nation at Orobiga, in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.



Days ahead, the preparations started by collecting dozens of long bamboo sticks, setting them up like a tipi tent. After an excellent Swiss meal, right after getting dark, the 25 Swiss patriots were welcomed by a huge fire with hundreds of 'bamboo shoots' outperforming many fireworks in Switzerland and without even spending a cent! Yes, we had a thousand reasons to bow our heads, being thankful to God for our beautiful home, Switzerland, and its freedom.

### **Fiji:** 1st of August Celebrations

The National Day of Switzerland was celebrated on 28th July in the paradise of Fiji Islands.



The 1st of August has given us an opportunity to meet and remember where we all came from. The best part is that we can celebrate Swiss National Day wherever we are, in Switzerland or abroad.

There are a total of 47 Swiss Nationals living in Fiji, 18 of which attended this event. The Honorary Consul General

Mr. Rolf Gfeller opened the evening. The invited Guest of Honour was the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Government of Fiji, Mr. Ioana Naivalurua.

The evening flowed with food and wine and exchange of stories and information. There were friendships created for some and for some it was great to catch up with friends. There were Swiss Nationals who came from Vanuabalavu – another island paradise in the Fiji group, from the West of Viti Levu including Lautoka and Nadi and from central of Viti Levu including Suva, Pacific Harbour and the beautiful island of Beqa.

The night was full of fun and laughter and ended with a promise to see each other again soon.

Fiji was the first country in the world to celebrate 1st of August. Vinaka, thank-you, to all who made this wonderful day possible.

### **NZ:** Taranaki Swiss Club

Our popular Anniversary Shoot where competitors could either shoot or skittle, was held on 7 July. Mark organises this event so well, and everyone enjoyed a superb meal of Sauerkraut, Margy's delicious pickled red cabbage, potatoes, peas, pork and Wienerli. Grateful thanks to Mark and our talented musicians who entertained the crowd. A great night!

The competitive Jassen afternoons have finished, with the winner of the Jassen trophy this year being Heidi Seifert with joint runners-up Edi Fuglistaller and Mathias Seifert, congratulations to the winners. Social Jassen afternoons are continuing, so if you're interested please contact Walter Seifert on 06 762 8559.

We enjoyed the visit and concerts by the Swiss Army Band very much, and were very grateful to our Ambassador, David Vogelsanger for organising this tour. These musicians are very young and friendly, so immensely talented. The concert held in Stratford was in

conjunction with our 1st of August celebrations held on the 29th of July, with 280 people attending.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**4 & 18/10:** Keglen recommences at 7.30pm. Please bring a plate for supper.

**14 & 28/10:** The small bore shooting rifle master, Mark Kiser, will be hosting a series of three free courses to promote and encourage our juniors, in particular, on gun safety. It would be great to have a good muster of keen junior shooters to attend these sessions. Please contact Mark on 06 278 6266 or Othmar on 06 278 6878 for further information.

**21/10:** The Trudi Ott Belt will be at stake in the small bore shoot, as well as participants being able to shoot the Championship Shoot. Shooting starts at 1.00pm. Come along and give it a go.

**4/11:** The final session on gun safety from 1.00pm with some shooting practice.

**1 & 15/11:** Keglen, once again at 7.30pm. For further information please contact Heidi on 06 273 4286.

**18/11:** The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield and the Championship Shoots will be contested from 1.00pm. Please make every effort to attend.

**25/11:** The annual Christmas Shoot / Keglen will be held from 10.00am. Please bring a wrapped prize worth at least \$10 and a \$5 entry fee (this allows you to go into the mystery prize draws). Parents / grandparents please bring a named, wrapped present for your child / grandchild for Father Christmas to distribute. Activities will be organised for the children with a Christmas theme. A pot-luck lunch will also be held, with Father Christmas making his appearance after dessert. A wonderful social day, so please come along.

### **NSW:** Swiss Yodlers of Sydney & Swiss Folksdance Group Alpegruess

Our annual Swiss National Day celebration, organised by the Swiss Yodlers and the Folksdance Group Alpegruess, was held on Sunday, 5 August with over 1200 in attendance at the Castle Hill Showgrounds.

We had pleasure in welcoming Swiss Ambassador to Australia Mr. Pedro





Zwahlen and his wife Mrs. Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, Ambassador to Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Also, a warm

thank-you to the

Consul General, Mrs. Bernadette Hunkler-Brown, her husband Nigel, and other members of the consular staff for attending this event and supporting the local Swiss community.

The highlights of this year's celebration was the attendance of the Swiss Military Small Band, together with a combined Australian Army and Navy Band. The bands entertained us for an hour or more with wonderful music and singing which was greatly appreciated by all in attendance. They played the Australian, Swiss and Bernese National Anthems, the latter being requested by the Ambassador.

The Yodlers would like to thank the Ambassador for organising the attendance of the bands and for addressing our large gathering of Swiss and friends of Switzerland. The attraction of the children's petting zoo, the Swiss wrestlers, bottle fishing, tombola, silent auction and market stalls – all added to the day's atmosphere.

Finally, the Yodlers would like to extend our thanks to our generous sponsors who have continuously enabled this annual event to take place and to our volunteers, whose energy and input we could not do without.

#### Upcoming Event:

**24/11:** SCCS Seniors Christmas Luncheon in Tempe.

#### QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

##### Upcoming Events:

**7/10:** Last Whale watching in Hervey Bay.

**15/10:** Lunch at Beach Café Aqua Vue, Torquay.

**15th of each following month:** Meet for lunch.

**15/12:** Santa/Christmas Celebrations at private property.

For details contact Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326 or [cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com](mailto:cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com) or go to [www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast)

#### QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

##### Upcoming Events:

**13/10:** AGM @ the Anglican church Hall in Hamilton QLD, the meeting will start at 1pm followed by afternoon tea.

**2-4/11:** Springbrook Weekend, where participants help in the weeding program for half a day.

**2/12:** Santa Claus is visiting the children later in the afternoon at the Scouts Club house on the foreshore in Wynnum.

Any of the events are published on our website on [www.swissclubqld.org.au](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au) or for more information please contact Anita Meier on 0401 957 309.

#### VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

The Swiss National Day Picnic was held on 5 August and the weather gods were smiling upon us with the most amazing weather. We estimate around 400 to 500 people attended and enjoyed the food,



entertainment and most of all the social aspect, which is always valued and a big part of the day.

On 29 September the choir performed in Sydney as part of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney 50th anniversary.

##### Upcoming Event:

Performing on either Saturday or Sunday October 27th and 28th as part of the Swiss Festival in St Kilda (Check Swiss Festival for program details).

**18/11:** Performing in concerts at aged care sites.

We now have a Facebook page under the name Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn. We'd love you to like us.

#### VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess A.S.C.C.

##### Upcoming Event:

**14/11:** FAHRT INS BLAUE – we would like to invite the retired community (over 65) to our mysterious and exiting MYSTERY TRIP.

Cost is \$40 per person, which includes a three course lunch.

Pleased send your cheque to Sylvia Hochuli, 92 Addison Street, ELWOOD Vic 3184 or ring 9531 6575.



#### VIC: Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose

The group had a busy year performing and learning new dances for our trip to Brisbane, where we will take part in the National Folkstanzfest at Easter next year. 2019 will be an exiting year for the group as we will celebrate our 70th anniversary!

On behalf of both groups, I wish everyone all the best for the reminder of the year and the Festive Season ahead.  
*Sylvia Hochuli OAM*

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## SWISS festival

### Do you speak Swiss?!

27th & 28th October 2018, Melbourne

Indulge in some Swissness for **TWO** days this year at the beautiful and easily accessible Eildon mansion in St Kilda!

This year's theme '**DO YOU SPEAK SWISS?!**' will shed some light on our often puzzling variety of languages. Participate in some free language trial classes and embark on an engaging scavenger hunt based on the scenic '**Grand Tour of Switzerland**'!

Enjoy food and drink from all culinary corners of our country and beyond, the greatest variety of entertainment yet, workshops, an art exhibition and a big surprise for everyone! And of course cheese, chocolate and **TWO FLIGHTS TO SWITZERLAND TO WIN!!!**

Don't miss out on pre-festival give-aways and raffle ticket pre-sales and follow us on:

(fb) *Swiss Festival Australia*  
(in) *@swissfestivalaustralia*  
(web) [www.swissfestival.com.au](http://www.swissfestival.com.au)

CELEBRATING SWISS CULTURE.

### VIC: Groupe Romand du Victoria

The Groupe Romand was founded in 1990 as a social club for French-speaking Swiss and other Francophones to meet and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. We have our own membership structure and are affiliated to the Swiss Club of Victoria.

The Group organises a number of recurring events like fondue or raclette evenings, picnics, pétanque afternoons, mini-golf days and the viewing of French movies. We are also active within the wider Swiss community for the celebration of the Swiss National Day as well as Swiss cultural events such as the Swiss Festival.

New members, new ideas and new talent are always welcome. Contact the Co-Presidents:

Patricia Callegari-Medcalf  
T: 9583 2860 M: 0408 299660  
[secretairegrouperomand@gmail.com](mailto:secretairegrouperomand@gmail.com)  
Anne-Lise Kavadas  
T: 9489 0274 M: 0409 509 343  
[annelise.kavadas@gmail.com](mailto:annelise.kavadas@gmail.com)

### WA: The Swiss Yodellers of Western Australia

Our group meets every first Wednesday evening of the month for a practice session. We are not only a yodelling group, but sing traditional Swiss and Alpine Region songs in different languages. We would be very happy to welcome new members anytime. We desperately need new and young(er) blood for our happy band. For more detailed information please contact our manager, Peter Mueller on 9291 8402.

### WA: Monatsjass

This is a monthly event and we meet every 3rd Thursday of each month, i.e. somewhere between the 15th and 21st. We meet and play at the North Perth Bowling Club, 10 Farmer Street, North Perth. Drinks are available from the bar at reasonable prices. We usually order pizzas for those who have not had dinner. Play starts at 7pm. For more detailed information please contact Peter Mueller on 9291 8402.



Photo credit: The Daily Telegraph

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Ecologist Dr Dieter Hochuli, Associate Professor at Sydney University, has been honoured by having a newly discovered species of mirid (plant bug) named after him. World – meet *Blattakeraia hochuli*!

Congratulations to Dieter, his team and his family!

This makes at least two Swiss names that have been immortalised by having an Australian species named after. Professor Othmar Rietmann in the 1860s discovered a species of freshwater snail, *Bulimus rietmanni*.



B. hochuli (WA)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland

### ACT: Events calendar

#### ■ SCREENING OF 'THE DIVINE ORDER'

On 17 October, the Embassy in Canberra will, in collaboration with the Australian National University Film Group, screen the Swiss movie 'The Divine Order'.

Tickets to the screening will be offered through the Embassy's Facebook page.

#### ■ STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In connection with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December, the Embassy in Canberra will, in collaboration with the Australian National University Law School and the ANU Film Group, screen the movie 'Non Assistance', followed by a panel discussion. This movie is part of the program of the Human Rights Film festival in Geneva this year. It deals with the refugee crisis in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea.

Further information will soon be published on the Embassy's website and Facebook page.

#### Further information:

The Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra and the Consulate General in Sydney are now on Facebook. Follow them for more information on the Embassy and Consulate's activities, as well as regular updates and information about Switzerland and all things Swiss.

[www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra](http://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra)

### Online Petition E-Voting

Sign the Online Petition  
«Electronic Voting for all Swiss Abroad»  
now on [www.evoting2021.ch](http://www.evoting2021.ch).



The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has launched an online petition calling for the introduction of e-voting over the next three years. Your CSA Oceania delegates fully support this initiative and encourage all Swiss in Oceania to sign the petition: [www.evoting2021.ch](http://www.evoting2021.ch)