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# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA



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

### Editorial:

Dear readers, dear compatriots,  
2019 has been a challenging year for the world in many ways. Sadly, our region too, was not spared terrible events and destructive natural disasters, notably the Christchurch mosque shootings in March and the hellish bushfires raging through large parts of Australia, devastating beautiful flora and fauna, destroying communities and lives.

There is a foundation administered by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) which helps eligible Swiss citizens living abroad in need of financial support after a natural disaster. If you are affected, or you know of compatriots that have, please contact the CSA Oceania or your consular representation. More information can be found here: <https://www.csa-oceania.org/topics/help-for-swiss-abroad/>. There are also Swiss benevolent/care societies in some states in Australia that can provide help and support. Don't hesitate to reach out!

Issue 4/2020 of the «Swiss Review» will appear as an online version only,\* no printed copies will be made available. This one-off cost-saving measure is designed to free up funds for the redevelopment of the OSA's online

Best wishes for 2020  
Es Guets Neus  
Bonne Année  
Felice Anno Nuovo



Please note:  
Next Editorial Deadline  
**5 March 2020**



presence, i.e. to realise the project of combining the three websites [aso.ch](http://aso.ch), [swisscommunity.org](http://swisscommunity.org) and [revue.ch](http://revue.ch) into one. The launch of the new website is expected for spring 2021.

Please take note of the following «Swiss Review/Regional Edition Oceania» dates for the remaining issues for this year.

	<i>Editorial deadline</i>	<i>Publication date</i>
■ Issue 2	Thu, 5 March	Fri, 3 April
■ Issue 3	Thu, 30 April	Wed, 3 June
■ Issue 4	no regional edition	Thu, 23 July (online only*)
■ Issue 5	Thu, 27 August	Wed, 23 September
■ Issue 6	no regional edition	Mon, 30 November

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.



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Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

### Mobile passport station visit in Australia in 2020

The team of the Consulate General in Sydney plans to visit  
■ **Brisbane QLD in May/June 2020** with the mobile passport station.

Registered citizens in QLD, NT and northern NSW will be contacted by email or letter two months prior to the visit with detailed information regarding dates, venues and procedures. Please ensure that the Consulate General has your up-to-date personal data and email address.

The Consulate General aims to provide this service to its compatriots rotating the locations, servicing each capital city on a regular basis.



The **CSA Oceania** is your elected team of delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. We represent the 33,000+ registered Swiss living in Oceania and defend your interests as a Swiss citizens living in this region.

Visit our website [www.csa-oceania.org](http://www.csa-oceania.org)

- for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania;
- for information about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)** and the **CSA Oceania** and the services they offer;
- for **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad.

For any assistance or advice, contact the **CSA Oceania** on [info@csa-oceania.org](mailto:info@csa-oceania.org)

# The Swiss Footprint in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

When Swiss Ambassador to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, set out to trace the Swiss footprints in the remote highlands of one of the world's most fascinating and complex countries, she discovered that Swiss compatriots – scientists, missionaries, teachers, linguists, pilots – had left their marks there since the 1950s and created a stellar Swiss reputation. Notwithstanding a wide diversity among Swiss protagonists, all the projects illustrate the strong humanitarian and service mentality, bearing the Swiss hallmark all over the highlands.



Proud researchers of the PNG IMR who studied for their MSc at Swiss TPH in Basel, Dr. William Pomat (right), Ambassador Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen (left)

## Missionaries turned development partners

In 1954, three Swiss missionaries travelled to PNG, an Australian colony at the time, to spread the gospel in the Highlands. Soon, a network of churches, schools, health centres and workshops emerged. Today, the PNG church organisation EBC, founded by the Swiss, is present in all 22 provinces of the country. Swiss missionaries – and the PNG community which adopted them – maintain until today a network of human development projects, impacting the lives of the communities in a sustainable way: schools for boys and girls, manual and technical apprenticeships for young men, vocational schools for young women, health education and regional health centres and hospitals. Girls and women are particularly vulnerable to the effects of underdevelopment, lack of services, tribal fighting and domestic violence. Protection, education and empowerment of girls and women are affirmative steps into the future. It is therefore with special pride that the Swiss Embassy supports two of the Girls' Vocational Schools in Sausi, Ramu-Valley and in Obura, Lamary-Valley.

## Pilots

Mount Hagen is the PNG headquarters of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) – which Switzerland supported to fly relief flights into the epicentre of the devastating earthquake of March 2018. Soaring high above the mountains and canyons of the highlands, a number of Swiss pilots serve PNG with an intrinsic motivation to put their talent to the best use. They deliver aid to communities affected by natural disasters or serve as ambulance to airlift patients from the remotest places to emergency medical care. They live with their families in challenging working and living conditions.

## Researchers

The Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research (PNG IMR) in Goroka and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) in Basel have built up a remarkable research partnership over thirty years, leading to better understanding, prevention and treatment of communicable diseases in PNG, like Malaria.

On 13 September 2019, Swiss TPH and PNG IMR signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim to expand their joint research portfolio and strengthen the capacity building component by regularly enrolling MSc (Masters Degree in Science) and PhD students at the University of Basel. In the last 10 years, 11 PNG IMR staff have undertaken training courses at Swiss TPH and six have graduated with an MSc in Infection Biology or Epidemiology from the University of Basel. At the same time, numerous Swiss TPH staff and students have conducted laboratory and field research at PNG IMR.

## Human Rights Defenders

Sister Monika and Sister Lorena are the only two Swiss nuns remaining in the catholic Diocese of Mendi, caring for particularly vulnerable people and defending Human Rights. Swiss Sister Lorena Jenal has become quite a celebrity as a staunch advocate for persecuted women. She mediates in situations of tribal fights, domestic and communal violence and interferes to rescue people – mostly women – accused

of being 'sorcerers'. Her stories start with violence, oppression, brutality, superstition, suffering and fear. But she transforms them into rescue and relief stories speaking of humanity, humility, healing and hope.

[www.sr-lorena.ch](http://www.sr-lorena.ch)

## Linguists

Over the millennia, on the land which is Papua New Guinea today, nearly a thousand ethnic groups have developed their languages, expressed their thoughts, religious beliefs, legends, feelings, poetry and world vision in their vernacular language, preserved through the isolation of rugged mountains, deep forests and large rivers. Today, one of the most fascinating features of Papua New Guinea are its 830 living languages. Some 700 additional languages are spoken across the border in West-Papua. PNG holds the record for the highest level of language diversity in the world!

On her journey on the Swiss Footprints through the Highlands, our Ambassador met extraordinarily interesting Swiss linguists who have dedicated their lives to the study, analysis and recording of some of the most complex, isolated and endangered languages of the world. They work for faith-based NGOs and have produced grammars of languages known only to their native speakers, they have written down their legends, proverbs and oral history and created maps. Swiss linguists are thus contributing to preserving indigenous cultures, valuing their vernacular language and cultural idiosyncrasy, hence strengthening their self-esteem and preparing them to meet the demands of an alien world outside their traditional geographic boundaries.

Find out more on [www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyCanberra)



Below: Swiss built school at Kassam



## Community News and Events

### PNG: A Christmas in Prison

To be at home for Christmas is one of the biggest wishes for inmates in PNG prison camps. Unfortunately, this is not possible for most of them. To our surprise, a large group of about 80 men attended the joyful Christmas singing on the 25th of December 2019. Some of them praised God with tears, because he became human to bring joy and peace into their cells and hearts.

John Alt



### NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Our Family Walk was held Sunday, 3 November at Pukemiro and Glen Afton. About 18 club members gathered at the Glen Afton Railway Station for the vintage bush excursion. Most of us took the first available ride of about half an hour. It was a gorgeous day with plenty of sun, so the rusty old steam loco helped to put on a bit more heat. On completion we had a picnic lunch behind the station where there was some shade. After lunch most of us proceeded to the Puketirini Lake back in the Huntly direction where some circled the lake and others just did part way around with the kiddies and back. A very enjoyable fine November Sunday.

This years Family Christmas Function was held on Sunday, 1 December at the Newstead School. This year a lovely warm summer's day – not like some of



the previous years when it was still quite cold and rainy. Many families turned up promptly and soon the children were busy decorating Christmas cookies and making some Christmas cards. Grilled sausages were served for lunch and soon after Santa arrived handing out presents. This was followed by a huge raffle draw consisting of prizes kindly donated by all our members. Soon it was time for afternoon tea – again a great selection of home-made baking provided by families.

#### Upcoming Events:

**22/2:** Don't forget the club's medal shooting event. The 50 metre competition will be shot at Elmiger's place at 618/12 Maungatautari Road, Karapiro, from 9am to noon. It's open to ALL club members from 14 years upwards. I hope to see a good crowd. There is plenty of help for newcomers to make this a safe place and give you a great experience. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. For further information please call Hans Vetsch on 021 658 733.

#### Advanced Notice:

The 300 metre shooting weekend is scheduled for 23 & 24 May. Please mark these days for a relaxed weekend away. The competition is open to club members and friends. Minimum age here is 16. More news later, but I do need your emails or contact details so please email me on [vhvetsch@gmail.com](mailto:vhvetsch@gmail.com) or call me on 021 658 733.

**23/2: Family Picnic** commencing 11am at Newstead Country School, Morrinsville Road, Hamilton. Please bring along your own tables and chairs or picnic rugs and enjoy the shade provided by some lovely big trees.

Grilled sausages and a selection of drinks will be available around lunchtime and from 1pm there will be our usual selection of home-made baking.

**3-5/4: Hiking Weekend**, venue to be confirmed. For bookings or queries please ring Herbert 021 962 708.

For further club queries please contact Anita 027 498 5170 or email [anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz](mailto:anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz) or Beatrice 078 437 971 or email [bea.leun@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bea.leun@xtra.co.nz)

### ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

I hope everyone had a great Christmas with family and friends and that you have a fabulous New Year too.

My name is Christoph Heiniger and I am the newly elected President of the Canberra Swiss Club. We had a bit of a reshuffle in the committee this year. But I'm looking forward to working with the new team and it should be a blast!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gaby Hasler and Evelyn Schneider for their work and effort on behalf of the club; both having now resigned from their positions.

Gaby resigned from the committee after 19 years in many different positions, the last 5 years as President of the club. Thank-you, Gaby, much appreciated!

Evelyn resigned as the Newsletter editor and Julia Slater took over Evelyn's position. Thank-you Evelyn!

We're very grateful for their efforts to date and we're sure that they will remain active and engaged members of the club.

Our own 'Crèmeschnitte Chörli' continues to perform at various events for our older club members. They always enjoy those beautiful songs.

The last event we had was the 'Samichlaus Tag'. It was great to see all those kids listening to Samichlaus. Some were not so sure about the big red man and others were singing songs to him; but Samichlaus was impressed with all the kids and everyone received a goodie bag, even some parents!

The next big event will be our annual trip to Durras North for the Canberra

long weekend in March. It's very pleasant to stay in the cabins right at the beach. Saturday night we will have our Raclette evening under the stars. There will be lots of eating, drinking and talking. Singing a few Swiss songs before dessert is pretty common. It's always a great weekend, please make sure you book the cabins early as they book out fast.

I hope that everyone is safe and well and not too affected by the tragic bushfires around the country. There are some big fires to the east of Canberra. I am sure that we'll all try to help each other as much as we can.

I wish everyone a safe 2020 and thank you for your help and support.

## NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

At the Annual General Meeting our President reflected on the past and future activities and challenges (in particular for our Choir Master, who just doesn't give up easily! Much credit and thanks for their untiring leadership go to Alois Kretz and Sepp Engesser and to many others who assist in the club's numerous tasks.

We recently entertained at the Seniors' Christmas Luncheon at the Concordia Club, Tempe – always a very pleasing and friendly gathering. A Swiss travel group (organised by Wirz Sarnen) received a warm welcome by the Yodlers at the beautiful residence of Alois and Bronwen, who thankfully refused our offer to clear the dishes of fine china and glassware at the end of the evening (we can only guess

why?!). Some of our members were able to recently attend the very enjoyable Swiss Club 'Buure Zmorge' and Christmas get-together.

Our trip to the Matterhorn Yodel Choir's 50 year anniversary celebration was a very exciting event. Our friends from Melbourne were very hospitable and caring hosts. We returned with 'songs in our hearts' from the three days of relaxing time and friendship spent together. Singing in a massed choir (Gesamtchor), as we have done in the past (e.g. in Canberra with over 350 singers of German language choirs from around Australia, or at our own 50 year anniversary celebration last year, and now in Melbourne) brings and welds old and new friends together.

We resume at the end of January for singing practice in preparation for our confirmed participation (including Parade!) at the 'Eidg. Jodelfest in Basel 2020' (25-28 June). It is not too late to accept new members, who wish to join us for this wonderful journey and experience. Please do not hesitate to contact our President Alois Kretz Tel. (02) 9419 7277 to discuss possible assistance with travel arrangements, of if you wish to come with us as a 'Friend of the Yodlers'.

A BIG thank-you goes to all our friends, sponsors, volunteer helpers, visitors and our own members (and their spouses/partners/young family members), for their friendship and support for our club.



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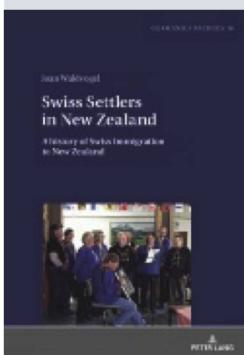
## NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

Many Swiss people in NSW received my letter which the Consulate General in Sydney kindly emailed out for us. We did this to make the Swiss Community Care Society better known. The result if measured in the percentage of letters sent out is modest, however, about 35 people responded and seem happy to be on our contact list now. I would like to say "Welcome" to all of them and I hope that we will soon meet in person, perhaps at one of our many events. We are happy that our society has grown.

At the AGM in September the members present, together with the proxies, were in overwhelming favour of approving the new constitution. This change became necessary as SCCS is a member of ACNC (the Australian Charity and Not-for-profit Commission). One of the changes is particularly welcome, as we no longer have to mail out the invitations to the AGM on paper. We are allowed to email them and to publish the particulars of an upcoming AGM in the 'Swiss Community News', the Swiss Club periodical which all of our members should receive. We hope you enjoy reading this beautifully edited magazine when it arrives in your letterbox. Please let us know if you do not receive it so that we can ensure your name is included on the mailing list. The magazine is published three times per year and the next issue will arrive in February.

With more people on our contact list the suggestion was made at the AGM to initiate regional groups for Swiss in NSW. There is no doubt that in some regions of NSW such groups already exist. The question is: How well known are they? Would a newcomer be able to find that group? Is there a contact person for a Swiss group in that area? If you would like to be, or already are such a contact person, we would love to hear from you. Please call me on (02) 9743 5323.

## New Book: Swiss Settlers in New Zealand – A history of Swiss immigration to New Zealand



*Swiss Settlers in New Zealand* is a very accessible history of Swiss settlement in New Zealand from the time of the 1860 goldrushes, which attracted mainly Swiss-Italians, to the present day. From the mid-1870s, Swiss German settlers, attracted by the prospect of landownership, started arriving and settled in the rich dairy farming lands of Taranaki and later South Auckland. The post WW2 period saw the arrival of skilled tradesmen and, more recently, professional people. Successive chapters discuss the changing reasons over time for the migration of the Swiss to New Zealand. These reasons

are set against the prevailing economic and social conditions in each country. Other chapters discuss the integration of the Swiss into their adopted country, the maintenance of their own culture and the contribution they have made. The focus is on the Swiss-born migrants, who they were, why they came, how they

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I hope 2020 has started on a positive note and I wish you good health and much joy and happiness for the whole year.

Contact: Regula Scheidegger, President.

9743 5323 or 0432 031 085 [www.swissccs.org.au](http://www.swissccs.org.au)

## QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

Santa visited our children in Manly. Each of the thirty children that attended waited patiently for their turn to talk to Santa. We were pleased to see that Santa didn't have many names noted on his naughty list and every 'little one' was given a yummy 'Läbchueche' and Mandarins out of Santa's sack.

### Upcoming Events:

**9/2: Bremer River Junction Day Cruise** – February will still be warm here in Queensland and that is why we organised another boat day cruise. This time, the boat will leave from Mowbray Park pontoon and lead up the river to the mouth of the Bremer River. We hired the boat exclusively for our members and friends. Morning tea and a delicious BBQ lunch are included. RSVP is by

have adapted to life in New Zealand and their ongoing links with their homeland and the Swiss community in New Zealand.

Settler stories and extracts from old newspapers, diaries, letters and the interviews the writer conducted, accompany the historical account throughout and add a rich human dimension. Tables and graphs underpin the factual data and help illustrate the changing patterns of migration.

Joan Waldvogel is a first generation New Zealander who grew up amongst the Taranaki Swiss community. She was motivated to research and write this history because of the limited amount of material available about the Swiss in New Zealand. Joan is presently working on a companion volume to be entitled *Swiss Settler Stories – The migration experiences of Swiss who have settled in New Zealand* which she hopes to publish in 2020.



*Swiss Settlers in New Zealand – A history of Swiss immigration to New Zealand* is available in hard cover and as an e-book from the publishers: Peter Lang Publishing, Bern [www.peterlang.com](http://www.peterlang.com) and from several English language bookstores in Switzerland and major internet book stores such as Amazon.

28 January, 2020, but be quick to book as places are limited.

**18/3: Movie Night** – ‘USFAHRT OERLIKE’. The story is about two pensioners, who are looking back at life while still experiencing interesting friendships. The film has won the ‘Prix du Public’ at the ‘Solothurner Filmtage’ in 2015 (English subtitles).

**4/4: Easter Bunny** – We received words that the Easter Bunny will be visiting our little ones at the beginning of April and we invite all our member families to take part at the Easter hunt.

**26/4: Jass Meisterschaft 2020** – The all-day event will take place in the St Columb’s Anglican Church in Clayfield.

**9/5: Fondu Night** – We are excited to serve some yummy, melted cheese pots at the Sailing Club in West End again this year. This inner-city location sits perfectly on the banks of the Brisbane River in midst of beautiful parklands. We hope to see many of our members and friends there.

More information about our events can be found on our website [swissclubqld.org.au/events](http://swissclubqld.org.au/events) or by calling Anita on 0401 957 309.

## QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

For Santa-Christmas celebration 27 of us could use again Silvia and Emil’s property with a pool to cool down.

We enjoyed Charles Knie’s horses with the Moscow Circus visiting Hervey Bay.



After Yvonne and Albert it was Martha’s turn to celebrate her 90th birthday.

We always love to meet some of the Swiss-Aussie new arrivals from the south at the lunches each 15th of the month. A Jass group also meet some Saturdays.

Wishing everyone in the Fraser

Coast and Wide Bay area a healthy and happy 2020.

For details of any of the events contact [cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com](mailto:cecile.scherrer@bigpond.com) or 0409 286 326 or visit [www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast](http://www.swissclubqld.org.au/fraser-coast)

### Regular Event:

**15th of each month:** lunch at AquaVue, Esplanade Torquay-Hervey Bay or as advised.

## QLD: Yodel Choir & Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'

This year starts with our three new singers, Zoe, Greg and Erika. We are very happy to consolidate our voices for the new program.

Changing with the habit, we are now rehearsing on TUESDAY nights. All our members prefer this day which might better suit new members. Remember, to join our choir and folklore group you don’t have to feel confident in singing, you can play rhythmic instruments.

Our first big performance will be Senior Citizen Lunch at Buderim on 24 May.

Contact Gabriel on 0435 570 241, [yodel@swissclubqld.org.au](mailto:yodel@swissclubqld.org.au)

## QLD: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS)

As in NSW the aim of our SCCS is to keep in touch and promote contact among Swiss people living in or near Brisbane.

We would be happy to hear from any Swiss people interested to join our Society either as a member or as a volunteer.

For information please contact: Franz Braun 0421 384 060 or Anita Bickel 0457 457 211.

## SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

In October 2019 we held our AGM and with it came change in committee members. We are hugely grateful for everything **Fabian**

**Muller** has done for the club as president over the last three years. His enthusiasm, strategic planning



From left to right: Sarah (Vice President), Paul (Treasurer), Henri (President), Victoria (Event Coordinator), Daria (Secretary), Marinette and Marlene (Event Coordinators) & Herbert missing from the photo.

and vision to bring the club up to new heights is admirable. Thank you for all the time and energy you invested in our club, we wish you every success in the future. You can read Fabian’s president report on our website which provides a great summary of 2019. Thanks also to the extraordinary event organiser **Isabelle Schnider** who has also moved on. Isabelle was an exceptional food guru and event planner, she was a super fun member of the committee and she will be missed, especially for bringing all the wine to our meetings.

Thank you to the ongoing support of our members and Swiss Business Partners: Monika Travel, Melann’s Fabrics and Sewing Centre, Husli Real Estate, Spatial Expressions furniture interior and art. We’re always looking for more sponsors, so get in touch to make a difference to your Swiss community and customers.

Events are for young, old, and everyone in between. Put the dates in your diary and join us at our 2020 events:

**9/5: Fondu Night**

**1/8: Swiss National Day**

AGM (to be confirmed)

**25/10: Forest Get Together**

**6/12: Christmas Party**

For further details of all events, how to become a member or getting in touch with our business partners, head to [www.swissclubsa.com.au](http://www.swissclubsa.com.au)

**The Swiss Society of Victoria’s purpose is to assist fellow Swiss in Victoria, old and young, who need financial or personal support. If you are experiencing difficulties, or you know of someone who does, please contact us. We are here to help.**

Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645 – E: [patalbertaus@gmail.com](mailto:patalbertaus@gmail.com)

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## Carl Nauer – forgotten pioneer of the sky

In 1933 Carl Nauer flew a DH.80A Puss Moth alone from Dübendorf to Australia. He was the first to fly solo from Switzerland to the fifth continent and when he landed in Darwin he was not yet 24 years old. The Swiss community in Australia welcomed him with enthusiasm. He travelled for over two months, actual flying time was 98 hours during which he covered a distance of 18,000 kilometres.

Nauer was born in 1909 in Balgach (SG). A few years later, the family moved to Zürich where Karl Nauer Senior operated a medical practice. Well-to-do father Nauer was able to finance his son's passion for flying by buying him a de Havilland DH.80A Puss Moth, the most powerful sport aircraft at the time. In 1932 he competes in an international air show in Dübendorf where he excels against 240 competitors.

Aviation was still in its infancy then and pioneers like the Swiss Walter Mittelholzer and the Australian Bert Hinkler were idolised by many, including Nauer. In 1928 Hinkler flew from England to Australia in a record 15 days. He went missing in January 1933 attempting to repeat or beat his own record. Nauer participated in the large-scale search, combing the valleys of the Swiss Alps with his Puss Moth. Hinkler was eventually found in the Italian Alps two months later. The same year Nauer announced his intention to fly solo to Australia.

After extensive preparations, which included numerous modifications to the aircraft and obtaining permits for every country that he planned to fly over, the day of departure was set for Thursday, 9 March 1933. The daring young pilot is thirsty for action. He is not out to beat an existing record; his goal is simply to reach Australia. Once arrived there, Nauer would talk about "a vacation and taking an amusement flight". At noon, his parents, sister and friends gather at the airfield of Dübendorf, farewells are exchanged and he takes to the sky to begin his adventure.

He reaches the first stage of Milan after only 95 minutes. Then follow stops at Brindisi, Athens and Mersa Matruh in Egypt and on to Cairo where he rests for one day. The next morning he continues on to Jaffa and to Baghdad but gets stuck in a heavy desert storm that forces him to land in the small village of Amman. The next day he finally reaches Baghdad after a flight of seven hours and 20 minutes.

Only random details are known about the course of the onward flight until he arrives in Bangkok. From there he flies 900 km across the Gulf of Siam to the notorious airfield of Alor Setar (Malaysia), which due to its often-swampy condition has been the undoing of many aviators. Nauer, too, suffers extensive

damage to the aircraft during landing, necessitating the transportation of the aeroplane by rail to Kuala Lumpur for repairs. After an involuntarily flight interruption of six weeks whilst waiting for spare parts to arrive, he finally resumes the journey to Batavia (Jakarta). After two days he arrives in Kupang and the last stage to reach Australia lies ahead – from Kupang to Darwin. But in between is the dreaded Timor Sea, known for its unpredictable weather. 800 km flying across water during the monsoon rainy season! He telegraphs the Civil Aviation Office in Melbourne to inform them of his impending arrival and after seven hours of extremely exhausting flying, he finally lands in Darwin on 12 May.

Nauer hardly had time to get out of the aircraft, when he was welcomed from all sides. First, he was questioned by the quarantine doctor and then a customs officer checked out his papers and luggage. His photo and interview made headlines all over Australia. The young airman is celebrated like a hero by the whole country and especially by the Swiss community in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Banquets and welcome celebrations in his honour are organised by the Swiss clubs, as well as by the Swiss consulate and state governments. Nauer's good command of English and his youthful, outgoing demeanour made him most popular with everyone.

Although Nauer initially intended to fly back the same route, he makes the fateful decision to transport the aeroplane by sea from Melbourne to Cape Town and follow instead the Trans-African route back to Switzerland. On 14 June, Nauer and his aircraft depart Australia on the steamer 'Ascanius'.

In Cape Town the 'Moth' undergoes an extensive overhaul and he unexpectedly announces that he will attempt to beat the record held by Amy Johnson-Mollison for the route Cape Town to London. On 5 August he takes off for Moçâmedes in today's Angola. During the short stay there he gets some provisions, then sits back into the cockpit to take advantage of the full moon to fly on to Douala in Cameroon. But there he never arrived.

An intense search organised by the Swiss government and financed by father Nauer to the amount of around 100,000 francs was unsuccessful. In November 1933 some debris was recovered, but it could not be clearly identified as belonging to the Puss Moth. The cause of the disappearance of Carl Nauer, the daring Swiss aviator, will probably remain a mystery forever.

*Editor*

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