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REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,

- It really is unbelievable how the entire world changed within a few weeks and that we face this uncertainty of how the future will look like post-covid-19. While wealthier countries such as Switzerland are well-prepared to manage a crisis like this, it is a completely different story for Southern Africa. The virus is only expected to peak in South Africa in September, and our poorer neighbours are starving already as they are prevented from going to work due the lockdown. The upcoming winter months are going to be exceptionally difficult for many people and I hope that we will make it through this as a community where we look out for each other and support those who have much less. Look after yourself and your loved ones and stay healthy.

■ *Be safe,*
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Address from the Swiss Ambassador

*The Swiss Embassy in Pretoria,
the Consulate General in Cape Town
and the Consulate in Durban are
available should any Swiss require
support during these unprecedented
times.*

Dear fellow Swiss citizens, the current COVID-19 pandemic keeps the world on its toes and brought significant change to us in the blink of an eye. On 5 March 2020, the first person was tested positive in South Africa and our country of residence adapted quickly. Only three weeks later, we found ourselves in a nationwide lockdown where our profes-

sional and leisure activities were limited to what is absolutely essential – shopping for food, delivering essential services, receiving medical treatment.

These were harsh measures taken by the South African government but the Swiss representations in South Africa appreciate the bold stance of President Cyril Ramaphosa since the daily number of people affected by COVID-19 decreased sharply. This allowed South Africa to gain time and to better prepare for the weeks and months to come.

Be reassured that the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria, the Consulate General in Cape Town, and the Consulate in Durban are here to assist you should the need for support arise. Please address your enquiry to our colleagues to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch or capetown@eda.admin.ch. The same applies to the additional ten countries our Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria is accredited to. Please visit our

website (www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria) for further information or send your enquiry to: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch.

Please also be advised that the Consular Days 2020 have been postponed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The RCC will inform you of new dates as soon as they are available. If you wish to renew your Swiss passport in the meantime, you can do so after the lockdown has been lifted either at the RCC in Pretoria or at a cantonal passport office in Switzerland. Please contact the RCC for further information.

I wish you a lot of strength and good health during this challenging time!

■ Yours sincerely,
Dr. Nicolas Brühl
Ambassador

Soliswiss Stands for Solidarity among the Swiss Abroad

Many Swiss abroad love the country in which they live. They have made dear friends, built their livelihoods and some even found love there. In short: this place has become their new home. However, many Swiss abroad are currently facing trying times. The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout is posing a major concern.

disasters such as rising crime rates, looting or civil unrest.

Soliswiss - Your Switzerland abroad

In particular when the going gets tough, having maintained a link to Switzerland is valuable, be it through the Swiss Embassy, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) or, last but not least, Soliswiss. Since 1958, Soliswiss has been committed to solidarity with

Soliswiss is committed to solidarity. Photo: Dan Meyers unsplash.com

questions of insurances, pension benefits or social financial assistance. Through our partners, we provide access to financial management, legal advice, psychological support or concrete insurance solutions and certified translations. Member further benefit from exclusive products such as a guest insurance for their visit or temporary stay in Switzerland, a personal liability insurance, a pension plan, an emergency plan (Plan B) or a Swiss mail delivery address, all tailored to the needs of Swiss abroad.

Good planning and risk management helps, but sometimes the unexpected still happens – and hits hard. The corona crisis is one such unexpected event. In such situations, Soliswiss stands at your side by providing concrete information and advice. In addition, members – under certain conditions - may be eligible for financial support (lump sum compensation or contribution from our aid fund). Whatever happens, we are there for our members. For more information, please visit www.soliswiss.ch



After numerous countries closed their borders in response to the corona outbreak, people from all over the world – members and non-members alike – reached out to Soliswiss with their worries: globetrotters were stranded far from home; parents wondered whether they should bring their daughter back from her six-month student exchange; a hotel manager was accused of having negligently contributed to the spread of the corona virus. They contacted Soliswiss for advice and support.

Others are haunted by financial worries, for example a family who had already quit their jobs because they had planned to go on a world trip, or a couple who had just opened a new business that might not survive the lockdown. And then there is the widely shared fear that the economic downturn might lead to even bigger

and among Swiss citizens living or traveling abroad, globetrotting or wishing to return to Switzerland. Soliswiss has members in more than 130 countries, many of them in Southern Africa. As a cooperative, we are mainly financed by moderate membership fees and donations.

Expertise & Services for Swiss Abroad & Returnees

Our aim is to ensure that our members can concentrate on realizing their aspirations without losing sight of potential risks. We answer their questions on what to do when leaving or returning to Switzerland, on the formalities that have to be followed,

Soliswiss is offering support during uncertain times.



soliswiss COOPERATION & SOLIDARITY



YOUR SWITZERLAND ABROAD.
SINCE 1958 ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR SWISS LIVING ABROAD, TRAVELERS AND RETURNEES.
WWW.SOLISWISS.CH PHONE: +41 31 380 70 30

ASO UPDATE

The March council meeting in Bern on 14th March had to be cancelled, due to the restrictions put in place by the federal council.

The topics on hand were however covered by a skype session of the management committee of the council and were then put to the vote electronically to all council members. On 21 August, the next council meeting will be held in Lugano, ahead of the Auslandschweizer Kongress over that weekend, i.e. 22-23 August, provided that the restrictions have been eased or lifted by then.

I cannot stress enough the importance to keep your data kept by the consulate up to date, i.e. current email address, cell phone number, place of residence, validity of your passport etc. This is the information the consulate uses when contacting Swiss Expats living in our jurisdiction in a case of emergency. Let us all hope, that this nightmare will pass in the not too distant future.

Keep safe and stay healthy.

Hans-Georg Bosch, Delegate of Council for Southern Africa

SWISS CLUB INFO

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia,
31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand.

Chairman: *Mario Valli*, 082 451 8040; office: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161, 011 805 3039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za, www.swissclubjhb.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. The Courier: *Wolfgang Wollauz*, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier». Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club.

■ Our Clubs of Society

Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club.

Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082 569 9146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA

Swiss Society Alpina,
President: *Hans-Georg Bosch*, T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,
Secretary: *Biffy van Rooyen*, bvrooyen@gmail.com

We had our AGM on 6th March at the

Swiss Club Restaurant in Vorna Valley. This coming year will be trying for the club activities, due to the restrictions of movement put in place by the SA Government. We will advise in time of events being held or if we have to cancel via email. To this effect, the Regional Consular Centre in Pretoria as in the past, has offered to send out emails to all Swiss registered in the region. The Fondue evening is planned for the 6th June and the National Day for 1st August. In the meantime, stay safe and keep healthy.
Hans-Georg Bosch, Preside

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club,
Green Point Common,
Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point.
P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000,

T 021 434 8405 www.swissclub.co.za
President: *Christian Schiess*, president@swissclub.co.za
C 079 088 8233

Vice President/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*, treasurer@swissclub.co.za
C 083 297 3803

Secretary: *Chayenne Rusi*, secretary@swissclub.co.za
C 082 569 8446

To receive the "newsflash" contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 021 434 8405.

The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening.

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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mbischoff@bluewin.ch,

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NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

| Issue | Next Deadline | Distribution |
|-------|---------------|--------------|
| 04/20 | 20/08/2020 | 23/09/2020 |

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.

Every 1st Thursday of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc. For more information, please send an email to: info@swissclub.co.za

The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website www.swissclub.co.za under rifle club and on Facebook. President: *Dierk Lüthi*, hdluthi@gmail.com & dierk@telkomsa.net; C 083 441 4626. Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times are listed on the website and on the 2 Facebook pages.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

President: *Philippe Lanz*
C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625,
p.lanz@absamail.co.za

■ JASS EVENTS

This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

■ SPORT TARGET SHOOTING

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 0830 a.m. - Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

■ CHEESE FONDUE Augusta Estate. Details to be finalised, either 27th June in the evening or 28th June, lunch.

■ SWISS NATIONAL DAY

2nd August, Sunshine Farm, Drummond.

■ CUMBERLAND GAME FARM

Pietermaritzburg: 27th September - braai/lunch.

■ BAYNSFIELD GAME FARM

Richmond: 25th October – Braai.

■ YEAR END BRAAI,

Karkloof: 6th December.

■ PRIZE JASSEN,
13th December – held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay.

■ 2021 – CULINARY EVENING,
Augusta Estate: 7th February.

■ 67th AGM,
Augusta Estate – 7th March.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

*For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH

President: *Anne Diener*, C 079 089 4428, Comm.member: *Urs Leuenberger*, C 074 355 2182,
Secretary: *Heidi Schultes*, C 076 376 1441

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:

C/O *Christine and Paul Stiffler*,
T 043 748 3542, C 083 700 8846,
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SWISS CLUB IN MAURITIUS

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