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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Please note:
Next Editorial Deadline
10 May 2021



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

Editorial:

Dear readers, dear compatriots,

The spring meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad was held online, and divided into two sessions. The first one held on 6 February, the second on 20 March. A report prepared by your delegates has been published on the CSA Oceania website: <https://bit.ly/2ORi9TP>

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

Edition	Editorial deadline	Publication date
■ 3/21 June	Mon, 10.05.21	Fri, 11.06.21
■ 4/21 August	no regional edition	Wed, 11.08.21
■ 5/21 October	Tue, 07.09.21	Fri, 08.10.21
■ 6/21 December	no regional edition	Wed, 15.12.21

Please send your submissions by the above deadline to risler@csa-oceania.org. I look forward to hearing from you! Contact: +61 (0)412 935 565.

Sydney Jungbürgerfeier



On Thursday, 11 March the Swiss Consul General hosted the 'Young Citizen Celebration', the customary information evening for the young Swiss having reached 18 years of age. This year was the first 'after Covid' event the Consulate was able to stage, in 2020 it was not feasible.

About a dozen of the young Swiss from around Sydney, some with their parents, were welcomed at the residence of the Consul General of Switzerland, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler-Brown. She was supported by various consular staff members, who all explained the roles played by the Swiss Embassy, Consulates and Honorary Consuls in Australia. Their main emphasis is built on representing the Swiss Government in Australia and to serve the Swiss Diaspora in their dealings with the Swiss authorities.

The guests were enjoying some Swiss delicacies prepared by Chef – and President of the Swiss Club in NSW – Daniel Frutiger, who also invited the young citizens to a Swiss archery event.

CSA Delegate, Beat Knoblauch, informed the audience of the importance of the Council of the Swiss Abroad, which lobbies for all of us. He also stressed the rights and the duties attached to the red passport and urged them to register in Switzerland to vote and elect.

To test their knowledge on all matters Swiss, the Consul General distributed a quiz which many answered to full satisfaction and the winner was awarded a pictorial album. The evening finished in a happy mood, not without smiling at a camera for a group photo taken by Nigel Brown.

BEAT KNOBLAUCH | COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD

NEW WEBSITE: www.swisscommunity.org/en/



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

Contact the **CSA Oceania** on info@csa-oceania.org



The CSA Oceania – the New Zealand and Australian delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (l to r): Peter Ehrler (NZ), Beat Knoblauch (NSW), Katja Wallimann Gates (QLD), Roland Isler (VIC), Carmen Trochsler (SA)



Election of delegates to serve on **The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)** for the term 2021–2025

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) is the representative body in Switzerland for Swiss people living abroad. Australia is entitled to four council seats, New Zealand has two. Elections for the Oceania delegates of the CSA for the term 2021–2025 will take place in June this year.

General information about these elections, which will take place world-wide, can be found on the website of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) <https://bit.ly/2XeZqmb> (in German and French). Specific information about the Australian election is available on www.swissallianceaustralia.org



Election of delegates in New Zealand

The two delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand will be chosen from among members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and the four regional Swiss Clubs – Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington. They will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, held on 6 June 2021. www.swiss.org.nz



Election of delegates in Australia

How does the election work?

In Australia the election is conducted by the **Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA)**. Any queries/correspondence should be addressed to the person in charge of election coordination: Martin Scarpino, treasurer/secretary of the SAA, on csaelection2021@gmail.com

A call for interested candidates to apply to stand for election was published in edition 1/21 of the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania'. The election will be by postal Ballot. By the time this issue is published, candidates standing for election will be confirmed. A Ballot paper will be distributed via the printed and electronic version of edition 3/21 the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania'. It will also be available for downloading from the SAA website: www.swissallianceaustralia.org

Call to Vote

A call for eligible Swiss Abroad in Australia to elect their representatives on the Council of the Swiss Abroad will appear in edition 3/21 of the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania' which will be published on Friday, 11 June.

It will contain a printed Ballot paper as well as a short version of the profile of each candidate that stands for election. The full version of each candidates' profile will be available on the website of the SAA www.swissallianceaustralia.org from Tuesday, 20

April. The Ballot will also be available for downloading from the SAA website. The completed Ballot paper should be emailed to Martin Scarpino (SAA) on csaelection2021@gmail.com or posted to:

Swiss Alliance Australia
Att: Martin Scarpino
c/- Schweizer Kobras
P.O. Box H283
Australia Square NSW 1215

Due date for Ballots to be received by the SAA is **COB Wednesday, 30 June**. Ballots received after the due date can not be accepted.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible, you must be:

- a Swiss citizen residing in Australia
- 18 years and over
- registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

Election Results

The Ballots will be verified and counted by the election coordinator with the assistance of the Consulate General of Switzerland. The four candidates who received the most votes will be elected as the Australian CSA delegates. By first week July, the election results will be submitted to the OSA and announced on the SAA website www.swissallianceaustralia.org and relevant social media channels.

The constituent meeting of the newly elected Council for the term 2021-2025 will take place in August at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad (either in Lugano or virtual) – see <https://bit.ly/3s4rUNM>. A congress report and presentation of the elected delegates will appear in edition 5/21 of the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania' which will be published on Friday, 8 October.

Equal access to education in Papa New Guinea: A Swiss contribution

In many parts of Papua New Guinea, public schools remain significantly underfunded, teachers insufficiently trained, and a general lack of books and teaching materials curtails the delivery of quality education. Particularly in remote areas, children are unlikely to reach high school and many remain illiterate for life, with girls being the worst affected.

To increase literacy rates, empower vulnerable children and improve equal opportunities for all, the Swiss Embassy cooperates with Buk bilong Pikinini (BbP: 'books for children'), who has established over 20 publicly accessible Library Learning Centres across the country, supports over 1200 children with early childhood education, and provides teacher training for selected schools. BbP works with target communities and makes sure that boys and girls as well as children with special needs have equal access to education.

A learning environment does not only benefit young children, but also adults during difficult times of their lives: Among recent projects supported by the Embassy, BbP facilitated the restocking of empty book shelves in the Bui-lebi prison library to support literacy of inmates and assist with their future reintegration into society.

Starting this year, the Swiss Embassy, BbP and Swiss faith-based organisations based in PNG are cooperating on projects to pool resources and advance common goals. Thus, Switzerland is able to support the Government of Papua New Guinea effectively in its endeavour to deliver education to remote or poor communities in this vast and beautiful country.



Ambassadors Pedro Zwahlen and Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, with children on Tatana Island near Port Moresby



Inmates of Bui-lebi prison near Mendi

Community News and Events

NZ: Swiss Society of New Zealand

The Swiss Society of New Zealand will be holding their Annual General Meeting on 6 June at 2pm at the Matangi Hall, near Hamilton. Any members or prospective members are most welcome to attend. For any further information please contact Marlies Hebler (06 278 6878) or Marianne Drummond (06 7628757).

On Saturday 5 June at 9am the **10th Australasia Jass Tournament** will be held at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton. Please check on the Swiss Society webpage for registration form (registrations close on 15 May) and for further information please contact Willetta Staheli (027 249 0003). We look forward to a good attendance for both functions, and please check the Helvetia magazine for details of other events held during this weekend.

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

50 Meter Shooting Competition was held on 20 February. It was a great day, but the turnout was on the low side with only 12 people participating in the program.

Family Picnic was held on 21 February following a week of lockdowns and very much the unknown of how this event would go ahead. For once we

struck a beautiful hot summer's day – perfect for a picnic.

Upcoming Events:

9-11/4: Ruaphehu Hiking Weekend staying in Ohakune with various walks and hikes planned for all ages and abilities. It may be too late to sign up for this but if you are still keen you could try and contact Herbert 021 962 708.

30/4: Hamilton Club AGM at the Union Parish Church, Queen Street, Cambridge. 7pm for a card practice and general tuition and 8pm the meeting will commence followed by a light supper. A plate would be appreciated. We would love a great attendance at this event and welcome any ideas and feedback about our club activities.

2/5: Tentative date for Cowbell semi-final in Auckland.

14/5: Card evenings commence for five sessions, fortnightly at 7.30pm at the Union Parish Church in Cambridge.

22&23/5: 300 metre shooting weekend to be held in Auckland at the club shooting range. Please mark this date in your calendar if you are a keen shooter. Hans will provide further details closer to the time.

5/6: National Jass Competition to be held at the Matangi Hall.

5-7/6: Swiss Society Cowbell Competition & Swiss Society AGM, 2pm at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton.

For further information please email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone 0274 985 170.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

On 13 February we held our semi-final of the **Cowbell Competition** against our friends from Wellington. We got off to a good start by winning the shooting, with Wellington evening up the results with a close win in the keglen. The shot put ended up with a convincing win for Taranaki, as we waited for the jassers to finish, and fortunately for us we came out with a 3-1 win in this discipline. Taranaki will now play off against either Auckland or Hamilton in the final of the Cowbell Competition for the coveted trophy; the fierce, but friendly, competition for the Cowbell is the main reason our Swiss Clubs get together every Queen's Birthday Weekend!

Our fabulous **Annual Picnic** was held on 14 February (this was very fortunate as the following day our Covid level restrictions went up as well as the weather being atrocious!!) with an excellent crowd. BBQ and children activities were held, but for most the



Schwingen in Taranaki – even the young ones know how it's done!



Hamilton Family Picnic – the bowling alley is busy



Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group Auckland at the Orewa Boulevard Arts Fiesta

highlight was the Schwingen where three sections with a total of fifteen people competed. The Schwingen König was Erwin Hebler with Andrew Breen second; the juniors' winner was Adam Frieslaar with Mattia Buhler runner-up and in the midgets Charlie Werder prevailed over Tayla Dettling. It was wonderful to see the adults having tough battles, but the midgets are always great entertainment!

Upcoming Events:

1&15/4: Keglen at 7.30pm

11&18/4: Jassen at 1.15pm

18/4: Society/Championship Shoots from 1pm

6&20/5: Keglen at 7.30pm

8/5: Our fabulous fondue evening with meals served between 6-8pm

16/5: Swiss Society Sports Competitions from 11am

23/5: Jassen at 1.15pm

5-7/6: Swiss Society Cowbell Competition & Swiss Society AGM, 2pm at the Matangi Hall, Hamilton.

NZ: Swiss Kiwi Yodel Group Auckland

Multicultural entertainment at the Orewa Boulevard Arts Fiesta.

It was Valentine's Day, beautiful weather and Orewa was packed and humming with people from all over Auckland! A sound stage was set-up in Moana Reserve, right at Orewa beach and the entertainment started on time at 10.30am.

A very International program began with a colourful Colombian Dance Group and their always popular South American beat. The Puhoi Bohemian Dancers entertained in their national costumes and of course with Bohemian tunes and steps. We must not forget the Scottish Country Dancers, Hibiscus Tuakana, The Singing Nations Choir, a Korean Performing Arts group.

The Swiss-Kiwi Jodlers were among them with two times 20 minutes delighting the audience with jodel and alphorn tunes.

It was nice to see so many Swiss supporters to come to cheer us on.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

The Canberra Swiss Club is organising future events again. It looks like we can ramp up the committee and its volunteers to have some fantastic events coming up.

We had our annual trip to Durras North for the Canberra long weekend. It's very pleasant to stay right at the beach in the cabins. Saturday night we had our Raclette evening under the stars. There is always lots of eating, drinking and talking. Singing a few Swiss

songs before dessert is also pretty common. It was a fantastic weekend away from home.

The weather was holding up, so that we were able to do some bushwalk, swimming in the river inlet, fishing from the beaches and playing a round of golf.

The next bigger event will be the Fondue night, followed by the 1st of August National Day. The committee is working hard to make these events a success. Hopefully we can have both events here in Canberra without any Covid-19 restrictions...we are very positive!

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

After 12 months 'down, but not out', we plan to resume our activities after Easter with newly found energy and unfailing determination! Numbers permitting, our first official appearance after our involuntary break from all singing will be on 29 July at the **Seniors' Swiss National Day Luncheon**, organised by the Swiss Community Care Society.

The wheels are also in motion for the planning of our traditional **Swiss National Day Family Picnic** at Castle Hill Showground, this year appropriately falling on the Sunday, 1 August. We would like to welcome as many of you, and members of your families and friends, as possible in line with the restrictions that may still apply or may have been lifted altogether. Please stand-by for further news that will be circulated via News Flash from the Swiss Consulate General in due course.

On reflection, some notable and very pleasing facts have not been overlooked: Our untiring Alois Kretz is now in his 13th year of our club's presidency, the longest serving Leader, a very outstanding and impressive record indeed. If it crossed his mind perhaps at times, to hand over the baton: it's not on, we won't let him! Bravo Alois!

Another fine achievement is the record of Hans Moser, who has jumped over +50 years of club membership, without much ado and fanfare. Not only has he been a very dedicated second tenor and a reliable stalwart of our



 <p>Lending a hand since 1879</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>We are here to help.</p> <p>Registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ABN 41 419 264 390)</p> <p>https://swissocietyvic.org/ Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645 E: admin@swissocietyvic.org</p>
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alphorn team, but he is also our club historian, you could call him our club encyclopedia!

Last, but not least: our youthful Sepp Engesser, most dedicated and definitely very professional choir master...excellent work, Sepp!

For any enquiries, please contact: Alois Kretz (President), 9419 7277; Sepp Engesser (Choir Master), 9659 6232; Karin Attewell (Treasurer), 8964 4434

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

You may have read in the last Swiss Review that we have appointed several Swiss people in Country NSW as representatives for SCCS. They are happy to receive a phone call or email from compatriots living in the region, who may be looking to make contact with other Swiss.

Recently a Swiss woman who lives on the western side of the Blue Mountains contacted Johann and Ruth, our coordinators for Bathurst, and her nearest representatives. The trio travelled more than 60km to meet – an unbelievable distance by Swiss standards – in order to get to know each other. We are so grateful that after this meeting Elizabeth herself agreed to become a representative for the Blue Mountains region. If there are other Swiss citizens within NSW who, like Elizabeth, are keen to get in touch with compatriots from Switzerland or become a rural coordinator, please let us know.

If things remain stable with the current Covid-19 restrictions, we will be able to organise a few events in 2021. The **Swiss National Day Luncheon** is planned for 29 July and the **Christmas Luncheon** for 2 December. We are also planning two outings, as well as a concert in Chatswood. As always, members and people on our contact list will receive an invitation, but all relevant details will also be posted on our website as the events become finalised. Newcomers are always welcome!

At our first committee meeting of the year, it was decided that from now on the very favourable prices for our events will only apply to SCCS members. Other people are welcome, but not at the subsidised amount. So, make sure you have renewed your membership. The fee is very modest, and you recover it by taking part in just one event. (Some people are not aware that SCCS is not the same as the Swiss Club. Swiss Club members are not automatically SCCS members!)

And last but not least: why don't you try our **Casual Lunch**, where everybody orders and pays individually? It takes place every third Friday of the month at the Concordia Club in Tempe and it is always a jolly occasion, sometimes attended by up to 20 people. We are happy to welcome new Swiss faces in this group, even if they are not members of SCCS.



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gerhard@homeloanguru.com.au

■ Rita Schaad, (02) 4956 2272
maritahl@optusnet.com.au

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bizzini1@hotmail.com

North Coast:

■ Hans Schaffner
hschaffner@bigpond.com

Please visit swissccs.org.au/ to find out more about SCCS.

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Group organiser: Cecile Scherrer

cecile.sch70@gmail.com

0409 286 326 or 07 4194 01 05

Our monthly restaurant lunches on the 15th of each month are ongoing. In January at the Golf Club we had 14 participating, in February at the Tavern we had 21, and in March our lunch was at Kondari Resort.

Upcoming Events:

3/4: Easter Bunny with Zopf and Egg popping at Dundowran Beach private property.

15/4: Lunch at Hervey Bay Hotel

Swiss citizens in our region are reminded that it is mandatory to register with the Swiss Consulate General in Sydney. Please also ensure that the



The 'heavenly voices' of the Yodel Choir & Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'

Consulate has your email address in case you need to be contacted for COVID information updates or in an emergency.

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

We are back in rehearsals every 2nd Tuesday, the same week as the Wednesday Jass.

With the light Covid-19 situation in Brisbane we're happy to be back after a 10-month silence. Rev. Thomas Sullivan gave us the key to his lovely Anglican church in which we can rehearse with plenty of space, a piano and a wonderful sound reverberation.

We started to learn 'Mon beau Jura' in French, first of four new songs, so this is the time for new members to join the choir. There is no prerequisite for reading music or choir experience, we record each voice for you to learn. Your enthusiasm and friendship is most important to us.

Looking forward to performing for the Swiss Club again. Until then, stay healthy and happy. Any questions, contact Gabriel on yodel@swissclubqld.org.au or 0435 570 241.

QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

The Swiss Society of Queensland held their annual boat trip to Moreton Bay earlier this year with more than 70 members enjoying a scenic day visiting the famous Horseshoe Bay on Peel Island.

Our members boarded the stylish 100ft vessel named 'Lady Brisbane' which departed from Brett's Wharf Plaza pontoon at Hamilton before sailing down the

Brisbane River, past the Port of Brisbane for a 90-minute journey to Peel Island. Everybody was singing, catching up with their friends and enjoying the spectacular views, surrounded by the beautiful nature.

Lunch was delicious and consisted of sausages and steak, potato salad and mixed salad with a can of soft drink and water to wash it all down. It was great to see the children swimming, snorkelling and playing in the sand and having a jolly good time.

If you would like to see some of the photos from the Moreton Bay Boat Cruise, you can go to our Facebook page called Swiss Club Queensland.

It has been a busy year so far since the boat cruise in February with our movie night drawing more than 20 members at the Anglican Church Hall last month and our very popular Easter bunny event was a huge hit for families. We hope everyone had a lovely and safe Easter break!

If you'd like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to contact the president, Philippe Coquerand, on 0407 677 828 or prcoque@gmail.com

Thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to catching up with you at one of our events.



A sing-along on the high seas on the way to Peel Island

Swiss Sayings: Lost in Translation

Interesting sayings in our national languages, explained by Beatrice Schlegel – a professional translator and Swiss Abroad from Wales in the UK.

“Wüsse, wo dr Bartli syn Moscht holt”

This saying literally states that somebody knows where the bearded man gets his cider from. It actually means, that a person is clever and streetwise. According to a Saxony legend, the saying goes back to a wine tavern owner named Bartholomäus Zimmer, who lived in Meissen, Germany, at the beginning of the 16th century. This man had great expertise in the field of beverages and sourced only wines from the best vineyards. The phrase began to be used to describe an extremely hard-working and intelligent person. Perhaps something along the lines of ‘showing you how it’s done’, or to ‘know every trick in the book’.

In French it can be translated as:
“être dans la course”

And in Italian you could say:
“saperla lunga / essere un furbacchione / essere un furbo di tre cotte”

Beatrice Schlegel, B.A.(hons), M.A., MCIL
info@beatservices.co.uk www.beatservices.co.uk

SEARCH FOR HEIRS

The Court of Locarno-Campagna (Swiss authority) is looking for information about the heirs of **Gaspare BRAVO**, declared missing since 31 December 1897; and **Martino BRAVO**, born in 1837, son of Gaspare Bravo, emigrated first to the USA, then to Australia and after to the USA (California), declared missing since 31 December 1917.

Anyone who can provide information regarding these persons, their descendants or heirs is requested to contact the Court of Locarno-Campagna by 28 February, 2022. After this date the inheritance will be passed on to the known heirs.

Court of Locarno-Campagna, Piazza Grande 16B, 6601 Locarno, Switzerland

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SwissCham AUSTRALIA SWISS BUSINESS AWARD 2021

The winners of the Swiss Business Award 2021 have been celebrated in a beautiful ceremony on 25 February at the Maritime Museum in Sydney. The night also provided a great platform to meet, greet and network again in a Covid-safe environment.

Overall winner and winner of the ‘Established Business Award’ was Roche Diagnostics Australia. Allison Roissiter (MD) and her team won the prize, for their contribution, professional dedication, specialisation, speed, and being at the forefront of testing of Covid 19 in Australia.

In the category ‘Newcomer’ the winner was Dr. Marc Stammach (MD) from Hitachi Zosen Inova, a Swiss company with a breakthrough success to generate energy from waste. The pilot project will go live in late 2022 in WA.

The third winner was Prof. Robert Medcalf. His work focuses on the removal of blood clots in relation to strokes and related conditions. Prof. Medcalf is a leading scientist at Monash University and heavily involved with SAAN.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS.

SwissCham acknowledges the generous support of this event by our main sponsors, Glencore, Swiss Airlines and MSC Cruises, as well as Lindt Chocolate, Jura, the Swatch Group, Mondaine, DKSH, Strathbogie Estate and Bei Amici.



L to R: Mick Buffier Glencore, Allison Rossiter (MD) Roche Diagnostics Australia, HE Ambassador Pedro Zwahlen and Chair of SwissCham Peter Pluess



The winning team of Roche Diagnostics Australia