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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA



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

Editorial:

The worst of the affects of the pandemic seem to be over, allowing us to return to enjoy the company of our loved ones, travel and organise gatherings with our friends and compatriots. The event calendars of Swiss associations are filling and we welcome

to be able to participate in community activities again. But just when we thought that the worst of COVID has passed, we get hit with another menacing situation – war in Europe! The conflict in Ukraine and its economic consequences pose major challenges for the entire world. Once again it is the poorest who suffer the most, being impacted by food shortages and being helpless against rising living costs. Let's look out for those around us who need support and hope the world will unite to stop the madness and avoid escalation.

Upcoming event:

Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference 2022



Standing, from left:
Claude A. Staub
(President), Beat
Knoblauch, Christian
Dubois. Sitting, from
left: Katja Wallimann
Gates (Secretary),
Roland Isler
(Vice-President),
Marianne Pearson,
Regula Scheidegger,
Martin Scarpino
(Treasurer).

The committee of the Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA) met on 3 June in Sydney. It was somewhat of an occasion as it was the first time that the team met face-to-face. The only members missing in this photo are Silvio Gmür and Philippe Coquerand who joined in online and Carmen Trochsler who was enjoying a holiday in Switzerland.

The main item on the agenda was the Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference 2022 which, following an invitation by Ambassador of Switzerland, Mrs Caroline Bichet-

Anthamatten, will take place at the Embassy in Canberra on 18/19/20 November this year.

The SAA is the organiser of this bi-annual event which started in 2014 in Canberra, 2016 in Melbourne and 2018 in Sydney and which is now returning to Australia's capital. The conference was originally planned to take place in 2020 in Auckland and had to be postponed twice due to COVID.

Invitations have already gone out to all Swiss associations in Australia and New Zealand as well as consular

representatives and VIP guests from Switzerland. After a four-year break, we look forward to a great meeting that will foster collaboration and friendship and provide a platform to exchange information and experiences!

EDITOR

This may sound difficult for Swiss to do, but they should learn never be on time! According to studies, the more accurately you measure time, the more entropy, a scientific word that measures disorder or chaos, you produce. Since the universe will end when it reaches a state of maximum entropy, being punctual actually hastens the demise of the universe!

18 years old, at last!

Turning 18 means reaching the age of majority in Switzerland and it is an important moment in the life of young citizens. With the easing of COVID restrictions, traditional 'Jungbürgerfeier' – young citizen celebrations – were again held in Australia and New Zealand. Here are a few snapshots of events held in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

It is an old tradition in the villages and cities of Switzerland to celebrate young people when they turn 18. It means reaching the age of majority and is therefore an important milestone in the life of all citizens. With newly acquired freedoms also come responsibilities as well as opportunities.

About a fifth of the 788,000 Swiss living abroad are less than 18 years old. To celebrate the coming of age of the young Swiss living in Australia, the Embassy in Canberra, the Consulate General in Sydney as well as the Honorary Consulate in Melbourne have started to host 'Jungbürgerfeier' in recent years.

The celebrations offer a platform to inform the newly-minted Swiss citizens of their rights and obligations, as well as an opportunity to connect with their Swiss roots – and for some, discover what Switzerland has to offer: from education at top-ranked universities to over 250 different vocational education and training programs.

It also provides an opportunity to learn more about SwissCommunity – the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad – including the services and the many exciting sports, leisure and languages programs it offers for young Swiss Abroad.



On 13 May, the Ambassador of Switzerland, Mrs Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, hosted 9 young Swiss citizens and their families for a first ever such celebration in the ACT.



On 17 March, 26 young Swiss residing in New South Wales turned up at the Swiss Residence in Sydney for a reception hosted by the Consul General of Switzerland, Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, and organised in partnership with the team of the Consulate General, Switzerland Tourism, CSA Oceania and the Swiss Club of NSW.

Useful portals about education and training in Switzerland

educationsuisse (www.educationsuisse.ch/en/), part of SwissCommunity – Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, offers a range of services and information, including counselling and assistance in applying for cantonal scholarships, to young Swiss abroad who wish to pursue or complete their education in Switzerland. See also www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/offers-for-young-people-aged-15-25

studyinswitzerland+ (www.studyinswitzerland.plus/) is a service provided by swissuniversities (www.swissuniversities.ch/en/), the Rectors' Conference of Swiss Higher Education Institutions. It provides a range of information about living and studying in Switzerland, including extensive details about Swiss universities, scholarships and administrative details.

Berufsberatung/Orientation/Orientamento (www.berufsberatung.ch/) is a portal mandated by the Cantons in three official languages only for all questions pertaining to vocational education and training in Switzerland.

The State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (www.sbf.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home.html) is the federal government's specialised agency for national and international matters concerning education, research and innovation policy.



On 25 May, 18 young Swiss citizens followed the invitation by the Honorary Consul in Melbourne, Mrs Manuela Erb for their celebration at the Swiss Club of Victoria. The event was attended by Ambassador Bichet-Anthamatten, and organised together with the CSA Oceania and the Swiss Club of Victoria. A special thank-you to Peter Erb for the wonderful catering!

Helvetic Kitchen: Suure Mocke



Suure Mocke, braised beef with a slightly sweet and tangy sauce, is the Swiss version of Sauerbraten, sour roast, where the sour part comes from a long soak in vinegar and red wine.

Beloved in many regions of Switzerland, this is a dish that feels at home plated next to a pillow-y pile of **Härdöpfelstock**, mashed potatoes – just perfect for a cold winter day!

ANDIE PILOT

For the marinade:

750 ml red wine
250 ml red or white wine vinegar
1 carrot, chopped
1 onion, chopped
5 peppercorns
5 cloves
1 bay leaf
approx. 1 kg of beef (rump)

For the braising:

2 tbsp olive oil
salt and pepper
2 tbsp tomato paste
1 tbsp sugar

For the sauce:

2 tsp corn starch
3 tbsp cold water
salt and pepper

For the marinade:

In a large pot, add the wine (light Pinot Noir would work well), vinegar, carrot, onion, and seasoning. Bring to a boil and let simmer for a few minutes, then take off the heat. Let cool. Place the meat in a large bowl and add the cooled marinade. Cover, place in the fridge or a very cold cellar, and let marinate for a minimum of four days and up to a week, turning the meat every day or so.

When you are ready to braise:

Preheat oven to 150 C / gas mark 2. Remove the meat from the marinade, pat it dry, and set aside. Strain the liquid into a pot, discard the bay leaf, peppercorns, and cloves and set the vegetables aside for later. Bring the marinade to a boil. There will be some white/grey foam, just skim this off. Set aside. In a large dutch oven, heat the olive oil over high heat. Salt and pepper the meat, then brown well in the pot until it forms a nice crust (around 5-8 minutes). Remove from the pot and set aside. Add the vegetables to the pan and brown them, then add the tomato paste and sugar. Add about a third of the marinade back to the pot and scrape the bottom well. Pour in the rest of the marinade, bring to a boil, then remove from heat. Place the meat in the dutch oven, cover and place in the oven. Cook for about three hours, turning the meat 2-3 times during cooking. Remove the dutch oven, take out the meat, cover it and let it rest on a cutting board.

To make the sauce:

Strain the marinade into a small pot. (Optional step: I used an immersion blender to puree the marinade with the remaining vegetables, then strained it – you can do this, or simply strain and discard the veg without pureeing.) Using a flat spoon, skim the fat off the top of the marinade (you can also do this with a gravy separator). Then bring to a boil over medium high heat.

In a small bowl, mix together the corn starch and cold water (no lumps), then slowly whisk it in to the simmering marinade. Keep whisking while it thickens, then remove from heat and season with salt and pepper.

Slice the meat, pour over the warm sauce and serve immediately.



If you'd like to try another of Andie Pilot's recipes, you can discover many more delicious Swiss specialities on www.helveticitchen.com

VIC: SAAN event

Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe and his Swiss links

On 26 May members and guests of the Swiss Australian Academic Network (SAAN) enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Kelvin Club in the Melbourne CBD where Dr Dianne Reilly delivered a presentation on the Swiss links of Victoria's first Lieutenant Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe.

We are all familiar with some well-known landmarks that bear the name La Trobe (i.e. La Trobe street, La Trobe University etc.). However, not many would be aware that Charles La Trobe had spent many years in Neuchâtel before he ventured to Victoria in 1839 to take up his 15 year long posting as Administrator of the Port Phillip District, which was at that time a little known outpost of the British Empire.

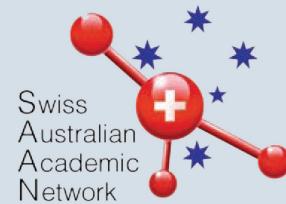
Dianne Reilly undertook her Ph.D. on Charles La Trobe (University of Melbourne, 2003) and even spent time in Neuchâtel collecting various letters and documents related to La Trobe's visits to Switzerland and to his life more generally. Dianne mentioned that she photocopied over 4000 pages that were sent to State Library Victoria where they were recorded on microfilm as a permanent record and for research purposes.

Dianne's presentation was full of lovely images and anecdotes about La Trobe, including aspects of his personal life and how he met his wife Sophie, and that they spent their honeymoon at 'Jolimont', a manor house belonging to Sophie's Uncle, overlooking scenic Lake Biel/Bienne. So now we know why we have a Metro station called Jolimont in Melbourne! Dianne concluded with La Trobe's life after he returned to England in 1854, and where he still found the need to return to Neuchâtel.

It was a fascinating historical journey and we were all very thankful to Dianne for her clear and authoritative presentation.

Dianne Reilly is also Secretary of the La Trobe Society that she co-founded in 2001. www.latrobesociety.org.au

PROF. ROBERT MEDCALF



Dr Dianne Reilly



Marie Schibli (left) and Marguerite Demuth (right) with Manuela Erb



Anniversaries: Two very special birthdays

In March, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Melbourne, Manuela Erb, was happy to visit and extend some very special birthday wishes to two much loved centenarians. Marie Schibli celebrated her 100th birthday on 7 March and Marguerite Demuth commemorated her 104th birthday on 30 March. Both ladies have been very active members of the Swiss community in Melbourne and everyone sends their warmest congratulations and best wishes to Marie and Marguerite.

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Community News and Events

NZ: Auckland Swiss Club

After a disrupted start to the year, our AGM on 12 May saw new people joining the main committee and a commitment to a number of events before the end of the year. We are hoping to make up for lost time and have as many of our club members join us for everything they can.

All events will be advertised on the website, and emails sent closer to the dates so if anything changes, we'll all know before the day.

Upcoming events:

8/7: Jass Evening, Danish Hall.

31/7: Swiss National Day, late afternoon at the Swiss Farm, followed by the lighting of the bonfire.

12/8: Jass Evening, Danish Hall.

20/8: Fondue Evening, Danish Hall.

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

1 April at Mt Ruapehu, Tokoroa Alpine Club. With threat of either Covid or a rumbling mountain, regardless we went with a reduced number of club members and friends and enjoyed another great weekend.



The Annual General Meeting was held on 29 April at Swisscraft in Frankton. It has been three years since we have been at this venue for the AGM and was good to see so many attending this gathering. The new committee is hoping that the coming year brings less interruptions and good attendances and a chance to catch up with everyone.

Upcoming events:

8/7: Fifth and final Card Evening.

31/7: Swiss National Day celebrations, Matangi Hall. Ambassador Michael Winzap will be joining us as well as some young Swiss celebrating their Jungbürgerfeier.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

We held a fabulous Fondue Evening on 14 May, with just over 160 people enjoying a delicious cheese fondue. It was wonderful to see so many families coming along to enjoy this popular function.

On 15 May we held our Swiss Society sports competitions, with participants competing in small bore shooting, keglen and jass. All disciplines were keenly contested, and it was great to see some juniors taking part.

On 4 & 5 June we hosted the final of the Cowbell Competition and the AGM of the Swiss Society of NZ. All functions were well-supported and it was wonderful to see friends from other clubs and make new acquaintances. This is always a great weekend, and is hosted by the Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Taranaki Clubs in turn.

Upcoming events:

30/7: Swiss National Day celebrations, together with Jungbürgerfeier for our young people turning 18, Club House in Kaponga.



Taranaki Fondue Night. Photo: Richard Wagner

6 & 20/10: Keglen recommences.

16/10: The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot and Championship Shoot...come along and participate in this Swiss sport. The Trudi Ott Belt is a coveted trophy, with everyone having a chance of winning it as this is a handicap shoot. We would love to see more people taking part!

NZ: Swiss Society of New Zealand

On 5 June the Taranaki Swiss Club hosted the final of the Cowbell Competition and the AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. Members from the Auckland Swiss Club contested the final against members of the Taranaki Swiss Club in shooting (held prior), keglen, shot put and jass. All disciplines were keenly contested, with the Taranaki club coming out winners by 4-0. Friendly rivalry is always to the fore, and members enjoy cheering on their team...and the opposing team too!! After a delicious lunch the AGM followed. Good discussions were held and interesting topics discussed. Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious catered dinner, mixing and mingling with members of the other Swiss Club. Many thanks to all those who made the effort to come to Taranaki, and we look forward to the Wellington Swiss Club hosting us next year.

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Embracing our post-Covid world, we held our Fondue Night here in Adelaide at the end of April – a wonderful event with 100 people attending, in a dynamic and heart-warming ambiance at the Austrian Club (see photo).

Our chefs Patrick and Rolf Faeh did a fabulous job, our new approach of finding volunteers to help throughout the night made sure that all involved could enjoy the evening and mingle, and I want to say thank you to Victoria Tobe, Maya Schnider, Marlene Guillaume, Marc Rychener and Markus Hugenschmidt for their commitment throughout the preparation and execution of this event.

Our Swiss Club is all about get-together's among friends, among people from the same area of the world, who don't necessarily meet otherwise.

We have a lot of fun as a virtual, itinerant and vibrant Club, and our aim is very much to promote our traditional events.

Upcoming events:

30/7: Traditional first of August celebration, Montacute Institute.

23/10: AGM and Wuerstli Broetle, Kuitpo Forest.

4/12: Visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli.



We welcome you to these events and look forward to catching up with you!

We have our Swiss Radio program: tune in to 5EBI (103.1FM) on a Saturday, from 6pm to 7pm ACST (<http://5ebi.com.au/on-air-programs/1030/swiss>) for traditional Swiss music.

And for further details of events, how to become a member (especially if you have just arrived in South Australia) or getting in touch with our business partners, head to our website www.swissclubs.org.au or email us at info@swissclubs.org.au

Bis zum nächste mal! A la prochaine! Alla prossima!

HENRI GUILLAUME


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NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus (540 to 480 BC) stated that “There is nothing permanent except change”. Yes, change is inevitable, and often it pays to be prepared for it. Our volunteers in the Swiss Community Care Society sometimes experience how difficult it can become for elderly people who are not prepared for change. We all know that we get older from the moment we are born and that the day of our final ‘departure’ will eventually come. To go as quickly as possible is the wish of most of us, but too often the decline is gradual and not easily recognised. Therefore, it pays to prepare while still in good physical and especially mental shape, and I hope that the following questions/recommendations will help you to be as organised as possible.

1. Have you made a will? When did you last update it? Those you leave behind will be so grateful if you made clear arrangements about your wishes regarding the disposal of your property and/or estate.

2. Do you have an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)? This is a healthy, preferably younger person who can deal with your financial matters, should you become unable to do so yourself.

3. Have you appointed an Enduring Guardian (EG), who can decide about your lifestyle and medical treatment, should your condition prevent you from doing so yourself?

You can choose to appoint one or two/more EPAs and EGs, and you may decide for this to be the same person(s) for both, or different people.

4. Because of point 3 it is a big advantage if you have an Advanced Care Plan. In this document you outline your wishes for treatment and lifestyle, so that your guardian(s) can act in your very interest should it become necessary.

The internet has plenty of information available regarding these matters, including the relevant forms. Unfortunately, it takes a bit of time and energy to have all these documents done. You do need a solicitor for items 1, 2 and 3, and your doctor to sign item 4, but once you have these papers in place you will have far less to worry about in the future.

This year SCCS is celebrating the Swiss National Day on 28 July. We warmly invite members and non-members to join us at this event in Tempe (Concordia Club). More information is available on our website, www.swissccs.org.au. Alternatively, I am happy to chat with you on 0432 031 085.

REGULA SCHEIDECKER



SCCS CONTACTS IN RURAL NSW:

Newcastle:	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	maritah1@optusnet.com.au
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Ballina:	Hans Schaffner	0448 308 146	hschaffner@bigpond.com

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

“Die Vorfreude ist jetzt schon riesengross” – guess, what this recent headline in the ‘Zugerbieter Presse’ on 29.3.22 refers to?

Das 31. Eidg. Jodlerfest from 16 to 18 June in Zug is set to wipe away the frustrations, disappointments and anxiety from the past two years (remember, we were ready to head off to Basel in 2020, and then 2021!). ZUG 2023 WILL BE VERY SPECIAL!

But wait – with all this excitement still some time off, there is first of all work to be done and all hands on deck for this year’s Swiss Yodlers Picnic at Castle Hill Showground, on 7 August. We look forward to welcoming you to this happy get-together.

Some of our members will join the Seniors’ Luncheon on 28 July at Tempe German Club for what has also become an ‘institution’ not to be missed.

Finally, If the Swiss Yodlers’ activities appeal to you, then why not consider turning up to one of our practise sessions to see what is going on? Please call our President Alois Kretz on 9419 7277 or our Choir Conductor Sepp Engesser 9659 6232 for any additional details.

QLD: Swiss Community Care Society QLD Inc.

Our mission is to provide relief, assistance, support and social contact for the Swiss in need who live in Queensland.

Our next event is the Swiss Community Care Society – ATM and Christmas lunch on 26 November.

Contact details:

Franz Braun (President): 0421 384 060

Rita von Rotz (Vice President):

0431 707 144

care@swissclubqld.org.au

Postal address:

Swiss Community Care Society
303/77 Wheeler Street

Upper Mt Gravatt QLD 4122

To become a member please navigate to our website www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-community-care-society/ or call Anita Bickel on 0457 457 211.



QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

On 15 April a small group gathered for Easter at the home of Nikki and Matthias for delicious Zopf and traditional 'eiertütsche'.

We will celebrate Swiss National Day on 31 July at a private property with cervelats-grilling and other buffet specialities.

Every 15th of the month we meet for lunch at different restaurant. For details contact organiser Cecile Scherrer on 0409 286 326, cecile.sch70@gmail.com

VIC: Groupe Romand du Victoria



On 1 June the Club Romand of Victoria celebrated the start of winter with a very fitting 'soirée choucroute' at the Swiss Cub.

Jean-Eudes and Chantal Ducommun served us a very nice and tasty choucroute garnie (dressed sauerkraut). The ambience was great and warm, just perfect to counteract the miserable winter weather in Melbourne.

A big thank you to Jean-Eudes, Chantal and Rémy and everybody for the work they did.

PATRICIA CALLEGARI-MEDCALF

VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

The happiest news we have for this edition of the Swiss Review is that the Melbourne Swiss National Day Celebration Picnic is one once again after a two year break! Yey!

This is a fabulous day to reconnect with the Swiss Community. This year we have additional space as we can utilize the indoor area as well as outdoors. So if it is raining you can still come, as there will be a warm and dry area to enjoy with family and friends.

Date: Sunday, 31 July

Venue: Austrian Club, 76-90 Sheehan Rd, Heidelberg West

Cost: Gold coin donation

Next Jass Abig is Saturday, 6 August. Bookings ring Beny 0467 589 400 or Sepp 0425 791 036. We are very happy to welcome new members, so if you feel you would like to join us please call Chris on 0428 427 434.

REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

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4/22 August	no regional edition	Fri, 05.08.22
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Visit the umbrella organisations in Australia and New Zealand for information and links to Swiss Clubs, community groups, professional organisations and consular representations in Oceania:

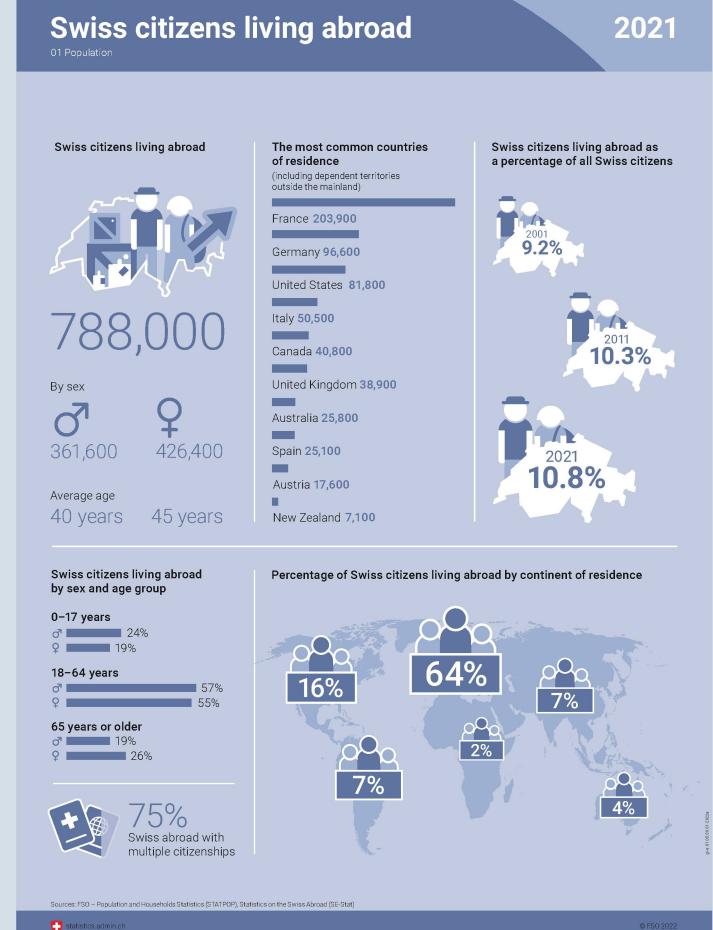
www.swissallianceaustralia.org

www.swiss.org.nz

Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.
 Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia



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The Swiss Abroad statistics for 2021 have just been released by the Federal Statistics Office. There were around 788,000 Swiss Abroad world-wide. The number of Swiss in Oceania has again increased by 0.6%. The total for Australia was approx. 25,800 and for New Zealand 7,100.



Lending a hand since 1879

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 a Swiss who does, please contact us.

We are here to help.

Registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ABN 41 419 264 390)

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