

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 51 (2024)  
**Heft:** 1: Behind the incense clouds, the dark corners of the Catholic Church appear  
  
**Anhang:** Regional news : Oceania

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA

### Editorial:

The AGM of the Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA) was held on Friday, 24 November. Committee members travelled from as far as Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane to gather in Melbourne for the meeting and a chance to visit the Swiss Festival (see next pages) which was held that weekend.

These days we are so used to virtual meetings which offer the convenience of being able to participate from anywhere, but nothing can replace face-to-face contact, as it provides the opportunity for more personal connections and to build stronger relationships. This being one of the aims of the SAA, the possibility was discussed to organise state-based meetings of Swiss clubs and associations to foster closer collaboration and coordinate events were possible.

Equally, it was also important to the committee to support the Swiss Festival, which is the newest member of the SAA, by having a physical presence at the festival – and a lot of fun was had in the process! *Ed.*

[www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org)

**The SAA Committee (from l to r):** Christian Dubois, Barbara Koeppel (Secretary), Martin Scarpino (Treasurer), Beat Knoblauch (CSA Delegate), Claude Alain Staub (President), Roland Isler (Vice-President & CSA Delegate), Regula Scheidegger, Carmen Trochsler (CSA Delegate). Absent: Katja Wallimann Gates (CSA Delegate), Marianne Pearson, Philippe Coquerand



### Language assistantships in Switzerland

Movetia places young students and graduates from universities abroad as language assistants at Swiss host schools. As native English speakers, they enrich language lessons and can offer an insight into the culture of their home countries.

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Application closing date for the school year 2024/25 is **28 February 2024**.

# The Swiss Festival – celebrating Swissness downunder

The two-day Swiss Festival was a vibrant celebration of Swiss culture, traditions, and cuisine. The event took place at the open-air grounds of the Pig & Whistle Tavern in Main Ridge surrounded by paddocks and vineyards on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula and attracted a diverse audience of locals, tourists, and Swiss expatriates. The festival featured a range of activities, including live music performances such as yodelling and alphorn playing, traditional Swiss food, craft stalls, a popular scavenger hunt and a raffle to win a holiday in Switzerland. The festival was under the patronage of Her Excellency, Mrs. Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten who visited the festival and met many of the visitors.

Patrons were treated to a surprise visit by Bernese Mountain Dogs, the gentle giants from the Swiss Alps, instantly recognisable by their distinctive tricolour coat of black, white, and rust.

The festival successfully fostered cultural exchange by providing a platform for artists, performers, and artisans to showcase their talents and traditions. Attendees including children had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Swiss culture through engaging activities and authentic experiences.



Despite the challenge posed by inclement weather, the festival team managed to adapt and ensure a seamless experience for attendees. The event received positive feedback, with attendees expressing satisfaction with the diverse range of activities, quality of performances, and the overall authentic Swiss atmosphere.

The two-day Swiss Festival was a resounding success, thanks to the support of sponsors, entertainers and volunteers and the dedication of the festival team. It not only celebrated Swiss culture but also promoted tourism and cultural exchange. The festival will continue to evolve and grow, attracting an even wider audience in the future.

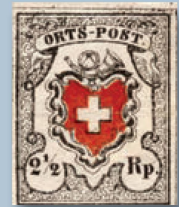
ROLF HUBER, PRESIDENT – SWISS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE



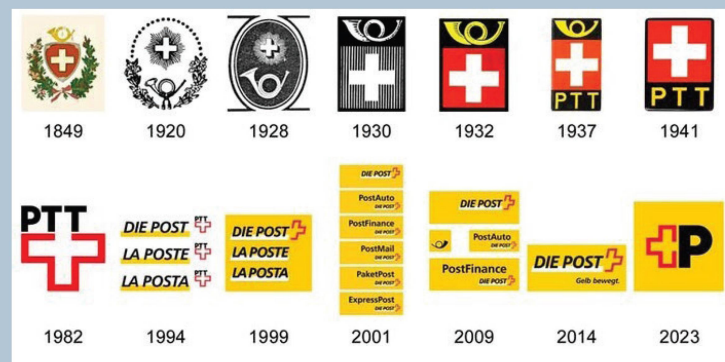
# 175 years Swiss Post

In 2024, Swiss Post is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

In 1849, the cantonal postal administrations were taken over by the Federal Confederation, which was founded in 1848. In 1850 the first nationwide stamps appeared.



During these 175 years, the modern postal system in Switzerland has had a lively history. The appearance of the post office was not unaffected by this, as illustrated in the timeline of the logo:



Swiss Post is one of the oldest and best-known brands in Switzerland.

To mark its 175th anniversary, Swiss Post has refreshed the look of its logo again. Since the roll out will take some time, the changeover had already started last year. ➔ <http://bit.ly/3rvpVGE>

## A big thank-you to all our Sponsors!

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# Community News and Events

## NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

On 8 November we held another hugely successful Senior's Social Day which was very well received by members and friends. Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal of homemade meat loaf, potato gratin and vegetables which was followed by an hours' entertainment with alphorns, Talerschwingen, accordion playing, singing and Emma Kuriger playing the recently-donated piano. Huge thanks to our committee, helpers and singing group members who ensured the success of the day. It is so gratifying seeing so many of our elder members come along and enjoy an afternoon in good company, have a laugh and appreciate the music.

Father Christmas visited our children in the Clubhouse in Kaponga on 26 November. To make the waiting time a bit more bearable, Margaret kept the children entertained by reading a Christmas story, and Othmar and Lynley played Christmas carols with many children singing along.



There was a loud knock on the door, and then he came inside, carrying a large sack over his shoulder. The kids all huddled on the floor in front of a large Christmas tree, eagerly waiting for him to sit down and hand out the presents.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**11/02:** The biggest day of our Club calendar is the annual picnic held on our club grounds from 11.00am. Come along to enjoy Schwingen (Swiss wrestling), barbecued cervelas and bratwurst, bottle fishing, face painting, pony rides, tombola (Swiss raffle) and much more. We look forward to seeing you there!!

**17&21/03:** Kegeln from 7.30pm. Come along for a chat, laughter, a game of 9-pin bowling and a lovely supper.

**4/03:** Annual General Meeting of the Club at 7.30pm. Please come along to hear what happened in the past year, and what there is to look forward to in the new year.

**17/03:** The Championship / Society Shoots can be contested today. Come along!

## NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Our Fondue lunch was held on Sunday 24 September. This was the first time we had a daytime event. It proved to be just as popular as an evening function, especially those travelling long distances or those having to milk cows in the evening. We had just over 100 people attending. After lunch we held the presentation of trophies plus certificates and prizes from the Swiss Society Competitions. We had great participation in all events and congratulations to all the winners. Many thanks to all the helpers – always a busy day for everyone including all the preparation several days beforehand and tidying up after the function. It's great that many people offer to help on the day – many hands make light work!



The Family Walk was held on Saturday 4 November at Wairongomai Valley near Te Aroha. We arrived at the carpark 11am expecting a good number of club members coming. However, by 11.15 it was only Hanni Frischknecht, Catherine Schuler, Willetta and Herbert. Nevertheless, it was a very invigorating and inspiring day and despite the lack of numbers it will be held again. We are already looking forward to the Ruapehu Weekend commencing Friday 22 March.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**24/02:** 50 metre shooting competition to be held at Epp's Farm in Karapiro.

**25/02:** Annual family picnic to be held at the Newstead School from 11am.

We are now on Facebook! Check out our recently established Hamilton Swiss Club Facebook page to find information of upcoming events and to view photos of past events ... all you have to do is go to the page to sign up as a member.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email please send Beatrice an email: [bea.leun@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bea.leun@xtra.co.nz)

## SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Here in South Australia, we closed out 2023 with many opportunities to connect with the Sw-aussie community before the summer break. In early October, we were greeted by members of the Swiss Club SA committee at the Mobile Passport Station in the Adelaide CBD. Many people drove into town to renew their Swiss passports, updated with the newest biometric requirements, ready for a new adventure!

Our traditional Würstli Brötli event was held in mid-October at a new picnic area within the beautiful Kuitpo Forest (we made sure to plan the event for before the fire ban began).



As a special addition this year, we were joined by our friends from the Bernese Mountain Dog Association of South Australia, who brought with them their 'Swiss Bears'. There was a great turn out that day (roughly 70 people and roughly a dozen dogs) and the atmosphere was very 'gemütlich'.

October finished strong with the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge shining a light on Victoria Square (pun intended). We followed the adventures of the Swiss team from ETH Zürich closely, and we were there at the finishing line with flags and bells to celebrate their achievement.



Photo: Embassy of Switzerland, Canberra



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In December we came together once more to share a Buurezmerge (or maybe more correctly a Buurebrunch) held at the Montacute Institute Hall, after the children enjoyed a visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli. We were spoilt by live music from two of our club members, hand-sewn gift bags filled with home-baked goodies for the children and the perfect weather – sunny but not too hot!

Looking to the new year, the Swiss Club of SA committee have already started to plan where and how we will come together to connect with a slice of Switzerland. Make sure you check out our website ([swissclubs.org.au](http://swissclubs.org.au)) for the latest dates and further event information.

So, if you live in South Australia, or even if you are just passing through, we hope to see you at a Swiss Club event soon!

### NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Hello to all Swiss Review readers. It is hard to believe that we are already in 2024 – where has the time gone!? It certainly has been a busy year for the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney, and recently some significant changes were made.

Writing this to you is Daniel Hofmann, the newly elected President of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. I joined the choir in October 2022 to keep up my Swiss-German. Growing up in Canada to Swiss immigrants (my dad is from Iberg, a small hamlet outside Winterthur, and my mom is from the town of Appenzell), I lost my mother tongue during my school years speaking English and French. Singing with my fellow yodlers on Monday evenings certainly helps, even though many of the words (and different dialects) we sing I don't really understand! But we are a fun and easy-going group of people who I enjoy to be with.

I look forward to build our choir with new members in the future, and to continue on the legacy of the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. I have big shoes to fill, after Alois Kretz held the presidency for the last 17 years. Biggest thanks to Alois

for all his hard work, guidance, and determination he brought to the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. I would also like to thank Sepp Engesser, our conductor (Dirigent), who has retired from this role after many great years, making sure we're not too flat or sharp, tweaking our vocal cords to get each and everyone of us to sound our best.



This year was a special one, with our many Monday evening practices in Chatswood to prepare for the Eidgenössische Jodlerfest in Zug, Switzerland back in June. It was a wonderful experience to sing 'Bärg-Arve' to a packed house in the church of St Michael, and to be part of the massive 2-kilometre long Sunday parade in front of thousands of spectators in the heart of Old Town Zug. Our eyes are now set on Basel, to sing at the next Eidgenössische Jodlerfest in 2026! We're sure the time will come quickly. There's much hard work ahead of us to get there.

Thank you for your continued support over the last year. We are happy to continue

to serve the Swiss Community, and we look forward to your ongoing support in the New Year, which hopefully will be a happy one for everyone.

### NSW: Cercle Romand

Late June we gathered at Circular Quay for the 'Walk in the City' outing. After a guided visit at the Museum of Contemporary Art, we strolled along the shore toward Darling Harbour finishing with a relaxed lunch in Cockle Bay. We enjoyed some of the best views Sydney has to offer under a beautiful winter blue sky.

This year's Swiss National Day celebration at Castle Hill was made special by having Swiss Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis taking the time to visit the event but also spending considerable time chatting with us at our raclette stall. We were happy that he accepted our offer of tasting a raclette and more delighted to receive his seal of approval. The stall was well attended throughout the day and thank-you to our team of volunteers making the event successful.



### NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

|                                    |                     |              |                             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| President:                         | Regula Scheidegger  | 0432 031 085 | rscheidegger49@hotmail.com  |
| <b>SCCS CONTACTS IN RURAL NSW:</b> |                     |              |                             |
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| Gosford:                           | Gerhard Moser       | 02 4322 3588 | gerhard@homeloanguru.com.au |
|                                    | Peter Meury         | 02 4388 4809 | petermeury@bigpond.com      |
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| Blue Mountains:                    | Elizabeth Bizzini   | 0408 414 863 | bizzinil@hotmail.com        |
| Ballina:                           | Hans Schaffner      | 0448 308 146 | hschaffner@bigpond.com      |

Our AGM took place on 20 August. All committee members accepted one more year of service with only one change taking place. After many years holding executive positions and since 2017 as vice-president, Mr Christian Dubois decided to relinquish this function but to remain a member of the committee. Catherine Sottaz was elected as the new vice-president.

Anne Resplendino reflected on another successful year for the club but noted a slow decline in membership. This is a trend experienced by other community clubs. However, it is not deterring the committee team to continue to work hard to offer our members opportunities to meet and enjoy 'un peu de bon temps'.

And we did indeed have a good time at our end-of-year dinner celebration at 'The Little Snail Restaurant' in Darling Harbour. The food, the service and the company were fantastic. Special thanks to Deputy Consul General Mr Jérôme Charbonnet for joining us and to Suzanne for gifting us a delicious bag of home made bricelets (thin wafer biscuits).

The committee wishes all the members and friends of the Cercle Romand a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to meeting you in February 2024 for our 'brunch and pétanque' event.

### VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess ASCS



#### ■ Swiss Seniors Afternoon Tea

On 2 December a most wonderful afternoon at the Swiss Club of Victoria was enjoyed by almost 100 seniors in our community. Our fantastic group of volunteers worked hard to create a festive atmosphere and the singing by the Matterhorn Choir and the dances by the Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose gave the afternoon a lively mix of entertainment.

On behalf of the Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess ASCS, I hope you and your families enjoyed a peaceful Festive Season and that the New Year will be a healthy and happy one.

S. HOCHULI OAM, PRESIDENT

### VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

The performances by the Choir at the Swiss Festival and the Swiss Club in late November and early December were brilliantly received. Particularly the older Swiss people who are unlikely to travel back to their homeland are so pleased to see a live performance connecting them to their culture.

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Public performances are hugely rewarding for the Choir who's members put in hours of practice to get their voices sounding as well as they do. The Choir love sharing their passion for the traditional Swiss yodel songs. The stronger the Choir becomes the more enthusiastic and vibrant it becomes. There is a mixture of cultures and personalities. You don't have to be Swiss.

The Choir has around 14 members although always on the lookout for additional members. Our conductor Chris is happy to spend time with individual one-on-one's or in small groups so that the singers feel comfortable when the group is together as one. Practice sessions are generally bi-weekly, although when a performance is scheduled, weekly practices are preferred. These sessions are held on Wednesday evenings.

If you are interested, or would like to have further information please call Chris on 0428 427 434.



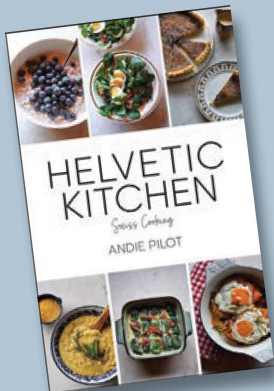
Lending a hand  
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The Swiss Society of Victoria's purpose is to assist fellow Swiss in Victoria, old and young, who need financial or personal support. If you are experiencing difficulties, or you know a Swiss who does, please contact us.

We are here to help.

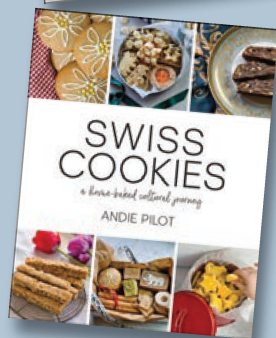
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https://swissocietyvic.org/  
Susan Brealey – M: 0401 170 036  
E: admin@swissocietyvic.org

**New Books:** Helvetic Kitchen, by Andie Pilot**Helvetic Kitchen– Swiss Cooking**

The Swiss-Canadian food blogger and pastry chef Andie Pilot takes readers on a photographic tour of her favourite recipes – some just like her grandmother made and some modern takes on Swiss classics. Along the way she illuminates many of Swiss cuisine's curiosities. This new edition of the classic Helvetic Kitchen is the best introduction to Swiss cooking available in English. (Also available in German).

ISBN: 9783038691280

**Swiss Cookies– a home-baked cultural journey**

The essential guide to the art of Swiss cookie baking. With more than 40+ yummy cookie recipes and 100+ mouthwatering photos, this cookbook is sure to please expert chefs as well as eager families. Swiss-Canadian chef sought out Swiss classics and modern favourites, from Zürich's Tirggel (first mentioned in 1461) to her own grandmother's Mailänderli, to Basel's famous Lächerli. Supplemented with history, fun facts and many secrets, this is a gorgeous home bakers must-have for any time of year. (Also available in German).

ISBN: 9783038691112

Info  
Web: [helveticitchen.com](http://helveticitchen.com)  
Instagram: @helveticitchen

**A special reunion for Hans**

Hans Brunner, the man with the golden voice (he was for many years the yodeller of the Yodelclub Edelwyss in Melbourne), reunited with Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton, thirty-five years after she was acquitted of murdering her baby, Azaria.

Hans, now aged 95, gave expert testimony as a renowned hair scientist at the 1986 royal commission into her conviction that hairs found on Azaria's jumpsuit and singlet were from a canine (dingo).

Read more about it in this article by Carolyn Webb in 'The Age' ➔ <https://bit.ly/3GyLnhZ>

**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.

**“Mit dem isch nöd guet Chriesi ässe!”**

The earliest record of this neutral saying can be traced back to the 14th century Bernese Dominican Ulrich Boner, whose compilation of fables states: 'und ist nicht guot Mit herren kriesien essen... Sie werfen I der kriesien stil. In diu ougen...'. However, the saying has already lost its socially critical edge a century later because Martin Luther writes: 'mit ihm ist nicht gut Kirschen essen', and has remained in this form until now i.e. 'he's not one to mess with'. This saying apparently goes back to bishop Withego von Meißen (+1293), who arranged for margrave Friedrich Tuta to be offered poisoned cherries. In Italian: 'meglio tenersi lontane da certe persone' In French: 'il vaut mieux ne rien à voir avec ces personnes'.

Beatrice Schlegel, B.A.(hons), M.A., MCIL  
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**REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA**

These Regional News Oceania pages have a circulation of 22,000 – 8,300 of which are printed copies. They are distributed to all Swiss Abroad households registered with the relevant Swiss representation in Canberra and Wellington.

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**Publishing Information 2024**

| Issue      | Editorial deadline | Publishing date |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1-January  | Mon, 04.12.23      | Fri, 19.01.24   |
| 2-March    | Tue, 27.02.24      | Fri, 22.03.24   |
| 3-May      | Tue, 16.04.24      | Fri, 10.05.24   |
| 4-July     | no regional news   | Fri, 26.07.24   |
| 5-October  | Tue, 10.09.24      | Fri, 04.10.24   |
| 6-December | no regional news   | Fri, 06.12.24   |

Visit the umbrella organisations in Australia and New Zealand for community news and information, as well as links to Swiss Clubs, community groups, professional organisations and consular representations in Oceania:

[www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org)  
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