

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
<b>Herausgeber:</b>	Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
<b>Band:</b>	51 (2024)
<b>Heft:</b>	3: Dayana Pfammatter - blazing a trail as Switzerland's first-ever yodelling graduate
<b>Anhang:</b>	Regional news : Oceania

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA



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

### Editorial:

The next edition of the 'Swiss Review' (July/No. 4) will be published without these 'Regional News Oceania' pages, but instead you will find a questionnaire which I would like to direct your attention to. You are invited to take part in a comprehensive readership survey of the 'Swiss Review', giving you the opportunity to help shape the future of the magazine.

What does the 'Swiss Review' need to offer to appeal to readers? Which topics are of particular interest and reach you? What do you find superfluous or even annoying? These and many other questions are put to you.

The feedback from readers will be used to check the focus of the magazine and correct it if necessary.

The upcoming readership survey is also important for me as the editor of the 'Regional News Oceania'. The last survey done four years ago, for example, showed that the regional pages are generally well read. This support proved to be very important. We are now hoping to receive feedback from you again, both on the magazine as a whole and on the regional pages.

Readers will be able to take part in the survey online or by completing a paper questionnaire. We recommend that you complete the readership survey online. This will save you the postage for returning the questionnaire. It's also a good option for the editorial team, as it eliminates the time-consuming and costly process of scanning paper questionnaires.



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To find out more about our Lifeblood Team, go to the SAA website: <https://bit.ly/3vUY9Wf>

**Give life. Give blood.**

## Celebrating our young Swiss citizens

The Jungbürger (young citizen) ceremony has a long tradition in many municipalities in Switzerland where young people that have turned 18 are celebrated and initiated as fully fledged citizens and members of the community with all the rights and obligations that entails. The tradition lives on in Australia where events were held in Sydney and Melbourne.

### Sydney

The elegant halls of the Swiss residence buzzed with excitement as 15 young adults gathered to celebrate a milestone: all turn 18 years this year. This is more than just a birthday; it's a gateway to a world of possibilities. These young men and women are standing at the threshold of adulthood, ready to embrace new-found rights and responsibilities.

In his speech and before raising a toast to the young Swiss citizens, Consul General Rolf Frei emphasised the privilege and importance of Switzerland's direct democracy and invited all to participate in future votes. He also briefly touched upon the good and growing bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and Australia.

Beat Knoblauch, Delegate for Australia to the Council of the Swiss Abroad, gave an overview of the important work the Council does for the Swiss citizens living abroad. His address was followed by a talk by Daniel Frutiger, a long serving President of the Swiss Club in New South Wales. He invited the young adults to join the numerous and fun gatherings organised by the Swiss Club.



On 8 April, the young Swiss residing in New South Wales gathered at the Swiss Residence in Sydney for a reception hosted by the Consul General of Switzerland Rolf Frei, with participation of Council of the Swiss Abroad Beat Knoblauch and the President of the Swiss Club of NSW Daniel Frutiger.

### Useful portals about education and training in Switzerland

**educationsuisse** – [www.educationsuisse.ch/en](http://www.educationsuisse.ch/en) – (GE FR), 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](http://www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/offers-for-young-people-aged-15-25)

**studyinswitzerland+** – [www.studyinswitzerland.plus](http://www.studyinswitzerland.plus) – (EN) is a service providing 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/](http://www.berufsberatung.ch/) – (GE FR IT RM) is a portal mandated by the Cantons in all official languages for all questions pertaining to vocational education and training in Switzerland.

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

**Movetia** – [www.movetia.ch/en](http://www.movetia.ch/en) – (EN) is the national agency for the promotion of exchanges and mobility in the education system. It places young students and graduates from universities abroad as language assistants at Swiss host schools.



The Melbourne cohort of young Swiss, together with Consul General Rolf Frei visiting from Sydney, Hon Consul Manuela Erb and Council of the Swiss Abroad Roland Isler.

All participants enjoyed the lively discussions and the delicious Swiss food. The young Swiss citizens highly appreciated the opportunity to meet other Swiss of their age in Sydney.

“Congratulations, young adults. May your journey be as breathtaking as the Swiss Alps themselves.”

**ROLF FREI, CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND**

## Melbourne

Some 24 young Swiss and their parents followed the invitation by Manuela Erb, Honorary Consul in Melbourne to attend the Jungbürger ceremony held on 21 March.

It was a wonderful evening that provided a good dose of ‘Swissness’, including lots of valuable information, give-aways and fun to the young cohort and their parents. The typical Swiss culinary delights that were on offer were also much appreciated by all.

The celebration offered a platform for networking and to connect with their Swiss roots. It also provided an opportunity to inform the

newly-minted Swiss citizens of their rights and obligations and for some, it was also a discovery what Switzerland has to offer: from university education to vocational studies and training programs, and even military training.

It was also a way to learn more about SwissCommunity – the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad – and the services and the many exciting sports, leisure and languages programs it offers for young Swiss Abroad.

**ROLAND ISLER, COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD**

## Consular Information

**AUS: Mobile Passport Station in Hobart and Melbourne – November 2024**



**Ensure your civil status information is up-to-date**

Do you plan to take advantage of the opportunity to renew your passport in Hobart or Melbourne? Make sure your civil status is updated with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney in order for the representation to inform the competent civil status authority in Switzerland. Please note that registering a civil status change can take up to three months. Passport applications can only be processed once the registration has been completed in Switzerland. Furthermore, please ensure that your email address is up-to-date in the records of the representation in Sydney.

Registered citizens of the respective areas will be contacted by email 2-3 months prior to the visit with detailed information regarding dates, procedure and venues.



# Community News and Events

## NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

The Singing and Entertainment Group, as well as the Alphorn Group, have performed at various venues with audiences appreciating the Swiss music and singing. The Alphorn blowing started with one player, Othmar Hebler our Club president, who encouraged a few others, among them Alan Beck. Alan in turn was really enthusiastic and motivated several others to come to their practices. So from humble beginnings this group now boasts an excellent number of nine players!!! We do really enjoy sharing our culture and traditions with many people who have never heard Swiss music, and we offer lunch and entertainment at our Club house to various organisations who truly appreciate the Swiss food and entertainment.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 4 March with a good crowd of members present. We were fortunate to have two new committee members elected – Rochelle Kuriger and Daniel Drummond, who will add a bit of youth to our committee. Thanks very much for offering your services, and we look forward to your support and contribution at our functions. It was an opportune time to celebrate the 50 years of service

that Johnny Bishop has given to our Swiss Club committee, and we thank both him and Margie for all that they have contributed to our club.

On 9 March we headed south to Wellington to contest the semi-final of the Cowbell Competition against our southern rivals. It was great to see them again, and we looked forward to the four disciplines being fought in a friendly competition. The shooters went off and came back victorious, while the shot put and kegeln also went our way, so there was no need to play jassen. Many thanks to the members of the Wellington Swiss Club for their hospitality.

It was a great weekend, and we look forward to the final of the Cowbell Competition in Auckland against either Hamilton or Auckland at King's Birthday Weekend.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**16/05:** Kegeln from 7.30pm. This is proving to be very popular again, so come along and have some fun.

**18/05:** Our fabulous Fondue Evening with Cervelats and salads too will be served from 6pm-8pm, followed by entertainment.

**19/05:** The Swiss Society Sports Competitions will be held from 11am. Disciplines are kegeln, shot put, shooting

and jassen with a separate section for under 16s. The Championship Shoot starts at 1pm.

**26/05:** Jassen at 1pm.

**1-3/06:** We will head to Auckland to contest the final of the Cowbell Competition and preside over our final Annual General Meeting of our four year term before handing the reins over to members of the Wellington Swiss Club.

**9/06:** Jassen from 1pm.

**16/06:** Jassen at 1pm with the small bore shooting club hosting the Championship Shoot from 1pm to 3pm. Should you wish to compete in both the shooting and cards please come before 1pm to shoot.

## NZ: Auckland Swiss Club

What an amazing day we had on 18 February at our **Swiss picnic event and Society Games!** The weather couldn't have been more perfect and it was awesome to see such fantastic participation from everyone!

The games were an absolute hit, with Kegeln (Swiss bowling) and air rifle shooting drawing enthusiastic (and patient) long queues. And not forgetting the traditional Steinstossen, where participants showed their strength by throwing a very big, very heavy stone (or shot put for the women and children). It



Heidi Werder's (left) gorgeous grandchildren stole the show at a recent Taranaki Swiss Club Singing Group performance at a local resthome.



‘Frauenpower’ in action at the Swiss picnic event and Society Games in Auckland.

was also a day of 'Frauenpower', with the mighty women outperforming the men at both shooting and kegeln! Claudia was especially impressive with her power throw (5.01 m)! As was Caleb for the men with his 6.24 metres.

The kids weren't left out either and had a lot of fun trying their hands and competing against each other at the games. Especially young Johann with his shooting skills! Maybe our next Wilhelm Tell?

And, of course, what's a Swiss event without our traditional grilled Cervelat and Bratwurst lunch? It was a feast that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. A special shout out to Osci, for his Alphorn blowing and allowing the children to try their hand (mouth?) at this traditional and difficult Swiss musical skill. This event was not just a celebration of Swiss culture and tradition but also a wonderful opportunity for connecting and making memories together. For those of us, who grew up with our parents taking us to the Swiss Farm, some of our best memories are from going to the Swiss Farm. We are now older and it's our turn to provide these same opportunities for our children so that they can have their own amazing memories of coming to the Swiss Farm. This is the legacy of the Auckland Swiss Club: connecting families, celebrating our Swiss culture, enjoying the many events, and making memories together.

### QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

On April Fools' Day, 29 Swaussies had an Easter brunch with beautiful coloured eggs and Zopf or Bunny and lots of delicious food, brought for the buffet. Some were disappointed as they looked forward to have a helicopter flight for the price of a taxi, but alas, it did not fly on 1 April!

A small group visited the M&K Miniature Railway display and car racing and outdoor train ride.

Monthly lunches to catch up on the 15th of every month are well appreciated. We are looking for more Jassers!

For more details or to get invitations contact the organisers: Cecile on 0409 286 326 or Urs on 0412 908 456.



The poster for the Swiss National Day Picnic features a large red cross on the left and the text 'SWISS NATIONAL DAY PICNIC' in large white letters. It includes a photo of people at a picnic, a photo of Swiss pastries, and a photo of a Swiss flag. The text '11:00am - 4:00pm' and 'Upper Ferntree Gully Football Club, Kings Park, Willow Rd, UFTG' are at the top right. Below that is 'FREE COMMUNITY EVENT SUN 28th JULY 2024'. To the right is a list of activities: 'Childrens Activities', 'Swiss Sausages', 'Swiss Pastries', 'Swiss Cheese', 'Gluhwein', and 'Yodelling'. At the bottom right is a circular logo for 'SWISS SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.' with a handshake icon.

### VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Preparations for this year's Swiss National Day Celebration on Sunday 28 July are in full swing. This family picnic will be held again at Kings Park, Upper Ferntree Gully, which proved to be very popular last year. Apart from all the traditional offerings of 'Swissness', the event will feature an information stall for other Swiss groups in Melbourne to promote their activities and services. A special thank-you to the Swiss Society of Victoria for its support. For more details, please see the advertisement above on this page.

The Choir is also busy practicing for other public performances this year, especially our appearance at the Lions International Convention in Melbourne, to be held over 5 days in June.

### NSW: Port Macquarie Region

The river cruise in March was a lot of fun and even though there were not that many of us, we all had a really good time and a few laughs.

Our next get-together will be drinks and lunch at the Westport Club on Saturday, 18 May starting at 11.30 am. Please also add Sunday 28 July to your diary. We will again be celebrating the Swiss National Day at the Abundance Café. A separate invitation will be sent out a bit closer to the date.

If you have not already been in touch with me and would like to join in, please send me an email to [SwissHastings@yahoo.com](mailto:SwissHastings@yahoo.com). I look forward hearing from you.

ANITA FOSTER

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## SWISS EVENTS

Got an event to advertise?  
Want to know what's up in Australia?  
Go to the Swiss Community calendar on the SAA website:  
[swissallianceaustralia.org/](http://swissallianceaustralia.org/)

### NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

After a successful 2023 and much deserved rest over the Christmas holidays, the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney met up for the first of our weekly Monday practices in Chatswood at the start of February. We brushed off, stretched, and loosened our vocal cords to sing our beloved traditional Swiss songs once again. It was great to be back together!

We would like to introduce our newest and youngest member, Josephine Brereton, who started in March as our new music conductor. She is fascinated about yodelling, and she just happens to be a high school music teacher as well. We are very pleased to have her as part of our group, and look forward to the future with her.

We are preparing already for two events later this year, the Swiss National Day Lunch at the Concordia Club in Tempe, on Thursday, 1 August, as well as our Swiss National Day Celebration on Sunday, 4 August at the Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill.

We are very excited and look forward to seeing everyone at these events. We thank you for your continued support. These events will be here before we know it!

DANIEL HOFMANN

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

After hearing different stories of dual citizens (Swiss/Australian) falling ill when holidaying in Switzerland, I would like to give some travel advise.

■ When going on a trip, even for travelling within remote Australia: make sure you have a good **travel insurance and take a copy of the insurance paper with you**. Medical costs can skyrocket, especially if you need hospital care. In Switzerland you have to pay an upfront amount for your treatment. As you are not registered in Switzerland, you will not have a compulsory medical insurance which all Swiss registered citizens need to have. They either want your compulsory medical insurance number (if you live in Switzerland), or a means for you to pay. Having a travel insurance will help you at a later stage to get your money back depending on how you are insured. If you need an operation, it can easily be an amount of \$30,000. This means that...

■ You need to think about how you would pay such a bill. Is your credit card limit big enough? Would you have this kind of money in one of your savings accounts? So: **have a financial safety cushion**.

I also believe that it is preferable to enter Switzerland with your Swiss passport or ID card. Although you are accepted with the Australian document, you could have a problem prolonging your stay, once the 90 days for foreigners are up. It is also pleasant to queue in the Swiss/EU line at passport control rather than the others, as it is usually much faster.

For getting back into Australia you must leave here and re-enter with the **Australian passport**. If you have Australian residency only, or haven't bothered to acquire an Australian passport, you need a re-entry visa.

REGULA SCHEIDECKER

President:	Regula Scheidegger	0432 031 085	rscheidegger49@hotmail.com
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### SCCS contacts in Rural NSW:

Newcastle/Hunter Valley:	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	maritah1@optusnet.com.au
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South Coast:	Monica Kampfer	02 4473 6608	mkampfer@bigpond.com

### Brochure 'Ageing well abroad'

Even if old age seems a long way off, it is important to ensure you are well-prepared for it. Living abroad may mean that governmental support, along with familial and social networks, may not be as readily available as they are in Switzerland. It is crucial to consider potential situations where you might require assistance and to arrange the necessary precautions in case your independence is compromised. This brochure, as well as the short video, can help you with your planning.

➲ <https://bit.ly/3Te1mZL>



# Webinars for Swiss Abroad

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), SwissCommunity, holds and participates in webinars on various topics together with its partners and other specialists. All presentations are free, and held in German and French.

The next webinars will be held on the following topics:

■ **11 June 2024**

EDUCATION AND MILITARY SERVICE IN SWITZERLAND

■ **15 October 2024**

CHALLENGES OF RETURNING TO SWITZERLAND AT RETIREMENT AGE

■ **10 December 2024**

WORKING AND JOB MARKET IN SWITZERLAND

These webinars will be live streamed and recorded. Check out the SwissCommunity website closer to the dates for more information and links to join.

In 2023 the following webinars were held:

‘Ageing Abroad’ and banking issues for the Swiss Abroad

‘Ageing Abroad’ and health insurance for Swiss Abroad

Military service for Swiss Abroad

‘Ageing Abroad’ and estate planning

‘Ageing Abroad’ and OASI

To view these recordings, go to:

[www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/webinars](http://www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/webinars)

## New Book: Sweet + Swiss



### SWEET + SWISS

Delicious and easy desserts from the heart of Europe

American **Heddi Nieuwsma** has been living in Switzerland since 2012. Since her arrival, she has developed a passion for Swiss cuisine. Heddi works tirelessly to bring Swiss cuisine (which is not limited to chocolate and cheese!) to be known internationally.

Sweet Switzerland is irresistible and **Sweet + Swiss** brings together 45 recipes for cakes, pastries, tarts, breads and more.

With beautiful photos and highlights from all four linguistic regions, this book discovers a delicious melting pot of culinary influences. Learn how to make candied walnuts with a spiced sandalwood sugar, provocative jammy rolls, a ‘salty’ yeasted cake, and more.

In addition, a journey to five renowned Swiss restaurants — an alpine hotel, a plant-based restaurant, Michelin-starred dining, a historic chalet and an island grotto — reveals some extra-special creations, and takes readers on a tour of Switzerland’s landscape and culture. Some recipes are classic takes on world-famous alpine desserts, while many others are little known beyond this spectacular alpine country.

This book is also available in German and French from:

➲ [https://helvetiq.com/ch\\_en/sweet-swiss](https://helvetiq.com/ch_en/sweet-swiss)

ISBN: 9783907293683

## Swiss citizens living abroad

2023

### Swiss citizens living abroad

01 Population



813,400

By sex

♂ 375,100

♀ 438,300

Average age

40 years

♀ 45 years

### The most common countries of residence (including dependent territories outside the main land)

France 209,300
Germany 99,600
United States 83,700
Italy 52,000
Canada 41,500
United Kingdom 40,200
Spain 26,500
AUSTRALIA 26,374
Austria 18,400
NEW ZEALAND 7,345

### Swiss citizens living abroad as a percentage of all Swiss citizens



### Swiss citizens living abroad by sex and age group

0-17 years

♂ 23%  
♀ 19%

18-64 years

♂ 57%  
♀ 54%

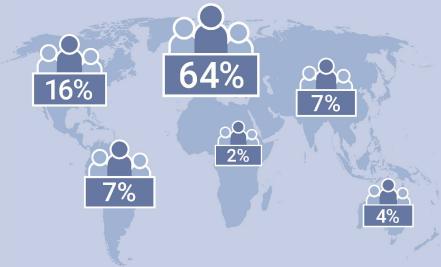
65 years or older

♂ 20%  
♀ 27%



75%  
Swiss abroad with multiple citizenships

### Percentage of Swiss citizens living abroad by continent of residence



Source: FSO – Population and Households Statistics (STATPOP), Statistics on the Swiss Abroad (SE-Stat)

[statistics.admin.ch](http://statistics.admin.ch)

© FSO 2024

At the end of 2023, 813,400 Swiss nationals were living abroad. This number has increased since 2022 by 13,400 people or +1.7%, as announced recently by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). Compared with 2022, their number increased on most continents: Asia +3.1%, Europe +1.9%, **Oceania +1.2%**, North America +1.0%, Latin America and the Caribbean +0.4%. The number for Africa has declined by -0.2%.

# Council of the Swiss Abroad meets in Bern

Some 90 members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) met on 15 March in the Capital for their spring meeting. The day prior to the meeting, the delegates met with members of the Federal Parliament at the 'Bundeshaus'.



Delegates from Australia (l.t.r.) Carmen Trochsler SA, Beat Knoblauch NSW and Katja Wallimann Gates QLD, together with Ernst Steinmann, former Consul General to Australia and now CSA based in Switzerland (second from l.). Roland Isler VIC joined the meeting online.



Read the full Report here:



<https://bit.ly/49KrKj8>



The following topics were on the agenda:

- E-voting in SG, BS & TG was successful so far.  
GR will join and more cantons have confirmed interest.
- Removing obstacles in the area of social insurance
- Importance of maintaining a consular network
- More webinars offered to Swiss Abroad in 2024  
(see also previous page)
- More democratic elections of the delegates
- Increasing the political participation of Swiss Abroad
- Review of the legal framework and the legal structure of the OSA

## 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.*

### “En Bäredienscht leischte”

Bears have already been known as a strong, but somewhat dim-witted creatures since the Middle Ages and in the 17th century, the French poet Jean de la Fontaine wrote the tale of a bear and his friend, who accidentally gets killed because the bear tries to kill a fly on his nose with a stone while he was sleeping. The saying **En Bäredienscht leischte** is likely to originate from the French original **Rendre un service d'ours** as is the English equivalent **Render a bear's service**, meaning to do more harm than good with the best intentions.

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

These Regional News Oceania pages have a circulation of 16,800 – 7,850 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)  
[www.swiss.org.nz](http://www.swiss.org.nz)



**Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.**

Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia



**The Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.**

Established 1935