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OSA and Society News

Update:

Possible Support for Swiss living abroad hit by a Natural Disaster

Unfortunately, the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has now limited options to assist and help Swiss living abroad in need who have been affected for example by Natural Disaster such as Hurricanes, Bushfires or Earthquakes. Regrettably the long-standing charitable trust "Schnyder von Wartensee" has per 31st December 2018 been dissolved. At this time, the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has not yet set up a new charitable trust for Swiss living abroad

In cases of urgent need, assistance from the "Heinrich Huber" funds might possibly be available. The OSA Executive should be approached. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require assistance.

Peter Ehrler
Elected Council Member of the Swiss Abroad, representing New Zealand.

Dear Society members,

The cost for printing and postage for the Helvetia is continuously on the rise. Changing to an electronic version of the Helvetia would reduce the cost to the Society greatly.

If you are happy to change to an electronic version, please advise Anita Zuber at anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz.

As a New Zealander, how to reimburse my Swiss old-age pension (AHV or OASI)

In the December/January 2017/18 I wrote an article about the entitlement for the Swiss old-age pension (AHV or OASI) to a New Zealander having worked for a period of time in Switzerland which automatically requires compulsory contribution to the OASI during that time.

The legal situation is very clear:

A citizen of New Zealand will only be entitled to the reimbursement of his contributions as Switzerland has no Social Security Agreement with New Zealand, whereas a Swiss citizen living in New Zealand will only be able to receive a monthly pension.

As a New Zealander, when filling out the application form for New Zealand Super (NZS) you will also need to declare that you have worked in Switzerland. Thereafter, a declaration form is sent to you by WINZ which requires you to contact and send to the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva. They in turn will advise you on how much you are entitled to. The whole sum (one lump payment) will be sent to you as soon as the Compensation Office in Geneva have all the bank details and the paperwork is completed.

This will all take some time. During this period, you will already have received and benefited from some of the fortnightly NZS payments. When the payment sum from the OASI arrives in NZ you will need to advise WINZ and then a deduction of your NZS will take place. However, because the payment is a single lump sum, it can only be deducted from one instalment of your NZS which is from one fortnightly payment. This deduction is a one off!! The worst-case scenario is that you lose one fortnightly NZS payment.

The alternative to the procedure mentioned above is to write to the Swiss Compensation Office in Geneva requesting the whole sum due (one lump payment) prior to reaching the eligible NZS age. The Swiss Compensation Office will advise you on what documentation they require to prove that you are no longer in Switzerland and have returned permanently to New Zealand. This way you are able to save one fortnightly NZS payout.

Irrelevant of which way you go about it, as your overseas pension is paid at a gross rate, you may need to declare this payment in your tax return.

Peter Ehrler
Elected Council Member of the Swiss Abroad
Representing New Zealand

Proposed Jass card competition in Hamilton Saturday, June 5th 2021

We've been asked to organize a National Jass Card Competition here in New Zealand. This Jass competition normally happens in different cities of Australia but in 2021 it is proposed that the competition is held here in NZ.

I'm wanting to know if there is sufficient interest in a National Jass competition here in Hamilton on Saturday 5th June 2021.

I'm asking Swiss Club Committees to discuss this matter and check with their members if there would be enough interest to attend such a function. If there is enough interest, then I would be needing financial support/sponsors from the Swiss Society/members to make this a successful day.

The Competition day will be Saturday 5th June 2021 prior to the Annual Swiss Society AGM on Sunday.

The Event will start 9am playing 5 rounds of 8 hands, lunch, and another 5 rounds of 8 hands. The Card Hands will play the same as with our Medal competitions and additionally you will be able to play Obenabe and Undenufe. No extra points for Stöck, Wys or Match.

After the prize giving, the Swiss Society AGM weekend programme would commence that evening.

The Australian visitors would most likely view the Swiss Society events for the weekend.

Decisions need to be finalized at the Swiss Society AGM this year Sunday May 31st 2020 (Queens Birthday Weekend) in Auckland

Regards, Willetta Staheli team@swisscraft.co.nz • Phone 027 249 0003

Society News

Swiss Society AGM in Auckland Queen's Birthday 2020

The Auckland Swiss Club invites you to attend our functions / events organised over Queens' Birthday Weekend, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy camaraderie, fun and laughter with fellow Kiwi-Swiss. Please make your own accommodation arrangements.

Please register with your club secretary for Saturday and Sunday dinners by the 12th of May 2019.

For Society only members who do not have a club to register through, please contact neil.kaiser@chowhill.co.nz

Programme

Saturday 1st June 2019 from 3.00pm

Meet at the Danish House, for drinks and afternoon tea. (No evening dinner provided at present)

Sunday 2nd June 2019

10.00am-12:00: The final of the Cowbell Competition will be held at the Swiss farm. A light brunch will be provided for competitors and supporters. Following this we will transfer to the Coatesville Hall at **1.00pm** where a finger food will be provided by the Auckland Swiss Club. **2.00pm** AGM of the Swiss Society of New Zealand. **4.30pm** Happy Hour – a time to mix and mingle!!! **5.30pm** catered Dinner with event the hall closing at 10:00pm– cost TBA (Probably \$35)

Monday 3rd of June 2018 We're all away back home, thanks for coming, see you next year in Hamilton.!

Neil Kaiser, President, Auckland Swiss Club

2020 Annual General Meeting

The Swiss Society of New Zealand invites all members and friends to attend the 2020 AGM

To be held on Sunday 31st May at 2pm at the Coatesville Hall

AGENDA:

1. Welcome by the outgoing President
2. Apologies
3. Appointment of Scrutineers
4. Minutes of the previous AGM, held on Sunday 2nd June 2019 in Wellington
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Obituaries
7. President's Report and matters arising
8. Editor's Report and matters arising
9. Treasurer's Report and matters arising
10. Funding update for 2020 Oceania Presidents Conference
11. Riflemaster's Report and matters arising
12. Delegate for Swiss Abroad's Report and matters arising
13. Setting of Subscriptions 2021/22
14. Election of Officers representing Taranaki Club
15. Club Reports
16. General Business
17. Date and Venue for Society AGM 2021
18. Meeting Closure

Peter Arnold – “A Yodeller of calibre”

The following article appeared in a local Swiss Magazine

On the 10th of September 2019 the sprightly pensioner turned 70. He has a glorious voice, which rings out as a solo yodeller but also in various small groups. This persuaded him to release a recording. Peter Arnold is a known name on the Klewenalp: the Yodelling Griller who not only grills sausages well but is a great at yodelling. The Alpnacher local settled back in Switzerland in 2012 with his wife Ursula after 51 years in New Zealand. Free-lancer Otmar Näpflin met him for an interview.

Peter, what does yodelling mean to you?

Yodelling is actually for me a vocation. I enjoy doing it as part of earning a living and continuing from where my father left off. It also means “home” for me. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to perform and bring listeners pleasure. And when I move hearts and souls with my voice, even stir up emotions, then this makes me happy and satisfied.

What was the motivation to produce the CD “Ä Jodler”?

Actually it became self-evident because everywhere where Ursula and I had performances, the question of a recording arose. Two years ago we began to action this project. Our goal was that it had to be a CD with a high level of musicality with no noticeable difference between a live performance and a studio performance. We are now delighted with a product which matches our wishes and vision.

Your wife Ursula certainly also has a big part in this, doesn't she?

Yes, most certainly. It's true that behind every successful man is a strong woman. Ursula exudes peace and calm as a conductor, duet partner, musician and partner. She gives confidence and support and strengthens me in what I am doing. I count myself as extremely lucky to have her at my side. Ursula, thank you so much for everything that you do!

What connects/unites you with your duet partner Gery Wolfisberg, the Höibodä – Chörli, the Schii-Cheerli and Paul Wallimann?

That I can sing together with Gery is a stroke of good fortune. 35 years ago he got in touch when he visited New Zealand where we were yodelling. Since our return to Switzerland we have been practising every week. We practise every fortnight with the Höibodä – Chörli and the Schii-Cheerli, which are conducted by my wife. We harmonise well and I like their convivial manner. An Alpnacher Jodel concert was the crucial factor when Ursula and I, together with Paul Wallimann, successfully presented the “Alphord-Jodel.” And the Ländlertrio “Beggrieder-Gruess” with work colleague Ivo Näpflin with his sprightly dancing rounded off the very successful production.

What do you wish for the future?

A successful CD presentation with lots of guests. Further involvement in the development of the next generation of yodellers. To stay healthy and to spread lots of yodelling joy together with my wife Ursula.

Many thanks for the chat.