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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA



Editorial:

Welcome to the second Oceania issue of the Swiss Review. If you have an interesting story to share, or like to advertise in the next issue, please get in contact with me.

MARC GODAT, REGIONAL EDITOR «OCEANIA»

AU Embassy: Automatic exchange of information in tax matters

On the 3rd of March in Canberra, Switzerland and Australia signed a joint declaration on the introduction of the automatic exchange of information in tax matters on a reciprocal basis. This is the first such declaration signed by Switzerland with a partner state. In accordance with their commitment to the Global Forum, Switzerland and Australia intend to start collecting data in 2017 and first transmit data in 2018, after the necessary legal basis has been created in both countries.

The joint declaration signed by Switzerland and Australia meets the criteria set by the Federal Council in the negotiation mandates of 8 October 2014. Aside from the EU and the United States, the negotiations initially concern individual other countries with which there are close economic ties and which provide their taxpayers with sufficient scope for regularisation. Australia fits this profile.

From a legal viewpoint, the two countries will exchange information automatically based on the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (MCAA). The MCAA is based on the international standard for the exchange of information developed by the OECD. During the Global Forum meeting in Berlin last October, almost 100 states committed to adopting the standard and to starting exchanging information on this basis for the first time in 2017 or 2018.

The joint declaration specifies that each jurisdiction is satisfied with the confidentiality rules provided for in the other jurisdiction with regard to tax. Moreover, Australia has established a regularisation procedure for its taxpayers. Finally, Australia has also declared its willingness to hold talks on improving market access for Swiss financial service providers.

Following the signing of this declaration, the Federal Department of Finance (FDF) will prepare a consultation draft on the introduction of the automatic exchange of information in tax matters with Australia. The corresponding Federal decree will be submitted to Parliament for approval.

More details: Mario Tuor, Head of SIF Communications
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NZ Embassy: Mobile unit for biometric Swiss passports

After the huge success two years ago, the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington is pleased to announce that it will once again have a mobile biometry unit in New Zealand. A consular officer of the Embassy will travel to:

- Dunedin on 7 and 8 May 2015
- Hamilton on 11, 12 and 13 May 2015.

Swiss citizens who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity should complete the online application form for a new Swiss identity document via the following website: www.schweizerpass.ch. They should follow the procedure for Swiss nationals living abroad and must imperatively indicate under "remarks" (step 9 of the online application process) that they wish their biometric data to be recorded in Dunedin or in Hamilton.

For logistical reasons, applications for the mobile biometry unit will only be accepted until 20 April 2015.

Please note that only the applications of Swiss citizens duly registered with the Swiss Embassy in Wellington and whose civil/marital status is up-to-date can be processed.

Once the online application has been checked and approved, access to an online appointment calendar will be given to the applicant.

The passport fees must be paid with a bank cheque or personal cheque at the time of the appointment. They are subject to exchange rate fluctuations and range from roughly 100 NZD for a children's passport to 250 NZD for combined passport/ID card for adults.

Applications will be treated strictly on a first come, first served basis and the Embassy cannot guarantee all applicants will be able to get an appointment in case of high demand.

The Embassy would like to remind that biometric data can also be recorded all year long at its premises in Wellington, at a passport of-

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office in Switzerland or at any other Swiss representation abroad equipped with such a facility.

A special phone line for all questions specifically related to the upcoming trip of the mobile unit in New Zealand is open Mondays to Thursdays from 10 to 12am at 04 815 95 17. Please note, however, that for practical and logistical reasons applications need to be filed online according to the procedure mentioned above.

For more information on biometric passports, please visit our website: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington (Services > Passport and ID card)

Short stories

■ **CSA:** In a mid-term election, Carmen Trochsler, based in SA, has been unanimously accepted by all organisations and its members as our new CSA Delegate for Australia. Carmen takes over from Noemi Bangel, who had tendered her resignation last year for professional and family reasons; thank you Noemi for all your hard work in the past years, and a warm welcome to Carmen into our team. Beat Knoblauch, Roland Isler and Marc Godat continue to serve as before.

■ **Post Finance:** The recent ASO Newsletter 1/2015 published an article about "Postfinance und die Auslandschweizer: Kurs auf eine Pflicht zur Aufrechterhaltung der Bankbeziehungen" which is an interesting read: <http://aso.ch/de/information/newsletter/archiv-aso-info/aso-info-115#a388>

■ **E-Voting bug:** Even though the plan for e-voting for expats is well on track, the recent Federal election from 7/8.3 demonstrated that the e-voting is still buggy and provides some challenges ahead:

<http://www.nzz.ch/schweiz/panne-truebt-erreichtes-zwischenziel-1.18498397>

Music: New Album being recorded in Sydney
Platinum awarded band "77 Bombay Street" returns to where it all started – former family singers back in Australia

Their albums and singles sold multi platinum, their shows sell out and they tour Europe: They couldn't have wished for more when they first got together in their grandparents basement to rehearse. The band are one of Switzerland's most successful groups since the past 5 years, won a Swiss Music Award for best song and best album, got to play at international music festivals and had one of their songs used as title song for a major German movie.

But that's not the end of it - the four brothers (age 25-32) are ready to take the next step. And to do so, they have come back to where it all started: Australia.

10 years ago the Buchli family moved to Adelaide. Their family of 9 has always been very musical – all kids play several instruments and they often performed in the streets of their hometown in the Swiss mountains.

No reason to stop from doing so in their new home! Together with their parents the 6 boys and 1 girl travelled vast parts of South Australia where they performed as family singers, sometimes they even used typical Swiss instruments such as the Alphorn and the accordion. They even won contests and were on TV.

And last but not least: Their address in Adelaide is what gave the band their name. Check out their songs on: www.youtube.com/user/77bombaystreetmusic

77 BOMBAY STREET



77 Bombay Street are back recording their 3rd album with producer Chris Vallejo (Passenger, Empire of the Sun) at Linear Recording Studio in Sydney

Australia: SACCI Event

21/5 Swiss Award & 30th anniversary celebration, Sydney!

Victoria: Dance Group Alpenrose

The Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose will travel to Adelaide over Easter to participate at the National Folkstanzfest.

Dance Groups from overseas and from all over Australia, Austria, Germany and Switzerland come together

There will be workshops, concerts and of course socialising with other groups.

South Australia: Swiss Club of SA

The Clubs' 50th anniversary is coming up. In 2016 it will be 50 years since the Swiss Club of SA has been founded. We would like to celebrate this with a 3 day event in 2016. Date needs to be set yet, but the committee has already worked out a 3 day itinerary to keep visitors, members and ex members entertained for that time. There will be

things to do and see for young and old. Games, food stalls, tours to show off Adelaide our chosen home, together with the Swiss tradition that we like to hand down to our sons and daughters and friends.

Australian Capital Territory: Events

Apr Cooking classes

3/5 Bushwalk

12-6 Fondue night

Folk Dance Group "Alpenrose" preparing for the Adelaide National Folkstanzfest



Canberra Swiss Club

Many of us remember traditional dishes from Switzerland – but how to prepare them? Since some years we conduct cooking classes at Ellie & Peter Zimmermann's café d'lish. Fasnachtschüechli, Chäschüechli, Laugenbretzel, Älplermagronen, how to make Sauerkraut are only some of the dishes we learned. The classes are a much loved way of keeping up culinary traditions. The next round will

be in April. Regarding culinary traditions we are lucky in the ACT to have Swiss chefs operating a café and an organic restaurant and a baker/confiseur baking traditional bread and preparing the most delicious truffles.

Another interesting side of the ACT is the evidence that Aboriginal people have lived in the Canberra region for more than 20,000 years. The currently known sites of Aboriginal art are in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

and Namadgi National Park. The next bush walk of the Swiss Club will be to Yankee Hat art site on May 3rd.

Friendship between the states: a group from Canberra participated in the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney's harbor cruise. We were warmly welcomed and spent a magnificent cruise with dinner and entertainment. The following day we were invited to a BBQ. What a great way of building friendships – thank you to the Swiss Yodlers!

Canberra Swiss Club: cooking classes



New South Wales: Events

- 15/3 Mushroom trip, Blue Mountains
- 19/3 Gosford RSL (SCCS Central C.)
- 27/3 Easter Craft (Playgroup)
- 28/3 Luncheon, Eiger Rest (SCCS)
- 29/3 Sports picnic, Narrabeen Lakes
- 12/4 Visit Chestnut Farm, Mt.Irvine
- 26/4 BBQ Bronte Beach (Swiss Club provides all saussages)

Swiss Play Group

The year has started well for us, with some formal playgroup events, with January being Australia Day inspired craft and February outrageous playdoh fun. We have also had some informal events at Balmoral beach, Clifton gardens.



Swiss Play Group Australia Day Craft event

Swiss Yodlers' of Sydney annual cruise on Sydney Harbour

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Guests were greeted by the sound of the alphorn as they arrived for our annual cruise on Sydney Harbour. A full ferry load enjoyed the ambiance and scenery of the harbour by night. The galley crew served up a delectable two



course meal whilst being entertained by Chrigu and Chris, Swiss handoergeli players from Melbourne and the yodlers.

Queensland: Events

- 27/3 AGM (Sunshine Coast)
- 29/3 Easter bunny
- 19/4 Bushwalk (Booloumba Creek)
- 26/4 Jassmeisterschaft
- 1/5 "Cheesy" Get Together (Fraser Coast)
- 9/5 Fondue evening

Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg-Roeseli performed at the wedding of Ferris and Marc, their former teacher, choir member and Swiss accordion player



Australian Jass Tournament Sydney 2015

- **When:** Sunday, 7 June 2015
- **Where:** Forestville Memorial Hall, Starkey St, Forestville NSW 2087
- **More Info:** www.swissclubnsw.com

New Zealand: Events

- 27-29/3 Coromandel weekend
- 19/4 Society Semi final, Hamilton
- 1/5 Pub night, Ellerslie (Auckland)
- 2/5 Market Day, Penrose (Auckland)
- 2/5 Fondue/sausages evening (Tar)

Auckland Swiss Club

What a start to the New Year. We had a nice walk in the Waitakere ranges, the new members day at the farm in January and then traditional picnic with Society games mid February. We had more than 70 people enjoying a sunny day at the Swiss farm in Kaukapakapa. All enjoyed the lovely company. The beach party on 1 March was well attended at beautiful Long Bay.

Taranaki Swiss Club

We had our Annual Picnic on Feb 8th on a beautiful, warm sunny day. About 250 people enjoyed Swiss tradition and culture – music, barbequed bratwurst / cervelas, steinstossen and the very popular “Schwingen”. Our own, strong Thomas Werder bet tourist, Victor Steiner, in the adults’ competition, with Oliver Arnold beating Trevor Walker a close second. Children’s activities were bottle fishing, a bouncy



castle and merry-go-round and horse rides. This is a great, social day where people catch up with friends and make new acquaintances. Our new Ambassador, Dr David Vogelsanger and his wife Laura together with members from Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington joined us for this wonderful day.

PNG: Swiss Community PNG

PNG, the land of milk and honey. Swiss Mission is not only running the last dairy farm in PNG, but also contributes to this nation by training people to become successful beekeepers. Markus Tanner, 39, was already a hobby beekeeper in grade one. In recent years he voluntarily trained six Papua New Guineans to become professional beekeepers, harvesting 700 kg of honey from 54 beehives in the last season.

PNG: Swiss Mission is training people to become beekeepers



Auckland Swiss Club picnic

Saturday, 2 May 2015

8.00 am to 3.00pm
6 Rockridge Ave, Penrose

Come and enjoy the amazing Swiss atmosphere and traditions such as yodling & Alphorn playing and taste some of the delicious foods that our beautiful country has to offer!

There will be anything from Swiss breads and pastries to Bratwurst sausages and holey cheeses, Swiss chocolates to traditional gingerbreads, Victorinox knives to unique wood carvings, Sauerkraut to Knöpfli, wonderful arts and crafts and definitely a few yodels!

As a special treat for you and your kids we will have traditional St. Bernard & Bernese mountain dogs visit and the merry-go-round and bouncy castle won't miss either...

www.facebook.com/swissmarketday
For further information visit our facebook page or contact us on 021 101 4432

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www.swisscommunity.org Internet platform for the Swiss Abroad

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