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REGIONAL EDITION

OCEANIA



Editorial:

From a very warm and green Switzerland, I wish our readers all the best for 2016. Hope to see many of you at the Auslandschweizerkongress to celebrate the ASO's 100th anniversary.

MARC GODAT, REGIONAL EDITOR «OCEANIA»

Consulate/Embassy: Mobile Passport Station 2016

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney informs:
In 2016 the mobile passport station will operate in the following cities:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Darwin NT | (second half of May) |
| ■ Canberra ACT | (second half of May) |
| ■ Brisbane QLD | (second half of October) |
| ■ Townsville QLD | (second half of October) |
| ■ Cairns QLD | (second half of October) |

Registered citizens will be contacted by e-mail or letter two months prior to the visit with detailed information regarding dates, venues and procedures. If funding and staffing levels are not cut, we hope to provide this service in all capital cities every second year.



SWISS

Culture Caf

Thursday 3rd March

10am till 12 Noon

Hervey Bay Community Centre
22 Charles Street, Pialba

\$3 per person

ph 4194 3070

A Taste of Switzerland at the Culture Caf in Hervey Bay, Queensland
Helpers wanted! Contact Cecile from the Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Samichlaus @
Swiss Society
of Queensland

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Victoria: Events

- 4/2 Kapelle Gruezi Mitenand
- 17/2 Swiss Club Movie Night
- 24/2 Social Jass - all levels
- 27/2 Jassabend, Horticulture Centre
Forest Hill (Matterhorn)
- 2/3 Ladies Luncheon
- 5/3 Kapelle Gruezi Mitenand
- 16/3 AGM (SCV members)
- 19/3 Jass Night / Competition
- 23/3 Mar Social Jass - all levels

Swiss Club of Victoria

The Swiss Club of Victoria is the center for Swissness in Melbourne. We offer a club restaurant and year round various Swiss activities and events. Wed and Thur are club nights with social Jass, live Swiss Music on the 1st Thurs of the Month, regular Swiss Movie nights and much more.

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn

After a difficult 2015 for the Choir, with insufficient singers to continue practice sessions and performances, 2016 looks very positive. We will start practicing on the first Wednesday in February and hope to be performing again later in the year. New singers are very welcome.

Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose / Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess, / Australian/Swiss Cultural Society

The very best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year. The Seniors had a fantastic afternoon at the Kaffeeklatsch in the Swiss Club.

The mystery trip in November was attended by over 100 guests. The weather gods made sure, that we could leave the umbrellas at home. A fantastic day for all.

The Swiss Folk Dance Group and



Victoria:
Companion Singers
and the Swiss Folk
Dance group together
at the nursing homes

the Companion Singers performed in nursing homes in November as an early Christmas present.

Western Australia: Events

- 6/2 Fasnacht, Rhein Donau Club &
 - 7/2 Kinder-Fasnacht (Guggeburras)
 - 20-21/2 Bickley Dam Summer Splash
 - 28/2 General Assembly
 - 27/3 Easter Picnic, Gidgegannup
- Early announcement:
12/6 Australian Jass tournament,
Perth www.jasstournament.com

Australian Capital Territory: Events

- (tba) Film night
- 12-14/2 Multicultural Festival
- 12-14/3 weekend @ the coast

Canberra Swiss Club

The last event from the Canberra Swiss Club was the visit from "Samichlaus" and "Schmutzli". Many families came for the picnic to see the two visitors. "Samichlaus" spoke to children from all ages – and he also called some adults. Amazing to hear he had to say much the same as

he did when we adults were children. "Schmutzli" could give all the children a "Grittibänz" and a bag with goodies.

The Swiss Choir was again singing at a nursing home. This performance became one of the very special events bringing joy to all, the listeners and the singers.

Hopefully you all had a good start into the New Year. Our first event will be a Film night in February. For several years we have been privileged to join the Swiss Jodlers of Sydney on their harbour cruise, so hopefully this year too. Also in February, the Multicultural Festival takes place in Canberra. Usually on Saturday the Swiss and German Radio Programs have a time slot where they broadcast live from the Festival. In March traditionally the Club spends the weekend at the coast.

Santa in Canberra



The Swiss Society of Victoria's purpose is to assist fellow Swiss in Victoria, old and young, who are in need of financial or social support. If you are experiencing difficulties, or you know of someone who does, please contact us. We are here to help.

Franz Schellmann – M: 0412 203 893 – E: schellmann@dodo.com.au
Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645 – E: patalbertaus@gmail.com

New South Wales: Events

- 27/2** Harbour cruise (Yodlers)
12/3 Senior Luncheon (SCCS)
 Il Bolognese, Gladesville
17/3 Senior Luncheon Central
 Coast (SCCS)

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

We are pleased to announce the establishment of our own website:
www.swissyodlersofsydney.org

In November some of us linked up with the Melbourne yodlers in Wagga Wagga for a long weekend.

Once again Elizabeth Norrison

was instrumental in making our time there most enjoyable.

Our alphorn players and bell ringers took part in the promotion of the Readycare Swiss October Fest in its Alexandria HQ. We also sang recently, at the Swiss Community Care's annual Christmas luncheon.

The yodlers welcomed and joined a Swiss tour party for dinner in a private home, which gave the tourists the opportunity to talk with expats about life in Australia. The tour party were welcomed by the Consul General, Mr. Ernst



Swiss Yodlers of Sydney: tour party dinner

Steinmann. The evening buzzed with conversation and laughter.

Our annual harbour cruise will be held on Sat 27 February.

Queensland: Events

- 7/2** Bushwalk Noosa Heads NP
7/2 Carnival @ the beach or pool
 (Fraser Coast)
24/2 Movie Night "der Verdingbub"
 Anglican Church Hall, Ascot
3/3 A taste of Switzerland
 Culture Caf (Fraser Coast)
5/3 Bus Trip
9/3 Cinema Club: Clouds of Sils
 Maria, Maryborough (Fraser)
13/3 Easter Bunny Wellington Pt.
13/3 Family PicNic Gold Coast

Swiss Club Sunshine Coast

Monthly Lunch – held on the first Friday of the month. Other venues and details will be published on the Club's website and sent out by email.

New Zealand: Events

- 12/2** Jass @ Danish house
14/2 Picnic (Taranaki)
20/2 Field Shooting @ Swiss Farm
21/2 Family day (Wellington)
28/2 Beach party 2016
4/3 March Pub night
11/3 Jass @ Danish house
20/3 Egg decorating (Wellington)
28/3 Committee meeting
17/4 Shooting / Society games
23/4 Comp.shooting @ Swiss Farm



Santa, Auckland style

Swiss Society of NZ

The Battle of Morgarten (1315) and other anniversaries in Swiss history were celebrated in style on Saturday 14 November. Our Ambassador David Vogelsanger and his team, as well as the Wellington Swiss Club, put on a great day to remember not only Morgarten, but also the Conquest of Aargau (1415), the battle of

Marignano (1515) and the congress of Vienna confirming Swiss neutrality (1815). Over 500 Swiss and friends enjoyed the cultural and culinary experience in Lower Hutt / Wellington. The St. Bernard and Bernese Mountain Dogs were one of the many Swiss attractions. We thank all the organisers for making this day such a success.

'The First Swiss in New Zealand' – a fascinating history about the first wave of Swiss immigration in the 19th century, was compiled in 1967 by Irène Weber-de Candolles, wife of the then Chargé d'affaires. David Vogelsanger kindly got the booklet to be re-printed. The members of the NZ Swiss Society and clubs received a copy with their recent Helvetia Magazine. If interested in a spare copy, please contact the secretary of the NZ Swiss Society, nelly.steinemann@swiss.org.nz.

COMING UP: AGM of the NZ Swiss Society, Queens Birthday Weekend Saturday/Sunday 4/5 June, in Auckland. This has traditionally been a fun weekend, with lots of socialising, competition between clubs, lovely food, and not to forget the purpose, reflecting on the past and deciding on the future direction

of the society. 2016 will see the hand-over of the presidency from Auckland to Hamilton

Taranaki Swiss Club

The Swiss Club members were busy all year round, most recently on two weekends in November: A good contingent attended the memorable Morgarten Celebration in Wellington. The early Christmas function on 29 November drew a large crowd. It was particularly pleasing to see three generations of many families. We look forward to our regular Kegeln (9 pin bowling), to the picnic on 14 Feb, and much more.

Hamilton Swiss Club

In September the Hamilton Swiss Club held their annual Fondue Evening at the Matangi Hall with 138 people attending. Early November was a bush walk amongst the Nikaus in the Pirongia Forest Park on a lovely spring Waikato day, and in December the year finished with a very well-attended Family Christmas Party at the Newstead School.



Auckland Swiss Club

We look back on a busy, happy year: Santa, Carol singing, Picnic, walks, Jassen, Shooting, film nights, pub nights, family functions. A brand new event proofed a great success: The Kaffeekränzli and great NZ bake-off. 17 aspiring chefs competed with an amazing selection of goods. Live music and a music quizz made it a memorable afternoon for the 55 participants. Much is on offer for 2016.

Wellington Swiss Club

Wellington enjoyed an active year too, including two well attended functions in December – Santa on the 6th, and Christmas dinner on the 12th. Many events are planned for 2016. Don't miss the family day at the beautiful Jäggi Park (Akatarawa Valley) on Sunday 21 Feb, and the egg decorating on Sunday 20 March.

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SBS Radio (on air in NSW, VIC, ACT) www.sbs.com.au/german
VIC: The Swiss Club of Vic, Melb. 1300 893 968 info@swissclubvic.com.au
Swiss Festival Australia 0425 805 854 www.swissfestival.com.au
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SwissKids (Esther Blaser) 0424 220 523 esther.blaser@gmail.com
The Swiss Companion Singers (03) 9889 9321 Heidi Giger

Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn (03) 9754 7390 helvet@bigpond.com
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