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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Please note:
Next Editorial Deadline
9 March 2021



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

Editorial:

Dear readers, dear compatriots,

2020 has finally come to an end, many would say, none too soon! Could it have been a more challenging year? When we think about it, the answer to this question is “yes!” It could have been a lot worse. This is not meant to minimise the difficulties that many have experienced, nor the sorrow in the face of loved ones dying and others suffering from the ravages of COVID-19, either physically, emotionally or financially. It has been tough for most and awful for many.

Now, imagine the world just 100 years ago, when Lina Wisler-Beck wrote her poem. At the end of WWI, the world lay in ruins. Social and political upheaval resulted in massive unemployment and poverty...and then the Spanish flu pandemic hit! What we are experiencing now is not unique, the world has seen it before, many times. We can take comfort knowing that recovery always followed.

May 2021 be a year of recovery for everyone. Stay safe and keep looking out for each other! *Ed*

«Längwiiligi Ziite»

by Lina Wisler-Beck, 22 June 1920

Niene isch Chilbi u niene isch Tanz
deheime ums Hus um versuret me ganz.
I ha mer scho mängisch der Chopf fasch verheit,
was ächt no wär z'mache, dass Zyt umegeit.

Wär gwönet isch z'gumpe und z'tanze, o je,
däm düe halt die Süche-Verordnige weh.
E jede muess säge, churzwiligs isch's nit.
No bsunders für ledigi, lustigi Lüt.

Grad äbe der Sunndig wird eim eso läng,
s'Furtgoh isch verbote, u nämlech no sträng.
Gsiech eim deno öpper, o weisch de häts gfählt,
do müesst me schwär buesse – u-ni ha kes Gäld!

Drumm blieb i doheime. I schicke mi dry,
u hoffe dä Jammer gang öppe verby.
I bi jo nid einzig, s'trifft anderi o,
s'isch nume es gwöne. – Mi zahmet de scho!

This dialect poem, which reads as if it were written today, was in fact composed a century ago when the Spanish flu pandemic was raging around the world for over two years. In Switzerland, where it affected more than 50% of the population, 24,449 people died. Together with the coinciding general strike (Landesstreik) in November 1918, it was the gravest demographic catastrophe in modern Swiss history.



Please take note of the following «Swiss Review/Regional Edition Oceania» dates for the remaining issues for this year.

Edition	Editorial deadline	Publication date
■ 2/21 April	Tue, 09.03.21	Tue, 20.04.21
■ 3/21 June	Mon, 10.05.21	Fri, 11.06.21
■ 4/21 August	no regional edition	Wed, 11.08.21
■ 5/21 October	Tue, 07.09.21	Fri, 08.10.21
■ 6/21 December	no regional edition	Wed, 15.12.21

Please send your submissions by the above deadline to risler@csa-oceania.org. I look forward to hearing from you! Contact: +61 (0)412 935 565.



CSA Oceania
Organisation of the Swiss Abroad



The **CSA Oceania** is your elected team of delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. We represent the 33,000+ registered Swiss living in Oceania and defend your interests as a Swiss citizens living in this region.

Visit our website **www.csa-oceania.org**

- for links to all **Swiss Community Groups**, Swiss Organisations and Swiss Consular Representations in Oceania;
- for information about the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)** and the **CSA Oceania** and the services they offer;
- for **important information** about issues concerning Swiss Abroad.

For any assistance or advice, contact the **CSA Oceania** on info@csa-oceania.org



Election of delegates to serve on The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the term 2021–2025

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) is the representative body in Switzerland for Swiss people living abroad. Australia is entitled to four council seats, New Zealand has two. Elections for the Oceania delegates of the CSA for the term 2021–2025 will take place in June this year.

General information about these elections, which will take place world-wide, can be found on the website of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) <https://bit.ly/2XeZqmb> (in German and French). Specific information about the Australian election is available on www.swissallianceaustralia.org



Election of delegates in New Zealand

The two delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing New Zealand will be chosen from among members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand and the four regional Swiss Clubs – Auckland, Hamilton, Taranaki and Wellington. They will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society of New Zealand, held on 6 June 2021. www.swiss.org.nz



Election of delegates in Australia

How does the election work?

In Australia the election is conducted by the **Swiss Alliance Australia (SAA)** – see next page for more details – on behalf of the **Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)**. Any queries/correspondence should be addressed to the person in charge of election coordination: Martin Scarpino, treasurer/secretary of the SAA, on csaelection2021@gmail.com

In 2017, for the first time ever, the election in Australia was conducted electronically, but due to the cancellation of e-voting by the Federal Government in Switzerland, this option will not be available this time. Instead the election will be by postal Ballot. Once the candidates standing for election have been determined, a Ballot paper will be distributed via the printed and electronic version of the ‘Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania’. It will also be available for downloading from the SAA website: www.swissallianceaustralia.org

The ‘Swiss Review’ is distributed to every registered Swiss household in Oceania. The current circulation is 20,800 subscriptions in total – 12,300 online copies and 8,500 printed copies (no separate figures for Australia only are available). This will ensure that as many as

possible of the Swiss living in Australia can take part in these elections if they wish to do so.

Step One: Call for Candidates

To stand as a candidate in these election, you should download the **Application for Candidates** from the website of the SAA www.swissallianceaustralia.org and return the completed form together with a colour passport-sized portrait image of yourself to Martin Scarpino (SAA) on csaelection2021@gmail.com. Due date is **COB Wednesday, 31 March**. Applications received after the due date can not be accepted.

WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION?

To be eligible, a candidate must:

- be a Swiss citizen (or dual-citizen) living in Australia
- be 18 years and over
- be registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney
- demonstrate an interest and commitment to the Swiss community in Australia
- have an interest in the Swiss political process, i.e. be enrolled to vote in Switzerland
- in addition to English, be fluent in either German or French (spoken and written)
- wherever possible attend OSA Council meetings in Switzerland (1 day in March/April and 3 days in August) for the term 2021–2025, at own travel/accommodation expense

Step Two: Call to Vote

A call for eligible Swiss Abroad in Australia to elect their representatives on the Council of the Swiss Abroad will appear in edition 3/21 of the ‘Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania’ which will be published on Friday, 11 June.

It will contain a printed Ballot paper as well as a short version of the profile of each candidate that stands for election. The full version of each candidates' profile will be available on the website of the SAA www.swissallianceaustralia.org from Tuesday, 20 April. The Ballot will also be available for downloading from the SAA website.

The completed Ballot paper should be emailed to Martin Scarpino (SAA) on csaelection2021@gmail.com or posted to:
 Swiss Alliance Australia
 Att: Martin Scarpino
 c/ Schweizer Kobras
 P.O. Box H283
 Australia Square NSW 1215

Due date for Ballots to be received by the SAA is **COB Wednesday, 30 June**. Ballots received after the due date can not be accepted.

WHO CAN VOTE?

To be eligible, you must be:

- a Swiss citizen residing in Australia
- 18 years and over
- registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

If you have not yet registered or provided the consulate your personal email address, you must do so by the end of May to be eligible to vote. Contact the consulate on sydney@eda.admin.ch

Step Three: Election Results

The Ballots will be verified and counted by the election coordinator with the assistance of the Consulate General of Switzerland. The four candidates who received the most votes will be elected as the Australian CSA delegates. By first week July, the election results will be submitted to the OSA and announced on the SAA website www.swissallianceaustralia.org and relevant social media channels.

The constituent meeting of the newly elected Council for the term 2021-2025 will take place in August at the Congress of the Swiss Abroad (either in Lugano or virtual) – see <https://bit.ly/3s4rUNM>. A congress report and presentation of the elected delegates will appear in edition 5/21 of the 'Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania' which will be published on Friday, 8 October.



New website in 2021

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has a brand new online presence:

www.swisscommunity.org/en/



Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia

The idea of creating an Australian counterpart to the 'Swiss Society of New Zealand' – an umbrella organisation that has been serving the Swiss clubs in New Zealand since 1935 – was first presented and discussed at the Sydney Oceania Swiss Club President's Conference in 2018.

Since then, the four Australian members of the CSA Oceania have established an incorporated body under the name of 'Swiss Alliance Australia SAA', to group together all Swiss associations in Australia, big or small.

An invitation to become foundation members of the SAA has gone out and some have already answered the call.

AIMS & ROLE

- Promote and encourage exchange
- Maintain and foster close relationships with official channels in Switzerland
- Organise President's meeting
- Inform about events, news, legislation of interest
- Guide members on organisational and administrative matters
- Carry through democratic elections for the delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad

BENEFITS

- One strong voice in Berne – one contact for Berne
- Support through shared content that is relevant for all (magazine articles, new legislation etc.)
- Exchange on events and member attraction and retention
- Group insurance benefits, group discounts on services
- Promotion of Australia-wide activities
- Connection and strengthening of Swiss Community

The first task of the newly created SAA is organising the election of the Australian delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. To find out more, contact the treasurer/secretary, Martin Scarpino on csaelection2021@gmail.com

www.swissallianceaustralia.org

Community News and Events

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Family Christmas party was held on Sunday, 6 December, 'Samichlaustag'. The day was a lovely summer's day and some children arrived early to help decorate the Christmas tree and then it was time to decorate Christmas cookies which the children could take home. We had very few children but seemed to have lots of adults instead. A great opportunity for young and old to have a catch up before Christmas. The children appreciated their small gifts they received. Many thanks to Santa and all the helpers.



Upcoming Events:

20/2: 50 metre Swiss Society medal shooting competition to be held at Elmiger's property in Karapiro. There is a men's and ladies shooting trophy to be won as well as a chance to receive a medal. Juniors welcome but must be strictly supervised by a parent. For further details see February newsletter or contact Hans Vetsch 021 658 733.

21/2: Annual Picnic to be held from 11am at the Newstead School. Please bring your own tables and chairs if you want to sit in the shade. Lots of grilled sausages, drinks, home-made baking and coffee available.

9-11/4: Ruaphehu Hiking Weekend with various walks and hikes planned for all ages and abilities. For further details please contact Herbert 021 962 708.

30/4: Hamilton Club AGM.

2/5: Tentative date for Cowbell semi-final in Auckland.

14/5: Card evenings commence for five sessions, fortnightly.

22&23/5: 300 metre shooting weekend to be held in Auckland at the club shooting range. Please mark this date in your calendar if you are a keen shooter. Hans will provide further details closer to the time.

5/6: AJT-2021 HAMILTON-NZ Matangi Hall.

6/6: Swiss Society AGM, 2pm to be held at the Matangi Hall in Hamilton.

For further information please email anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz or phone 0274 985 170.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

The Ted Napflin self-handicap Shoot was held on 15 November with one of our junior shooters winning the coveted shield. Congratulations to Richard Drummond who pipped his father, Adrian, by scoring an extra bulls' eye.

On 29 November the **Christmas Shoot / Keglen** was held with a good



muster of children and Club members attending. The children spent the morning creating Christmas decorations to take home, while those adults who wished played skittles and shot for prizes. At 1pm 'Samichlaus' arrived to the sound of bells and Christmas carols. Such an exciting time! A big thank-you to the organisers and to everyone, young and old, who came to support this happy event.

On **New Year's Eve** we hosted members of the Campervan Association, with 27 campervans enjoying our great

facilities. Happy hour for all attending was a good time to have a catch up, and was followed by the evenings' entertainment. All too soon we bid farewell to 2020, hoping that 2021 would be a better year for everyone and that Covid-19 will be suppressed.

Upcoming Events:

1/3: Taranaki Swiss Club AGM at 7.30pm. Come and reminisce about the old year and give some input into what is in store for our Club this year.

4/3: Keglen at 7.30pm. Come and have a chat, some fun and laughter and play some keglen.

18/3: Keglen at 7.30pm

21/3: Championship and Society Shoots at 1pm. Junior shooters most welcome, with some tuition available.

ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and I wish everyone a happy New Year and all the best in the future.

What a change for Christmas and New Year. Last year we were on fire and couldn't see anything due to the smoke hazard. This year the complete opposite, New Year's Eve we had the heater turned on in the middle of the night.

We had our AGM in November and are planning all the events for 2021. Those events will be released in the next newsletter.

The next bigger event will be our annual trip to Durras North for the Canberra long weekend in March. It's very pleasant to stay right at the beach in the cabins. Saturday night we have our Raclette evening under the stars. Make sure you book the cabins early as they book out fast.

Let's hope that the weather will hold up, so that we can do the bushwalk, beaches and play a round of golf. If it is raining, we will have to play Jass and talk a lot!

Hopefully we will be able to travel to the coast with the COVID restrictions.

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

The recent AGM would have been the shortest ever in the Club's 52nd year of existence, with no performances taking place at all, and our weekly singing practise sessions on hold until further notice. What great joy when finally we could get together at our Vice-President's residence for a very pleasant Sunday afternoon with our Spouses/Partners, sharing a sumptuous BBQ lunch! Thank-you Ruth and Ernst for your hospitality.

'Wait and see' is how we describe our situation, as we are not allowed to come together as a Choir to share our passion of singing. This year, Swiss National Day falls on a Sunday, and we are as keen as ever to hold our traditional Annual Family Picnic. Please stand-by for further news! We have decided that our planned participation at this year's Swiss Yodelling Festival in Basel (postponed from 2020) would not proceed under the present circumstances. The bi-annual Harbour Cruise, scheduled for February this year, is a further casualty.



Roesli and Housi captured at our Club's 50 years anniversary celebrations, with Swiss visitor Armin Gyr (our Eidg. Jodelfest Burgdorf 1981 Lead Yodler) - "Welcome back to be with us!!"

We extend warm congratulations and our very good wishes to Roesli and Housi Kaufmann, who both recently celebrated 'milestone birthdays'. We don't see each other often, but we don't forget and are very grateful for how much they (and many others, past and present) have

contributed to the Club's fortunes. Dear Roesli and Housi, our very best for your future!

For any enquiries, please contact: Alois Kretz (President), 9419 7277; Sepp Engesser (Choir Master), 9659 6232; Karin Attewell (Treasurer), 8964 4434

NSW: Cercle Romand

We wish all our friends and members a happy new year and hope it brings us back some normality and an opportunity to fulfil our events as planned.

Last year we managed to hold our last event on 5 December, our traditional end of year dinner which was held at the newly opened Swiss restaurant 'The Matterhorn' located at Turrumurra. This



event was well attended with 34 members, which proved that many were eager to enjoy some freedom again with the relaxation



of Covid-19 restrictions. The 'Trophee Paul Lambert' was presented to Anne and André who were the winners of the 2020 pétanque tournament held in February. It was indeed a very enjoyable evening where the food was excellent and the ambiance very joyful.

The committee has remained optimistic and planned many events for 2021. The details for each activity are published on the club website www.cercleromand.com.au where location, time and booking information can be found. With a bit of luck most will take place.

Upcoming Events:

28/2: Pétanque & Brunch at the Park will be held at Ballast Point Park, Birchgrove. Winners will have their name engraved on the 'Paul Lambert' perpetual Trophy and will receive complementary invitation to our 'End of Year Dinner'. This gathering is open to anyone related to the Swiss community and it is an opportunity to meet new people.

24/4: Cinema, Pasta & Pizza night. Details will be available in March and published on the club website and newsletter.

16/5: Raclette at the Park will be held at Galston - Fagan Park. This is traditionally the most attended outing and no wonder! Swiss cheese, a glass of wine (or two), good company, all set in a beautiful park. Indeed, Le Cercle Romand...que du bon temps!

The committee thanks all its members for supporting our club and looks forward to seeing you soon.

Le Cercle Romand...que du bon temps

www.cercleromand.com.au

FB : Cercle Romand Sydney

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

Although this has been a year with many interruptions, the SCCS has been able to fulfil several of its aims in 2020. We sent about 350 birthday cards to Swiss people who are over 70. Before Christmas our volunteers distributed 129 presents to compatriots who are 80 and over living in Greater Sydney, and 54 Swiss calendars were sent to Swiss people who live further away.

We were also grateful that we could hold our annual Christmas luncheon at the Concordia Club in Tempe with 78 participants. Everybody enjoyed Philipp's accordion music, and I also joined him with the violin for some Christmas carols. Together with the lovely decorations, delectable food and a big table full of lucky door prizes it became an enjoyable end of year occasion.

After the lockdown ended in June, we could return to our 'Casual Lunch' on the third Friday of every month. Many people were socially isolated and appreciated having an opportunity to meet fellow Swiss. This get-together at Concordia Club is definitely becoming more popular. We are usually about 15 people, but at one occasion we were 23.

At this stage the committee has not made any decisions about events in 2021 apart from the luncheons. Again, both of them will be on a Thursday. The likely dates are 29 July for the National Day celebration and either 2 or 9 December for Christmas. Please make a note in your diary if you plan to attend and keep an eye open for the registration form. Should it be possible to organise any additional outings, the people on our list will receive the invitations in advance. If you are not a member with us but would like to be invited and get involved please look up our website for all kinds of information, which includes the membership application form: www.swissccs.org.au

With best wishes for 2021
Regula Scheidegger, President
9743 5323

NSW: Swiss Club of New South Wales

Happy New Year! Let's hope we can get to normal soon, whatever normal will be for 2021. The Swiss Club of NSW has been dormant for the majority of last year and we hope we can organise some of our favourites again this year.

Upcoming Events:

28/2: We join the Circle Romand for their yearly *Pétanque* competition in Birch at 11 am.

14/3: Free BBQ at Bronte Beach for all Club Members at 11am (depending on numbers allowed) for this outdoor activity.

18/4: Mushroom picking trip to Oberon where we can easily practice social distancing and follow government directives if necessary.

2/5: Buure Zmorge is on the calendar, but we have to wait for the go-ahead with larger number allowed indoors.

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Our monthly restaurant lunches on the 15th of each month are ongoing – so far only small restrictions are in place, like keeping distance and register in case of COVID. No masks in restaurants and shops. Hoping it stays that way with strict border controls and isolation if one or two cases are detected.

We were invited to celebrate 'Samichlaus' at Nikki and Matthias' home for a Swiss style BBQ with the whole family baking yummy 'Wienachtsguetzli' – thank you so much. Everybody brought salads and other specialities to share, enough food for the 23 participants.



In keeping up with Swiss traditions we had a '3-Königs Chueche' for the small group enjoying a BBQ near the beach on 6 January. Improvisation with no crown but all three Kings was fun, and Emil, who found the hidden token, was again the 'king' this year.

For 2021 we will try different venues for our lunches and again soon looking for eggs from the Easter Bunny with 'Zopf' in someone's garden.

Hoping all stays safe in the Hervey Bay area and wishing to be able to travel and see families again and have visitors from Switzerland. Fingers crossed!

Contact the organiser, Cecile Scherrer, for details: cecile.sch70@gmail.com or 0409 286 326 or 07 4194 01 05

QLD: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS QLD)

What a year it has been! Let's hope that 2021 will be an improvement. Still the SCCS managed to hold their Christmas Lunch. Given the current situation it



was quite different from our usual Swiss Christmas orientated fare. The purpose was mainly to get our members out of the house and socialising with their compatriots. 46 members attended, and we had a most enjoyable time catching up with old friends.

At present we made a booking and hope to be able to come together for our lunch at Buderim. The date is set for 23 May at the Golf Club as usual. But lots of things can change till then. We will inform everybody closer to the date about the details and any possible changes of rules or the form of the event.

In the interim we are still available to be of assistance to any Swiss, whether a member of the SCCS or not.

For information please contact: Franz Braun 0421 384 060 or Anita Bickel 0457 457 211.

QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

Happy New Year!!!! We are looking forward to catching up with our members this year!!

2020 ended with Santa visiting our youngest members. He brought a lot of goodies and presents for everyone. There was quite a bit of a turn out. Big and small liked the BBQ, as well as the Zopf and Nussgipfel that were available also.

Upcoming Events:

21/2: Boat Trip – It will take us to a secluded spot and there will be a chance for a swim. Everyone, especially families are encouraged to join us. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea is included.

17/3: Movie Night – We meet at the Anglican Church Hall in Ascot. A light dinner will be served from 6pm followed by the movie.



28/3: Easter Bunny – The favourite bunny is visiting and will leave small and large chocolate eggs for our little ones to go and hunt and search for.

Details are on our website www.swissclubqld.org.au and emails are sent out as a reminder. Or ring Anita on 0401 957 309.

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

We held our AGM late last year, which saw some changes in the leadership of the Club.



Paul and Sarah Hill resigned their positions of Treasurer and Vice President, as they are expecting a second child and with it, a

whole lot more work and joy. We thank them both for their dedication over the past few years, and the impact that they had on invigorating the Club after a difficult period.

This year's committee welcomes Victoria Tobé as Vice-President, Daria Gutteridge as Secretary, Markus Hugenschmidt as Treasurer, Marlene Guillaume as Activities Manager; and Herbert Gall-Roche and Marinette Cachin, our Activities Coordinators, and I am excited to be working with them this year.

For the coming year, our aim is very much to promote our traditional events – Covid restrictions permitting, we are planning our fondue night in May, the traditional first of August celebration, a 'Wuerstli Broetle' in October, and a visit from 'Samichlaus' and 'Schmutzli' in December. Dates will be put on our website in due course.

Our Swiss Radio Station in South Australia deserves a plug: tune in to 5EBI (103.1FM) on a Saturday, from 6pm to 7pm ACST (<http://5ebi.com.au/on-air-programs/1030/swiss>) for music and a great program.

For further details of events, how to become a member (especially if you have just arrived in South Australia) or getting in touch with our business partners, head to our website www.swissclubs.com.au or email us on info@swissclubs.com.au

VIC: The Matterhorn Yodel Choir

During 2020 the Choir was greatly affected, with few practice sessions allowed. However, that was last year and now it is a Happy New Year!

2021 sees some positive opportunities to get back together with practice sessions and performances down the track. We do hope that choir practice sessions will commence sometime in February with the venue still to be decided. Most likely practices will be held at the home of our conductor Chris Hostettler. We are very happy to

include new members so if you feel like you would like to join us please call Chris on 9754 7390.

Upcoming Event:

27/2: Jass Night – at the Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill. Start 8pm. **Bookings essential: call Sepp on 0425 791 036.**

VIC: Swiss Club of Victoria

Happy New Year to all the Swiss in Victoria and beyond. We wish everyone a great and healthy 2021, and hopefully we can get together again more often this year.

The Swiss Club of Victoria has started its social calendar with our Foundation Day event on 31 January. From February onwards, we plan regular Wednesday club nights for members. Jass Competition nights are also pencilled in and plans are underway for Kapelle Grüetzi Mitenand to entertain us on a Thursday night once a month. Our AGM is set for Wednesday, 17 March at the Swiss Club. As the year unfolds, there will be more events added. To keep informed, or to become a member, call (03) 9650 1196 or visit us on swissclubvictoria.com or on facebook.com/Swissclubvic

VIC: Swiss Society of Victoria

This year's Senior Noel was quite different as we couldn't get together at the Swiss Club Restaurant for the annual event. Due to movement restrictions many of our community members were stuck at home, isolated from family and friends and negatively impacted by what was going on. This prompted the Swiss Club of Victoria to spring into action and seek the support of the Swiss Society of Victoria to help fund what is now known as 'The Guetzi Drive'.

With the help of the 'bakers' from the TrachtengruppeSchwyzergruess as well as many other helpers they mobilised dedicated members of the community to come together and create some Christmas magic in form of gift bags with home-made cookies and other goodies.

This initiative truly made a big difference to the lives of about 70 of our mostly elderly community members. The personal deliveries brought a welcome break from the social isolation and was a great opportunity to re-connect, apparently some of the visits led to a coffee or two and a good old 'Schwätz' (chat) over some delicious cookies.

Thank you to all involved – you know who you are – for living the community spirit and spreading some wonderful Christmas cheer!



<p>Lending a hand since 1879</p>	<p>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 of someone who does, please contact us.</p> <p>We are here to help.</p> <p>https://swissocietyvic.org/ Patrick Albert – M: 0449 999 645 E: admin@swissocietyvic.org</p>
	<p>Registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ABN 41 419 264 390)</p>



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Australia

Welcome Fabian Grass!

The Embassy of Switzerland in Canberra is happy to announce the arrival of its new Deputy Head of Mission, Mr Fabian Grass, who introduces himself to the readers of the Swiss Review – Regional News Oceania:



“I arrived safe and sound on 4 January 2021 to take up my new position as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia. Together with my wife and our three young children I’m excited to discover this great country and our five side-accreditations Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon

Islands and Vanuatu.

Before this posting, I worked as the Head of the Policy Planning Unit at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern. Previously, I was Deputy Head for International Security Policy – NATO-desk, and was posted to our Embassy in Ottawa and to the OSCE in Vienna.

Originating from the biggest canton of Switzerland (Grison), I will still have to get used to the geographical scale of Australia. I am eager to travel the four corners of this continent and to the Pacific islands, to support the Swiss Ambassadors Pedro Zwahlen and Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen and to hopefully meet many of you in the years to come. Feel free to make contact at any time.”

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SwissCham AUSTRALIA

SwissCham would like to thank all of its members for the continuous support and engagement with our Chamber during 2020. It has been a very difficult year, especially for an organisation like ours, where networking is the key driver.

We managed over 20 events this year, some of them in cooperation with partners and other chambers. Unfortunately, many events had to be cancelled, among them our traditional Golf Day. But luckily, it’s on the calendar again for this year – on 15 November!

2021 started on a high with the Swiss Business Award and we will conclude the year on a high with a Live Covid Board Room Lunch with Novartis in December.

We also reached a further milestone as we have now partnered with SwissCham in Singapore and SwissCham in Hong Kong. That means that all our members can attend their events as a member. We are working to extend this cooperation further in 2021.

We have also concluded an agreement with CMRI, the Children’s Medical Research Institute providing a strong link to a fantastic organisation.

SwissCham continues to attract members and we look forward to meet and greet you all again in person in 2021. For more information please visit www.swisscham.com.au

With the best wishes for a successful 2021,
Martin G Scarpino, CEO SwissCham

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.

“Jedem Topf syn Teggel”

“Jeder Topf findet seinen Deckel”
in German, or in English, you could say something along the lines of “a soulmate exists for everybody”, meaning that there is a perfect

partner for every person. “Every Jack has his Jill” may also be understood as a shorter alternative to the above.

In Italian it can be translated as:

“Ognuno ha la sua anima gemella.”

And in French you could say:

“Chaque personne a son âme sœur” or

“à chacun a chacune, chaque pot a son couvercle.”



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