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REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA



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

Editorial:

The ‘Parliament of the Swiss Abroad’ met in Lugano on Friday 19 August, ahead of the Congress of the Swiss Abroad that took place that weekend. Hundreds of Swiss Abroad and 85 members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad travelled from all over the world to Lugano for this first face-to-face congress and council meeting in three years.

Oceania was well represented with Australian delegates Katja Wallimann Gates, Beat Knoblauch and Carmen Trochsler as well as New Zealand delegate Peter Ehrler being among the attendees.

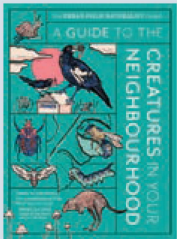


In Lugano representing the Swiss in Oceania:
Beat Knoblauch, Katja Wallimann Gates, Carmen Trochsler and Peter Ehrler

A photo gallery and a detailed congress report written by Carmen Trochsler can be found on the website of the Swiss Alliance Australia ➔ <https://bit.ly/3xzCccV>

New book: co-authored by Swiss-Australian Professor Dieter Hochuli:

A Guide to the Creatures in Your Neighbourhood



Tune in to the richness and diversity in your local environment with this playful, quirky guide that’s packed with interactive projects, nature writing and sketching activities.

In cities and suburbs all over Australia, a staggering array of animals and plants make their homes among us. If we pay attention, each encounter with a bird, a flower or a bee is an invitation into a fascinating world of growth, decay, communication and sensation – and it’s all going on right under our noses.

Did you know crows can identify humans by their faces? Or that ibises can ‘see’ with the tips of their bills? Let the team from the Urban Field Naturalist Project amaze you with weird and wonderful facts about cockatoos, magpies, spiders, possums and other animals just outside your doorstep. Then get inspired to cultivate a deeper connection with tips for observing, sketching, photographing and making field notes – or simply sitting still to observe and listen.

Whether for an afternoon of exploring or a walk to the letterbox, **A Guide to the Creatures in Your Neighbourhood** is your ticket to slow down and get curious about urban nature. No matter where you live, you’ll have a front row seat!

Available from good bookstores and online.

ISBN: 9781922616326, Publisher: Murdoch Books



Dr Karl Kruszelnicki with Professor Dieter Hochuli

Listen to Dr Karl interviewing Professor Hochuli ➔ <https://shirtloadsofscience.libsyn.com/dh-insects-302>

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Diplomatic & Consular Information



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AUS: Mobility: knowledge and innovation thrive on global exchange

Support for international mobility, both outbound and inbound, is an important instrument of the Swiss Confederation's education and research policy. Each year, the Federal Commission for Scholarships for Foreign Students awards **Excellence scholarship** to talented doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from over 180 nations, including all countries in Oceania.

Thanks to **bilateral trainee exchange agreements** concluded by Switzerland with a number of partner countries, including Australia and New Zealand, young professionals can expand their professional and linguistic skills abroad for up to 18 months. The mobility of young Swiss professionals and graduates also contributes to the international recognition of Swiss educational qualifications and standards abroad.

In recent years, the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia has expanded the offer of instruments and pathways available to young researchers and professionals eager to experience international mobility between Switzerland and Australia. From 2019, the **ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship** programme allows undergraduate students from Australia to pursue short-term research projects at a Swiss university. The **Mertz Fellowship** programme, launched in September 2022, targets early-career researchers from the polar and high-altitude science communities in Switzerland and Australia.

The Embassy in Canberra is competent for the three scholarship programmes (Excellence, ThinkSwiss and Mertz Fellowship) and the main point of contact for Australian nationals interested in the Young Professionals programme in Switzerland. For New Zealand nationals interested in the Excellence scholarships or Young Professionals programmes please contact the Swiss Embassy in Wellington.

Since the beginning of 2022, Switzerland has been included in the **Australian Work and Holiday programme**. Young Swiss aged 18 to 30 have now access to 12-month visas to experience life in Australia while working, studying and traveling. This opportunity is an important milestone for the

bilateral relations between Switzerland and Australia and for people-to-people links. The Swiss representations in Australia are not involved in this process; applications have to be lodged with the Australian Department of Home Affairs online.

As of 1 January 2022, **Australian citizens do no longer need a long-term National D visa for studying, working or for family reunions in Switzerland**. However, they need an authorisation, an assurance of residence permit, by the competent Swiss authorities. All related queries must be addressed directly to the competent cantonal immigration and labour market authorities before entering Switzerland. The Swiss representations in Australia are not involved in this process.



Photo credit: State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation

Information and contacts

SWISS GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP
Call for applications open – deadline to apply 30 November 2022

<https://bit.ly/2WzpDsB>

Contact: canberra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

Contact: wellington@eda.admin.ch

THINKSWISS RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
Call for applications open – deadline to apply 15 January 2023

<https://bit.ly/3QRdxAD>

Contact: canberra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

MERTZ FELLOWSHIP FOR POLAR AND HIGH-ALTITUDE RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Call for applications open – deadline to apply 30 October 2022

<https://bit.ly/3dr0oal>

Contact: canberra.scholarships@eda.admin.ch

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS / TRAINEE EXCHANGE

For Australian and New Zealand nationals:

<https://bit.ly/2M67ZZR>

For Swiss nationals interested in an exchange in Australia:

<https://bit.ly/3BJuzlF>

For Swiss nationals interested in an exchange in New Zealand:

<https://bit.ly/3BYqR97>

WORK AND HOLIDAY VISA

<https://bit.ly/2rUil64>

VISA AND ENTRY TO SWITZERLAND FOR CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA:
Cantonal Immigration And Employment Market Authorities

<https://bit.ly/3dlgrXx>

AUS: News from the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney

Dear Readers of the Swiss Review
Dear Swiss in Australia

It seems only a short time ago I informed you about my appointment as the new Consul General of Switzerland in Sydney. It is hard to believe that this was five years ago – how quickly the time has passed.



My term in office as Consul General will end on 31 October, 2022. My successor is Ms Cornelia Camenzind who will arrive from Chengdu / China where she was previously posted as the Consul General of Switzerland.

The last five years will be remembered by my husband Nigel and myself for many reasons; wonderful moments spent with the Swiss community in different states and cities, great experiences and personal contacts made all over Australia on different trips but then there were also floods, bushfires, the pandemic, lockdowns and closed borders.

It was an interesting, exciting and challenging posting in many ways!

It was an honour and a pleasure to be in charge of the Consulate General with its nearly 26,000 registered Swiss citizens – the 7th largest Swiss Abroad Community in the world. I certainly enjoyed the many friendly encounters with members of the community, the meetings with the different Swiss Clubs, the representatives of the OSA and I would like to thank every one of you for your ongoing interest and your support of members of our community.

Luckily for us, the Australian experience does not end here. I will retire from my work with the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs and, like you, will make our permanent new home here in Australia. Nigel and I are very much looking forward to this new challenge and the new chapter in our lives.

The Consulate General in Sydney will not only get a new Consul General, there are some other changes that I would like to mention here. Our Consul and Head of Chancery, Sandra Valentini Roberts, has left for her new posting in Ottawa and her successor is Andrea Köppel Nko'o who arrived from Tokyo. Further, the Deputy Consul General, Didier Boschung, will leave at the end of the year and will be replaced by Jérôme Charbonnet, arriving from Ho Chi Minh City.

I am sure the new team at the Consulate General will continue to be here for you all, for your questions and any queries you have.

BERNADETTE HUNKELER BROWN | CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND, SYDNEY

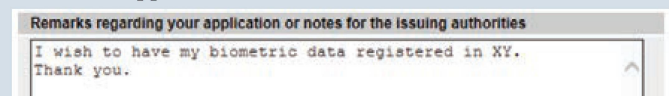
NZ: Mobile Passport Station in November 2022

The team of the Embassy in Wellington is pleased to inform you that the mobile station for the registration of biometric data will be coming to Auckland and Christchurch on the following dates:

- **Auckland:** Friday and Saturday, 4 & 5 November 2022
Where: Europe House, Auckland University of Technology, Level 16, 56 Wakefield Street, Auckland.
- **Christchurch:** Thursday and Friday, 10 & 11 November 2022
Where: venue to be confirmed.

If you are interested in taking up this service, please register an online passport application through the website: www.schweizerpass.ch. Direct link to the online application form: <https://bit.ly/3qMPfnK>

Please mention either 'Auckland' or 'Christchurch' in the last field of the application under 'remarks':



Detailed information about the fees, which documents we require from you and how to make an appointment will be sent out upon receipt of your online application. **The closing date for the online passport registration will be 25 October 2022.**

Information is also available here: www.eda.admin.ch/wellington → Services → Passport and identity card.

Introduction of the new Swiss passport (new Design)

The Federal Office of Police (Fedpol) announced that a new design of the Swiss passport will be introduced from 31 October 2022. More information about the new series of passport can be found on the website of Fedpol: <https://bit.ly/3Bw1yK6>

The functionality of the new passport and the issuing procedure will remain the same. Documents issued before this date remain valid until their expiry date.

The Swiss passport will continue to appear in the familiar red cover. Together with the 26 cantons, the 'fifth Switzerland', which stands for the Swiss Abroad, will now also be represented on one of the visa pages.

If you would like a passport in the new design, you can book an appointment from 1 November 2022 to register your biometric data at our office in Wellington or on occasion of the mobile passport station in Auckland (4 & 5 November 2022) and Christchurch (10 & 11 November 2022).

If you have an appointment at the Embassy in Wellington for the collection of biometric data before 1 November 2022, the passport will be produced in the old design.

We look forward seeing you soon in Wellington, Auckland or Christchurch.

Embassy of Switzerland in New Zealand

Level 12, 10 Customhouse Quay, Wellington 6011

Phone: +64 4 472 15 93 wellington@eda.admin.ch

Swiss+Oz Art Expo 2022 NSW: White Rhino Artspace, Sydney

On Thursday 4 August we celebrated the opening of the Swiss+Oz Art Expo 2022 at White Rhino Artspace in St Leonards, Sydney. Art appreciators, many from the Swiss community, enjoyed a drink and some delicious Swiss cheese to mark the occasion while viewing the eclectic exhibition held in this light-filled gallery space.

Sensitively curated by Regula Wettstein, the exhibition that ran until 20 August 2022, showcased a stunning collection of works by Swiss/Australian artists in a variety of media: printmaking, paintings, drawing, photography, sculpture, Lichtfenster and mixed media installation.

The theme of this year's exhibition was **HOME** – a place we got to know, explore or miss so much more during the last few years of COVID-impacted life. The term 'home' has taken on a whole new meaning for many including artists. Working from home, not being able to travel, investigating new-found creativity and art practices at home. Learning to fully appreciate nature and the beauty of our own backyard. Longing to travel and reconnect.

This year's artworks explore these themes. The sculptural chair in Ulric Steiner's work and the window in Dorothee Heibel's painting for example, have certainly taken on a new importance and symbolic meaning for many when having to

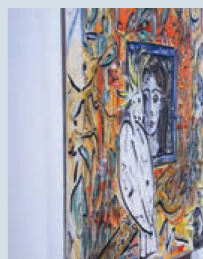


isolate or quarantine. Edmond Thommen's works remind us of cocooning yourself at home, Beat Birchmeier explores our beautiful Australian countryside, Jessika Steiner's abstract paintings explore her 'homes' of Switzerland and Australia through the common theme of water, an allegory for movement across continents. Rita Winiger's abstract landscapes depict scenes from her Australian home in the northern tablelands of NSW, Helen Halliday's

paintings draw inspiration from the flora and fauna of her new home on the north coast and Michele Heibel's finely detailed etchings pay homage to the Australian bush using humour and joy to draw the viewer in to each tiny narrative. Dong-Shin's Calendar installation is a very personal work reflecting her thoughts and her journey throughout the tricky year of 2020. Between them, each artist has interpreted the theme of **HOME** in a personal manner that connects beautifully with the audience.

Thank you to Consul General Bernadette Hunkeler Brown and Ambassador of Switzerland, Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten for visiting the exhibition. It is so heart-warming to see our Swiss community coming from far and wide to support each other.

REGULA WETTSTEIN AND JESSIKA STEINER | PHOTO CREDIT: EDMOND THOMMEN



Community News and Events

NZ: Auckland Swiss Club

The last few months we celebrated the Swiss National Day on the Sunday, 31 July with our annual bonfire. And we were honoured to have Sandra Chawla-Gantenbein and her husband representing the Swiss Embassy visiting us for the Jungbürgerfeier. As it is tradition, we had grilled cervelats and bratwurst, and special 1 August Weggli baked by the Swiss Cafe in Milford. There were also some yummy Glühwein (mulled wine), and lots of home-made baking.

On Saturday 27 August we held our fondue night. We enjoyed a beautiful sunny evening with lots of 'Stimmung', music and delicious fondue.

At both events our new fire pit was a great success with the children (and some adults) roasting marshmallows.

Upcoming events:

2/10: Buurezmorge at the Swiss Farm.

14/10 & 11/11: Jass Evening, Danish Hall.

4/12: Samichlaus at the Swiss Farm.

10/12: Swiss Christmas celebration at the Danish House. If you are into singing, we are looking for some people to join the Swiss Ladies Singing Group for some practice before the event. Ladies and gentlemen welcome.

For further information on any events please contact: Secretary: Marianne Traber on email: marianne.traber@bluewin.ch and always look for information on our website: www.swiss.org.nz/auckland/

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Our fifth and final card evening for this year was held on 8 July. 22 card players braved the awful weather for yet another enjoyable gathering. Congratulations to Hans Vetsch, who



Issa and Nicole Kamasa with Herbert Staheli

is this year's Card Trophy winner.

Swiss National Day was celebrated on Sunday, 31 July with a lunchtime function where we had about 85 people attend, including the Vice Consul, Nicole Kamasa from the Embassy together with her husband Issa. On this occasion we also welcomed three 'Jungbürger' (coming of age) participants and their families as well as our usual membership and friends of the club.

Upcoming events:

30/10: Family Walk, Waiorongomai Loop Track.

4/12: Family Christmas Party at Newstead School.

For any further details or information about functions or membership, please contact: Beatrice Leuenberger: 027 498 5170, bea.leun@xtra.co.nz; Anita Zuber: 027 498 5170, anita.zuber@swiss.org.nz; Herbert Staheli: 021 962 708.

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Our Swiss National Day celebrations were held on 30 July at our Club house in Kaponga, with another great attendance. We were spoiled with Swiss culture and traditions – six alphorn players, talerschwingen, the Swiss Singing Group, many accordions and musical instruments – absolutely fabulous. A Swiss tombola was organised, with a beautifully

hand-crafted wooden chair made by Ruedi Kull being won by a very, very happy Amanda Sherman; together with other great prizes! It was wonderful to see many new faces, together with our loyal members. A big thank-you to Nicole Kamasa, Vice Consul at the Swiss Embassy, for attending our function with her husband Issa, and although they never saw our mountain, we hope that they enjoyed their stay in Taranaki. Nicole spoke to the one 'Jungbürger' who attended, Emma Kaiser who came all the way from Palmerston North, and gave her a gift pack. Emma, we hope you enjoyed the cultural experience!

Upcoming events:

6 & 20/10: Keglen recommences.

16/10: The Trudi Ott Belt Shoot and Championship Shoot...come along and participate in this Swiss sport. The Trudi Ott Belt is a coveted trophy, with everyone having a chance of winning it as this is a handicap shoot.

3 & 17/11: Keglen again...come along and enjoy the fun.

20/11: The Ted Napflin Memorial Shield will be contested again; another one of our coveted trophies which is also a handicap shoot. We will also be shooting the Championship Shoot from 1pm, so come along and give shooting a go.

27/12: The annual Christmas Shoot / Keglen will be held with Christmas activities being organised for the children, plus a visit from Father Christmas.



1 August celebration, Taranaki. Photo: Richard Wagner

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

The Swiss Club in South Australia celebrated our Swiss National Day with over 80 people attending, at the Montacute Community Hall, up in the Adelaide Hills (see photo). It was wonderful to have the visit of the Consul General Bernadette Hunkeler Brown and her husband Nigel.

We warmed up with some soup, accompanied by bread and wienerlis, with some lovely cakes for dessert provided by members. We enjoyed a bonfire, a Lampions Parade and even some Alphorn tunes.

Thank-you to all those who helped make this a fabulous event!

Our Swiss Club is all about get-together's among friends and people from the same area of the world, who don't necessarily meet otherwise.

We have a lot of fun as a virtual, itinerant and vibrant Club, and our aim is very much to promote our traditional events.

Upcoming events:

23/10: AGM and Wuerstli Broetle, Kuitpo Forest.

4/12: Visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli.

We welcome you to these events and look forward to catching up with you soon!



Tune in to our Swiss Radio program: 5EBI (103.1FM) every Saturday, from 6pm to 7pm ACST (<https://5ebi.com.au/programs/swiss/>) for traditional Swiss music.

And 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.swissclubsa.org.au or email us at info@swissclubsa.org.au

Hope to see you soon!

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WA: Swiss Club of Western Australia



We had our AGM at our property at Gidgigannup. Two regular members decided to join us on the committee which we appreciate. The AGM was followed by the 1st of August celebration. Lots of new faces and everyone enjoyed the Swiss meatloaf and ham supplied by Romain from Crafty Meats in Rivervale. We enjoyed the warmth of the bonfire (see photo) which was lit with ease, despite all the

rain we had the previous week. The desert buffet was again one of the highlights and this year did not disappoint.

We are planning a 'Buure Zmorge' in October so please keep an eye out for the Swiss newsletter emails for more details.

On 4 December, Samichlaus will visit the children. Last year's Samichlaus was a great success and if the Swiss play group are keen to help again, then it will be a great morning for the kids and adults.

For those interested in becoming members please refer to www.swissclubwa.org/membership.html for more information.

ANDRE VILLEMIN



QLD: Yodel Choir & Folklore Group 'Baerg-Roeseli'

Three performances in the last three months, the largest audience of more than 400 guests came to Swiss National Day celebration at Samford. Next public performance will be on Saturday 12 November at Toowong Anglican Church.

With many of our members taking

advantage of travelling overseas, we are desperately seeking new voices to join us and consolidate our choir in Brisbane. Without pre-requisites, I invite you for a chat.

Singing is wonderful, come and join us. Contact Gabriel, yodel@swissclubqld.org.au

QLD: Swiss Community Care Society QLD Inc.

Our mission is to provide relief, assistance, support and social contact for the Swiss in need who live in Queensland.

Our next event is the Swiss Community Care Society – AGM and Christmas lunch on 26 November.

Contact details:

Rita von Rotz, 0431 707 144
care@swissclubqld.org.au

To become a member navigate to our website www.swissclubqld.org.au/swiss-community-care-society/ or call Anita Bickel on 0457 457 211.

NSW: Port Macquarie Region Swiss Group

After the disappointment of last years cancelled Swiss National Day celebration, we more than made up for it this year! 30 people (and let's not forget the cute child in a pram) turned up to celebrate our National Day at the pub in Kew. Everybody was smiling and laughing, new acquaintances were made and old friendships rekindled. The first arrived long before 12 noon and the last left at 4pm. What a wonderful time everybody had and a true celebration!

Our next get-together will be a BBQ/picnic on Sunday 27 November. Please put a note in your diary and further details will follow by email.

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. Looking forward to hear from you. ANITA FOSTER

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

President: Regula Scheidegger 0432 031 085 rscheidegger49@hotmail.com

SCCS CONTACTS IN RURAL NSW:

Newcastle:	Rita Schaad	02 4956 2272	maritahl@optusnet.com.au
Gosford:	Gerhard Moser	02 4322 3588	gerhard@homeloanguru.com.au
	Peter Meury	02 4388 4809	petermeury@bigpond.com
Armidale:	Heinz Hauptli	0417 446 542	heinz.hauptli@bigpond.com
Coonabarabran:	Herbert Würsch	02 6842 8278	
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Cobar:	Werner Muehlethaler	02 6836 2091	wernerm@exemail.com.au
Bathurst:	J. & R. Geissmann	02 6337 4103	geissmann@bigpond.com
Orange:	Monika Rickli	0419 435 917	monika.rickli@hotmail.com
Blue Mountains:	Elizabeth Bizzini	0408 414 863	bizzini1@hotmail.com
Ballina:	Hans Schaffner	0448 308 146	hschaffner@bigpond.com

VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

After a two year break, it was wonderful to perform at the Swiss National Day celebration held at the Austrian Club.

With the wintry weather and possible health concerns for some, the attendance was a little disappointing. (Why can't the Swiss National Day be in our summer?) Those that came enjoyed themselves and the feedback was positive, including from our Consul General Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, who included our event in her 'farewell tour'.

Our choir is always welcoming new members. Practice sessions are generally bi-weekly, although when a performance is scheduled, weekly practices are preferred. These sessions are held on Wednesday evenings.

If you are interested, or would like to have further information, please call Chris on 0428 427 434.



VIC: Groupe Romand du Victoria

The Groupe Romand was founded in 1990 as a social club for French-speaking Swiss and other Francophones to meet and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. We are affiliated with the Swiss Club of Victoria but have our own membership structure.

The Group organises a number of recurring events like fondue or raclette evenings, picnics, pétanque afternoons, mini-golf days and the viewing of French movies.

New members, new ideas and new talent are always welcome. Contactez-nous! secrtairegrouperomand@gmail.com T: 9583 2860 M: 0408 299 660

PATRICIA CALLEGARI-MEDCALF

ONLINE Information Event
18 OCT 2022

educationsuisse

Online Info Event
Date: 18 October 2022
Time: 7.30pm to 8.30pm AEDT (SYD)
Topics: Swiss Education system & Requirements to study in Switzerland
Speaker: Barbara Sulzer Smith, CEO Educationsuisse
Welcome: Her Excellency Caroline Bichet-Anthamatten, Ambassador of Switzerland

About Educationsuisse
Educationsuisse is a partner of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad. It advises and supports young Swiss abroad who wish to pursue their education or training in Switzerland

MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION
www.swissallianceaustralia.org/events

saa Swiss Alliance Australia Inc. Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia
Swiss Community CSA Oceania Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confederation suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra
Embassy of Switzerland in Australia

VIC: Les Bavards – The 'Chatterboxes'

This group started a few years ago on the request of a few German-speaking compatriots wishing to keep or improve their French and is convened by members of the Groupe Romand.

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month they meet at the Swiss Club, where they converse in French for an hour before enjoying a meal (optional). For further details, please contact: Rémy Favre, 0412 135 095, remy@favrecranage.com

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 a Swiss who does, please contact us. We are here to help.

<https://swissocietyvic.org/>
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REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

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These Regional News Oceania pages have a circulation of 22,000 – 8,300 of which are printed copies. They are distributed to all Swiss Abroad households registered with the Swiss consular authorities in Australia and New Zealand.

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6/22 December	no regional edition	Fri, 09.12.22
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3/23 May	Tue, 18.04.23	Fri, 12.05.23
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6/23 December	no regional edition	Fri, 08.12.23

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

www.swiss.org.nz



Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.
Umbrella Organisation of Swiss Associations in Australia



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