

# REGIONAL EDITION

## AUSTRALIA

### Editorial

Dear Readers. Here is what you can expect in this edition:

- *First off, as you can see, the layout of our Swiss Review has undergone a facelift. In line with a more modern design with lots of white space, it should also improve readability on tablets with more suitable fonts than before. I hope you like it.*
- *Another ASO "Auslandschweizerkongress" has been held from August 16-18 2014 in Baden/Aarau. High on the agenda have been again, the Law for the Swiss Abroad and the Banks.*

- *We started a discussion to include all of Australasia in the Regional Edition starting with the December issue. This has been endorsed by the two Consulates/Embassies of AU&NZ and we like your opinion. Please join in the discussion on SwissCommunity. On our side, Meredith and I are slowly adapting to the Swiss Life. I hope I can stay connected with many of you and wish you all the best for 2015.*



MARC GODAT,  
REGIONAL EDITOR  
«AUSTRALIA»

### Consulate: Mobile Passport Station coming to SA and WA

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney is pleased to inform that it will operate a mobile passport station as follows:

- Adelaide on Tue 25 Nov 2014:  
Club of the Austrian Association  
of SA Inc.  
11-17 Torrens Road  
OVINGHAM SA 5082
- Perth from Thu-Fri 27-28 Nov 2014:  
Honorary Consul's office in Perth  
Prof. Jürg Weber  
85 Tyrell Street  
NEDLANDS, WA 6009

This procedure allows the collection of biometric data (photo, fingerprints and signature) necessary for new

Swiss travel documents. Please note that biometric data cannot be stored for future reference; a passport and/or ID-card will be issued after the data collection. Hence priority will be given to citizens whose passport has expired or will expire within the next 12 to 18 months.

Should you wish to apply for a Swiss travel document in Adelaide or Perth, please complete an online application before Friday, 31 October 2014, on the following website  
[www.schweizerpass.ch](http://www.schweizerpass.ch) or  
[www.passeportsuisse.ch](http://www.passeportsuisse.ch).

In the last field, under remark, please write where you wish to have your biometric data taken, either in Adelaide or in Perth.



Detailed information will be sent out upon receipt of your online application.

**Deadline to apply: Fri, 31 Oct 2014**

Alphorn Duo Irma & Chrigel Thalmann, Swiss National Day Celebrations, Melb. (Photo: Roland Isler)

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**ASO/CSA: Auslandschweizerkongress Baden/Aarau 2014**  
The Council of the Swiss Abroad met in Aarau on Fri, 15th Aug 2014, in a full day session. Main topics were:

- The Council's President, J-S Eggli, mentions that 155,000 Swiss Abroad have now registered to vote in Federal matters and the number is increasing. It goes without saying that the vote of the Swiss Abroad has an impact and Switzerland takes note of how the Swiss Abroad vote.
- On the matter of Swiss bank accounts for the Swiss Abroad, there is finally some movement: most delegates have reported in the past that they have been contacted by their fellow Swiss Abroad regarding cancellation of accounts by Swiss banks and about their difficulties regarding payments of Swiss pensions, mortgage loans and credit cards. The Swiss press have taken

up the plea of the Swiss Abroad and have commented positively on the resolution taken by the Council on that day, i.e. a resolution by the CSA to be submitted to the Federal Authorities. In summary, the Council urges the Federal Authorities to instruct the Swiss Government-owned PostFinance to enable the Swiss Abroad to open and to keep accounts in Switzerland, especially for old age pensions, education purposes, accounts to deal effectively with inheritance and to enable Swiss Abroad to negotiate mortgage loans. It goes without saying that the holders of such accounts in Switzerland must have declared their overseas monetary situation in their country of residence. This resolution was passed unanimously.

■ As to the new law of the Swiss Abroad, currently being debated in both Chambers of Swiss Federal Government, there is still the impasse of the duty to matriculate as Swiss Abroad with the Consulate / Embassy in their country of residence. The Council of the Swiss Abroad supports the obligation of the Swiss Abroad to register with the Swiss Representatives in their home country, a condition for receiving aid or support in case of need. The resolution in this respect was passed. In order to keep a strong relationship between the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss Authorities, the Council felt it of utmost importance to retain the obligation to register.

■ Electronic voting for the Swiss Abroad: a total of 13 cantons will be



ready for electronic voting in October 2015 on the occasion of the Federal Parliamentary Elections (about 70% of the registered voters will be able to vote electronically including the cantons of ZH, BE and VD).

BEAT KNOBLAUCH, CSA DELEGATE

The Gala evening at this year's ASO Congress at the castle of Lenzburg. Delegates and friends enjoyed the apero outside in the magnificent grounds and gardens.

### SwissCham: Events

- 5/11 Cruise with the EUs, Sydney
- 25/11 CH Delegation Dinner, Sydney
- 5/12 Swiss CEO dinner, Melbourne
- 10/12 EuroMix Eat, Meet & Gr. Sydney



SwissCham EuroMix Eat, Meet & Greet in Sydney and Melbourne 10 & 17 Sept 2014

### Victoria: Events

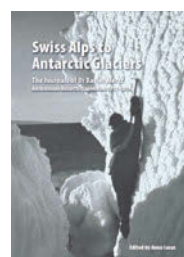
- 12/11 Mystery trip (Trachtengruppe)
  - 15/11 Swiss Italian Festa, Hepburn Sp.
- (more > [www.swissclubvictoria.com](http://www.swissclubvictoria.com))

### Swiss Club of Victoria

On Sep 11, the Swiss Club of Victoria proudly hosted the launch of the book 'Swiss Alps to Antarctic Glaciers'. Swiss Club member Anna Lucas set herself the challenge of producing a revised German transcript and an English translation of Mertz' expedition journals. Through this work, we are able to gain an insight into pioneering exploration and of the man, Dr Xavier Mertz, the 29-year-old mountaineer and ski champion from Basel and the first Swiss to set foot on this fascinating continent. To purchase a copy of the book please contact Anna Lucas on

[lucasmail2002@gmail.com](mailto:lucasmail2002@gmail.com).

Book Cover 'Swiss Alps to Antarctic Glaciers', launched at the Swiss Club of Victoria on Sep 11.



### Swiss Yodel Choir Matterhorn

On the Swiss National Day Picnic on Aug 3 in the grounds of the Austrian Club in Heidelberg West was again a great success. The formal celebrations were followed by folkloristic entertainment, with the inaugural performance by the newly formed Alphorn Duo Irma and Chrigel Thalman being a special highlight.

Our Choir will again take part in the Swiss Italian Festa.

### Trachtengruppe Schwyzergruess / Australian Swiss Cultural Society

Ladies in Swiss National Costumes and tables decorated with beautiful spring flowers welcomed the Seniors to the Kaffeeklatsch. To all our supporters, thank you for your generosity.

Nov 12 is the date for the annual mystery trip. I wish you all a happy and healthy festive Season.

### Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpenrose

The group will perform at nursing homes in Nov and we will enhance the program for the Seniors Christmas afternoon with a bit of folklore.

### South Australia: Events

- 10/10 Meet&Greet/Okt.fest, Ger.Club
- 17/10 AGM, Austrian Club, Ovingham
- 26/10 Wuerstli broetle, Kuitpo Forest
- 9/11 Bee Talk, Bridgewater
- 7/12 Samichlaus, Glover Park, Adel.

### Swiss Club of South Australia

The National Day Celebration was held at Claudia and Walter Preisig's place. A very big thank you to our hosts. Watching the native animals and listening to the Alphorn players was just out of this world. The delicious food and Gluehwein kept everybody happy. The kids enjoyed the big fire. The "Swiss Radio Corner" team were serving us at the Bar. Our AGM is booked for Oct 17 at the Austrian Club.

### Western Australia: Events

- Oct Annual Picnic
- 7/12 Samichlaus / Santa Claus

### Australian Capital Territory: Events

- 19/10 Jass Tournament
- Oct Film evening (tba)
- 7/12 AGM / Samichlaus



## Canberra Swiss Club

Spring in Canberra is an exciting time for soul and mind. It marks the end of winter and gives way to a season full of colours in 'Floriade', the flower festival bringing new life into the city. This is a fabulous time of the year. But that's not all, we have more reason to celebrate. The German Choral Festival 'Sängerfest 2014' is held for the first



'Crèmeschnitte Chörl' Canberra Swiss choir

time here in Canberra. Many choirs from across the country congregate and make Canberra come alive with the sound of music. If you have attended any of the events you probably still have music in your ears. Thanks to our enthusiastic conductor Geoff Roberts, for getting our 'Crèmeschnitte Chörl' ready and giving us a chance to experience being part of this festival.



Floriade in Canberra

## New South Wales: Events

- 31/10 Halloween Craft (Playgroup)
- 28/11 Christmas Craft (Playgroup)
- 29/11 Senior's Lunch (Yodelers)
- 6/12 Samichlaus, Neutr.Bay (Playgr)

## Swiss Play Group

The Swiss playgroup are meeting at the North Sydney Community Centre, 220 Miller St, on the last Friday of the month (unless school holidays) from 10 – 12, and on all other Fridays at various venues in Sydney.

## Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

This year's Swiss National Day celebrations were again held at the Castle Hill showgrounds. Another splendid sunny winter's day ensured that we had a record of about 1000 people enjoying the Swiss food, folklore and many attractions on offer.

On 29 November, we will perform at the Senior's lunch at the Concordia Club in Tempe.

Swiss Yodlers of Sydney



## Swiss Folk Dance Group Alpegruess: "World Cup Fever"

The dance group Alpegruess went all out for the world cup, being filmed on three occasions by SBS. Twice the group participated in fan club sessions where we sadly watched the Swiss team being defeated by France and then by Argentina as well.

While we did our best to cheer the team on, though games were at 3 am and 5 am in the morning, it was a tough ask when losses were high. We were invigorated one minute, ringing our cow bells furiously and then made long faces when things didn't go our way.



Swiss Dance Fan Tube at Bruno's (Source: SBS TV)

We also took part in the 'dance off' in the SBS studio. We performed a traditional Swiss folk dance and the Argentinians showed the tango. Comedian Jimoen was assigned to us, we managed to give him an exclusive Swiss experience.

It was much fun, tiring too, but with our traditional outfits we looked the part at all times.



Swiss Dance off (Source: SBS TV)



We thank the embassy for their support in providing red caps for us all and soccer jerseys to borrow.

**Queensland: Events**

- 19/10 Get together, New Farm
- 25/10 AGM, Des Alpes Rest, Mitchelton
- 16/11 Helpers & New Members BBQ
- 6/12 AGM & Xmas Lunch (SCCS)
- 6/12 Samichlaus & Grittibänz (Fraser)
- 6/12 XMas by Candlelight (Sunshine)
- 7/12 Samichlaus, Brisbane



Samichlaus with Grittibänzen, Fraser Coast

**Swiss Society of Queensland Inc.**

Our National day at the Samford Showground was a great success. We have vacated the clubhouse at 36 Austin St, New Farm, and currently looking for new suitable premises.

**Fraser Coast Swiss Group**

Samichlaus will be at Nicole and Ian's property in Bauple (camping possible).

Swiss Raclette, Fraser Coast



**Swiss Yodel & Folklore Group Baerg Roeseli**

We meet every second Thursday at 7.30pm to practice singing with our teacher, We have several opportunities to perform for the wider Swiss community, multicultural events as well as bookings for private functions.

**Swiss Club Sunshine Coast**

Members and non members of the Club celebrated the Swiss National Day on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 and the function was attended by 50 adults and 3 children. The evening started off with a cup of soup, followed by the traditional BBQ (Bratwurst or Cervelat & Bürli). A sumptuous dessert buffet rounded off the evening. This year's event was held again at the community hall at Kureelpa and the hall was decorated in the national colours of Switzerland and with flags, lampions and candle lights. A raffle was held as a fund raiser for the Club, the many lovely prizes on offer ensured that the ti-

ckets sold quickly. The recording of the address of the President of the Swiss Confederation could not be played, so the President of the Club, Hanni Kaech, gave a short resume of his speech. After the meal a sing-a-long livened up the evening.

The next scheduled function of the Club is the Christmas by Candlelight Dinner on 6 December 2014 at the Yandina RSL Hall. Members and non members are welcome.

Events for 2015 are not yet finalised but it is expected that the popular Games Night will again be held early in the new year. Dates and details of upcoming events will be listed on the Club's website.

Our regular monthly Luncheons (now ladies and gentlemen combined) on the first Friday of every month continues to be popular, meeting at a different venue on the Sunshine Coast every month to catch up and have a chat.



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