

# REGIONAL NEWS

## OCEANIA

### The value of the Swiss Abroad

What are the Swiss Abroad worth to Switzerland? Thoughts on that topic by Beat Knoblauch, delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad and Prof Dr Gianni D'Amato, Director, Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, University of Neuchâtel.

Dear Professor D'Amato,



I attended the 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Lucerne as one of the four Council Delegates from Australia.

I listened with great interest to your expose on migration and saw the many graphs, figures, underlining the importance of the issue of Swiss migration. Time did not allow for some questions or discussions, although the topic continues to be relevant to the Swiss Abroad.

Of late, some negative sentiments were mirrored in the Swiss Media, especially about AHV payments to the Swiss Abroad (and not paying thereon tax in CH). There are other bad will examples, perhaps jealously motivated, but it is not deniable that the Swiss Abroad have been vocal in their demands, such as for e-voting, representation, etc. But this is not the reason for my approach to you.

What the discussion should focus on is much more on the value-added component the Swiss Abroad bring to Switzerland. The amount of goodwill created, opportunities offered, spread of Swiss culture, ethics, arguing for democratic procedures in politics and in everyday life, development work, environmental assessments, scholarly pursuits, they are all perfect examples of achievements of the Swiss Abroad, from which Switzerland benefits to some extent. Yet, this very extent is the million-dollar question, how can it be measured and assessed?

I have no immediate solution on how to measure that phenomenon, but I would have liked to ask you this question in Lucerne. I have previously mentioned or put this question forward at Council meetings, but to no avail, it is a difficult one.

A serious attempt to assess this value adding function would already be a step in the right direction, in as much as it starts the discussion in a (for the Swiss Abroad) positive manner. The Media would then hopefully follow this trail.

Dear Professor D'Amato, I value very much your academic work on the subject of migration and I hope you find time and resources to work on this value-added aspect.

*Beat Knoblauch  
Council of the Swiss Abroad, Sydney*

Dear Mr. Knoblauch,



Thank you for reaching out and for your kind words regarding my presentation at the 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad. I appreciate your engagement and your thoughtful reflections on the topic of Swiss migration.

The topic of quantifying the value added by the Swiss Abroad is indeed pertinent and complex. The contributions you mentioned, such as fostering goodwill, promoting Swiss culture, and advocating for democratic principles, are invaluable. However, as you pointed out, measuring and assessing these contributions poses a significant challenge.

I agree that a serious attempt to assess this value-added function would be beneficial, both for understanding the impact of the Swiss Abroad and for positively shaping the ongoing discussion. Your suggestion to focus on this aspect is timely and relevant, and I appreciate your efforts to bring this to the attention of the Council.

I will certainly discuss this idea with my colleagues and experts in the field to explore potential approaches for evaluating these contributions. It is an important discussion that merits further exploration, and I am hopeful that we can identify some meaningful steps forward.

Thank you again for your interest and for highlighting this crucial aspect of Swiss migration.

Kindest regards,

*Gianni D'Amato, Prof. Dr.  
Director, Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies,  
University of Neuchâtel*



Swiss Community

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA)

Best wishes for 2025  
to all Swiss in Oceania

To the registered Swiss living in Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu



# Election of Australian\* delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Term 2025-2029

## The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA)

The CSA consists of a network of 140 delegates, 20 from within Switzerland and 120 from abroad. It is a key institution for the Swiss diaspora, playing a crucial role in connecting Switzerland and its citizens around the world, and in advocating for your interests, rights, and welfare.

The CSA's work extends beyond political advocacy to issues such as ensuring that the Swiss Abroad are supported by providing relevant information and advice, fostering a connected Swiss community, or in times of emergency. Its lobbying efforts aim to elevate the voice of the diaspora within Swiss federal politics, ensuring that your concerns are addressed and contributions recognised.

As a Swiss residing in any of the above-mentioned countries, you are part of a global community that the members of CSA work tirelessly to connect and defend. It's through the Council's efforts that the unique challenges and opportunities facing Swiss expatriates are brought to the forefront of the Swiss national discourse. The CSA's commitment to your representation and welfare exemplifies the strength and unity of the Swiss community across borders and strengthens the bond between Switzerland and its citizens abroad.

The CSA's dedication to increasing political participation among the Swiss Abroad is demonstrated through its advocacy

for the introduction of e-voting. Initiatives such as the direct democratic election of its delegates further underscores its commitment to inclusiveness and representation.

To find out more about the CSA, go to [www.swissallianceaustralia.org/council-of-the-swiss-abroad-csa](https://www.swissallianceaustralia.org/council-of-the-swiss-abroad-csa)

## Election of delegates (and deputy) representing Australia, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Based on the number of registered Swiss living in our region – about 26,550 – Australia\* holds four seats on the Council. Delegates are elected for a term of four years; the current term will expire in August this year.

The four candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as full members of the CSA. Provided the mandate is accepted, the candidate with the fifth highest number of votes will be elected deputy. If the mandate is refused, it shall go to the candidate next in line. The deputy has full voting rights at Council meetings when deputising for a CSA delegate. The deputy is also encouraged to cooperate in CSA tasks as required. Should a seat become vacant mid-term, the deputy can assume the position of elected delegate for the remainder of the term.

## Direct election via e-voting

The election next year will be carried out entirely by electronic means (e-voting), using a Swiss e-voting system. This will ensure that every eligible Swiss citizen will have the possibility to choose their representatives.

The election will be conducted by the **Swiss Alliance Australia Inc (SAA)** on behalf of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), with the assistance of the Swiss Federal Government (FDFA) and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney. The election coordinator is Claude Alain Staub, former SAA president and current committee member.

## Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote you must:

- be a Swiss citizen residing in Australia\*;
- be 18 years and over;
- be registered with the Swiss Consulate General in Sydney;
- have a current email address.

**Ensure the Consulate General has your up-to-date details!**

## Call for candidates to stand for election

**To be an elected delegate or deputy delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad is a rewarding and important voluntary role serving your community.**

Anyone that fulfils the following eligibility criteria is strongly encouraged to apply standing for election.

To be eligible to stand for election, candidates must:

- be a Swiss citizen (or dual citizen) living in Australia\*;
- be 18 years and over;
- be registered with the Swiss Consulate General in Sydney;
- demonstrate an interest and commitment to the Swiss community in Australia\*;
- be prepared to serve for the term 2025–2029;
- 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);
- be willing to travel to Switzerland for Council meetings once or twice a year, at own travel and accommodation arrangements (CSA receive a modest attendance fee and expense allowance, provided the finances of the OSA allow this) and attend other online meetings as required;
- be prepared to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of a Council member as stated in the OSA Duty List (Pflichtenheft/Cahier des charges) – a copy of which is available here ➔ [www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org);
- be prepared to be a non-executive committee member of the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

## How to apply to stand as a candidate

If you meet the aforementioned qualifications and would like to apply to stand for election, please go to the SAA website [www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org) and download an application form. The completed application must be received by the election coordinator, Claude Alain Staub, on [info@shiftingnirvana.com](mailto:info@shiftingnirvana.com) by COB 15 February 2025.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 15 FEBRUARY**

## Election timeline

### ■ 15 February

Application deadline for candidates.

### ■ 30 March

Email sent by FDFA to all voters. Important information for the upcoming election.

### ■ 11 April

All eligible candidates standing for election will be announced in the 2/25 (April) issue of the Swiss Review, as well via the SAA website and social media.

### ■ 12 April

Email with voting instructions sent by FDFA to voters. Online ballot box opens.

### ■ 11 May

Online ballot box closes.

### ■ 19 May

Election results submitted by BFH (Berner Fachhochschule) to OSA.

### ■ 23 May

Communication of results by OSA.

### ■ 21 August

Constitutive meeting of the newly elected Council.

(Please note, these dates may be subject to change)

## Further information

Further information is available on the SAA website [www.swissallianceaustralia.org](http://www.swissallianceaustralia.org) or from the election coordinator, Claude Alain Staub, on [info@shiftingnirvana.com](mailto:info@shiftingnirvana.com)

*\* Includes Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu*

## Community News and Events

### NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

The Singing and Entertainment Group have hosted several organisations or groups for lunch, entertainment and afternoon tea at our club house. They are certainly appreciated by the people coming who love the food, enjoy the entertainment and love the interaction created. Our menus vary, and all guests appreciate the Swiss sausages and love our Swiss salad dressing!

We held another successful Senior's Social Day on 6 November and we find it such a privilege to see our members and friends enjoying the company of similar Kiwi-Swiss people. A tasty lunch followed by entertainment and afternoon tea is always appreciated by everyone. Once again, this has been a successful way of promoting our Swiss culture and our club, and it's amazing to see so many Kiwi-Swiss from around the mountain come along.

On 24 November we held our Christmas Shoot / Kegeln with a great muster of people ready to enjoy the start of the Festive Season. The children made Christmas crackers which looked terrific and colourful. This was a wonderful social day and many thanks to everyone who came along.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**06&20/02:** Kegeln recommences for 2025, starting at 7.30pm. These are wonderful, social evenings with a bit of sport, plenty of chat, a good laugh and a great supper.

**09/02:** Our annual picnic which attracts a large crowd is such an enjoyable, social event. Swiss music, Swiss barbecued cervelas and bratwurst, schwingen (Swiss wrestling), a Swiss tombola together with plenty of other activities ... please come along and enjoy catching up with friends and making new acquaintances. A day not to be missed!

**03/03:** Annual General Meeting of the Taranaki Swiss Club at 7.30pm. Come along and hear what happened in the past year and look forward to the functions in the coming year.

**06&20/03:** Kegeln again, from 7.30pm.

**16/03:** Championship and Society Shoots, from 11am

### ACT: Canberra Swiss Club

The club held a successful **Cheese Tasting Event:** 6 cheeses paired with 3 wines. Starting with an indulgent triple brie and a soft marinated goat's cheese with a crisp Sauvignon Blanc, then a mature sharp cheddar and crumbly Welsh Caerphilly with a buttery Chardonnay, finished with a dry cured Spanish cheese and a classic Gruyère with a berry Pinot Noir

**Samichlaus and Schmutzli** came once again to visit and bring treats to all the good Swiss children in the Capital.

The AGM brought some changes in the Committee, with Sonja Gasser now as President and Werner Albrecht as Vice-President, and two former Presidents re-joining: Heinz Buettikofer and Chris Heiniger as Committee members.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**07-10/03: Weekend Away.** Take a tour of the Wombeyan Caves, join a bushwalk overlooking a remarkable natural rock formation, and enjoy the abundant native wildlife. Cook a BBQ, Raclette, and Rösti. Book your own accommodation at the Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve: they have cabins as well as camp grounds. All welcome. For queries or to let us know you're coming, email [canberraswissclub@gmail.com](mailto:canberraswissclub@gmail.com).

### SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

**28/02: Stefan Roos Live in Adelaide!** Entry is free! Austrian Club opens at 6pm for dinner, 11-17 Torrens Road, Ovingham. Bookings with Sybille on 0427 234 350.

**03/05: Fondue Night!** Details to be announced.

Make sure you check out our website ([swissclubsa.org.au](http://swissclubsa.org.au)) for dates and further event information.

### QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Wishing everybody a healthy, happy and exciting 2025 with family and friends. The older we get the more important it is to make the effort to keep in touch and support each other far away from our homeland.

31 of us celebrated 'Samichlaus/Wienacht' in the Bolton Clark Retirement Village Hall with 'Züri Gschneetzlets and Rösti' and amazing deserts. 10 lovely, funny Grittibänz entered the baking competition. Sadly, Santa was a 'no show' so we had to give the contributed gifts away ourselves.



Restaurant lunch on the 15th of each month is an ongoing event and is usually attended by 25-30 Swaussions.

Saturday jass group and irregular Thursday jassers enjoy the game. Some practising for the NZ Jassmeisterschaft in February.

The organisers: Cecile 0409 286 326, Urs 0412 908 456

### WA: Swiss Club of WA

We hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2025.

The AGM of the Swiss Club of WA was held on 10 November at the North Perth Bowling Club. There have been some changes to the committee. We thank



Philippe Bossert, Treasurer and Organiser of many events, for his service to the club. He has decided that after many years on the committee it is time for someone new to take over the finances. Therefore, we welcome Claude Bratschi as the new Treasurer to the committee. We also welcome Duncan Reid as the Vice-President, and Leon Maag as a general committee member. Andre Villemin, Karin Villemin, Marlis Wimmer, Eric Koch and Pierre Bratschi have decided to continue for another year.

On 1 December many families, members and friends of the club gathered at Perry Lakes for the annual visit from Samichlaus/Père Noël/Santa.

The children waited with anticipation for Samichlaus to arrive and sat patiently for their turn to be called



up. After a short chat with the man in red all received a bag with treats such as roasted peanuts and Mailänderli. Thanks again Samichlaus for visiting. The Alphorn players (see photo above) were enjoyed by everyone, and some even tried to extract some sounds out of the horn, after their performance. Many thanks go to Reto Apblanalp for his delicious Bratwurst and Cervelat. For many a special treat. Many thanks also have to go to Jean-Claude from Chez Jean-Claude Patisserie for the special Nussgipfel/almond croissant and Farmers bread.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**20/04:** Easter Picnic at Gidgegannup.

**17/05:** Fondue, venue to be determined.

#### VIC: Swiss Society of Victoria

The Swiss Society of Victoria is a charity run by volunteers which has been supporting individuals and various Swiss benevolent community organisations in Victoria. Its members are helping Swiss navigate the age care network, visiting socially isolated or sick persons and driving them to various destinations, especially around Christmas time, which gives them a sense of mobility. The Society also covered medical expenses, helped out with walking equipment and supported the elderly, especially those who lost a partner.

If you feel like donating your time to the Swiss community, old and young, please contact the President, Susan Brealey-Chatelain on [brealey@bigpond.net.au](mailto:brealey@bigpond.net.au) or our Vice-President, Sylvia Hochuli on [hochuli@tpg.com.au](mailto:hochuli@tpg.com.au). We welcome new members of all ages. If you know of a Swiss person who could benefit from the Swiss Society, please let us know.

[swissocietyvic.org](http://swissocietyvic.org)

#### VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Many of our enthusiastic choir members enjoyed the traditional Melbourne Cup weekend getaway at Falls Creek where there was plenty of singing, walking, laughing and general camaraderie. The weather was perfect and the lodge was almost completely booked out exclusively by our group.

After returning from the 5-day break, it was time for the AGM/end of year Members Christmas breakup and the usual performance at the Swiss Club for the Seniors which never disappoints.

Last year the Choir had two public performances; other than their regular Swiss Community based performances. These were so well received that they have been inspired to branch out and are actively seeking to include more public performances in 2025 and into the future.

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The choir have practice sessions bi-weekly and we welcome new members. We are a friendly group who enjoy practicing and performing traditional Swiss Yodel songs.

If you are interested in joining, or would like to have further information please call Chris on 0428 427 434. Perhaps you would like to come along and just see how things work? No pressure! Chris will be happy to talk to you and invite to come along to meet the singers.

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

### VIC: Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess ASCS

The annual Christmas Afternoon Tea hosted by the Swiss Club and the Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess was another fabulous afternoon spent with old friends and new ones.

We had a wonderful time sharing each other's company and enjoyed a terrific afternoon tea together.



We would like to thank all the volunteers and most of all our sponsor, the Swiss Society, for helping make the event such a success.

On behalf of the Trachtengruppe Schwyzerguess, I wish everyone a healthy and peaceful New Year.

SYLVIA HOCHULI OAM, PRESIDENT

### NSW: Cercle Romand

The committee of the Cercle Romand in Sydney wishes you all a Happy and Healthy 2025!



The first event of the year not to be missed is the **Petanque & Brunch**. It is a fun day in the beautiful Ballast Point Park in Birchgrove. We invite all Swiss living or visiting Sydney. Save the date for Sunday, 23 February, from 11 am. Don't miss out! The invitation will be sent to all members by the end of January, so keep an eye on your inbox. For non-members, check the website, where you will find all the information about the event.

**Out to the Movie** is the March event. In conjunction with the French Film Festival in Sydney, we will meet in Leichhardt on Sunday, 30 March, to view one of the French films showing at the festival. We are waiting for the program's release, and we will keep our members informed of the time and film selected. Following the screening, we will enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.

More information of our scheduled events can be found on our website: [www.cercleromand.com.au](http://www.cercleromand.com.au)

### NSW: Port Macquarie Region

We were having an early Christmas celebration at the end of November and I was happy to see so many smiling and

excited faces, welcoming also some newcomers. Everybody had a wonderful time and it's just so nice to see friendships being formed.

Our next get-together will be on Sunday, 2 February at 12 noon at the Port City Bowling Club, Drift Restaurant. Please keep an eye on your inbox for the invite. 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](mailto:SwissHastings@yahoo.com)

I look forward hearing from you.

ANITA FOSTER

### NSW: Swiss Club of NSW



On Sunday, 8 December, **Samichlaus and Schmutzli** made a cheerful visit to approximately 15 Swiss children and their families at Robson Park in Haberfield. Samichlaus and Schmutzli made a somewhat unusual entrance on their motorbike ringing Christmas bells. Schmutzli was carrying his broom, made of creepy branches, and a large sack full of presents.

On 16 December, approximately 30 Swiss



Club of NSW members gathered at The Royal Leichhardt for an **Usplampete**, a last get-together to celebrate the end of the year. The Swiss Club gifted all attendees a Christmas säckli filled with Christmas biscuits and chocolates. This small, but delicious gift to our members was to thank them for another year of supporting their Club and Swiss community.

The Swiss Club would like to sincerely thank again all our members and friends who have supported us this year. Your continual support in the form of renewing memberships, attending events, volunteering, and generous donations means that we can continue to function as a Club and offer events for the Swiss community in NSW. We wish you all the best in the new year and hope it brings you much happiness and prosperity.

### NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney gathered together for their Annual General Meeting on 25 November at the Willoughby Hotel in North Willoughby. There were no significant changes, with the current committee continuing on for another year. On top of taking care of the meeting formalities, we enjoyed a lovely dinner and sang the songs 'Bärg-Arve' and 'Kamerade'. It was also a delight to see honorary member Rösli Kaufmann join us for



From left to right: Ruth Wüst, Karin & John Attewell, Alois & Bronwen Kretz, Stefan Nauer, Daniel Hofmann, Anita Nauer

### NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

As I start writing this, it is January 1st, and I am feeling that staying up until 2.30am is not my thing anymore. However, my husband and I enjoyed celebrating the end of 2024 and start of 2025 with a group of mostly Swiss people at a really lovely NYE party. I hope that you too have begun the new year with joy and confidence. I hope that the world as a whole does not get into too many more upheavals. Let us personally be peaceful and do our best as individuals to contribute to the wellbeing of the planet. Everybody can save on electricity and create less, rather than more rubbish and dispose of it responsibly.

Talking of staying up until 2.30am reminds me of other facts relating to getting older, like for instance downsizing, but I can use that topic another time. Also, I shouldn't just write about concerns relating to the elderly, since SCCS is a society for Swiss people of all ages. Whether someone is retired or 20 years young, if a person is in a difficult situation where he or she needs help which we could provide, we would certainly consider assisting. Our ways of support look quite diverse, from financial to social. To find out more, go to our [website www.swissccs.org.au](http://www.swissccs.org.au)

With best wishes for 2025.

REGULA SCHEIDEGGER

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

#### If you live in country NSW you may like to get in touch with one of our Rural Coordinators:

|                          |                         |              |                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Newcastle/Hunter Valley: | Rita Schaad             | 02 4956 2272 | ritama.schaad@gmail.com         |
| Gosford/Central Coast:   | Hans Lang               | 0425 206 534 | hanslang57@hotmail.com          |
|                          | Peter Meury             | 02 4388 4809 | petermeury@bigpond.com          |
| Armidale:                | Heinz Hauptli           | 0417 446 542 | heinz.hauptli@bigpond.com       |
| Coonabarabran:           | Herbert Würsch          | 02 6842 8278 |                                 |
| Wagga Wagga:             | Elisabeth Rorrison      | 0488 909 031 | jrerfdozemail.com.au            |
|                          | John Rorrison           | 0409 319 090 | jrerfdozemail.com.au            |
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| Ballina:                 | Hans Schaffner          | 0448 308 146 | hschaffner@bigpond.com          |
| South Coast:             | Monica Kampfer          | 02 4473 6608 | mkampfer@bigpond.com            |

our meeting, who previously sang with our Yodlers. It was wonderful for the choir to catch up with her, reminiscing about old times, and also to introduce Rösli to the latest members Michael, Karina and Josephine that joined us in 2024. After a nice break in December and January, we look forward to be back together again in February 2025 for our weekly Monday night practices.

On the 28 November, a few of us were fortunate to briefly meet a charming couple from Berner Oberland, Stefan & Anita Nauer, who were on a tight schedule travelling extensively throughout Australia. Stefan yodels with the Chörli Zollikofen, as well as being conductor of the Yodelling Choir Chutzjodler in Gerzensee, Canton Bern. It was incredible to hear him perform one of his songs solo, as well as his wife Anita joining him for another traditional song! Both had remarkable skill, and it was amazing to meet and hear them.

For 2025, we plan to make improvements to our website, and also hope to perform more than we had last year. We will update our website [swissyodlersofsydney.org](http://swissyodlersofsydney.org) with the latest information. Stay tuned!

# Swiss connection with Antarctica

## Switzerland – a Polar Nation?

Switzerland, although landlocked and thousands of kilometres from the poles began exploring the poles as far back as the 19th century.

In 1912, the Swiss meteorologist and polar researcher Alfred de Quervain led a team of explorers for the first time from West to East across the Greenland ice sheet.

The Mertz Glacier in East Antarctica, one of the research stops of the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE) that took place in 2016/17, is named after Swiss researcher Xavier Mertz.

## Swiss excellence in polar research

Since then, the Swiss scientific community has actively participated in multinational collaborations and international science programs, becoming a world leader in the field of polar research. Swiss scientists feature among the world leaders in polar research.

Switzerland's glaciers, ice and snow have shaped the country's landscapes and people, and given rise to outstanding high-altitude research. Research on high altitude and high latitude regions is mutually beneficial; the characteristics and applications of Swiss high-altitude research bear a close resemblance to polar research.

The Swiss Polar Institute typifies the Swiss grass-roots approach to research. It is the result of an initiative by passionate and dedicated individuals who work with Swiss research institutions. The Swiss government is delighted to be able to support such initiatives.

One such dedicated scientist is Dr Jessica Studer. She is the Swiss ESA-sponsored medical doctor (MD) of DC20, the twentieth crew to spend



a winter at Concordia research station, which lies on the Dome C plateau of Antarctica ➔ <https://bit.ly/4h5onaw>. Jessica has spent a winterover from 2023 to 2024 doing biomedical research in Concordia, a place more remote than the International Space Station. Read Jessica's blog here ➔ <https://bit.ly/3VZB0wu>

The Swiss Polar Institute is a good example of the many research platforms established and led by Swiss researchers, bringing together research excellence from all around the world to expand scientific knowledge.

The **Mertz Fellowship program** is designed to encourage the active involvement of early-career researchers in polar and high-altitude science, and to promote synergies between Swiss and Australian higher education and research institutions through scientific networking and joint projects. The Fellowship program is implemented in collaboration with the Swiss Polar Institute and managed by the Embassy of Switzerland in Australia.

## Switzerland's commitment towards Antarctica

The Antarctic Treaty System entered into force in 1961. It regulates international relations with respect to Antarctica, earth's only continent without a native human population. The treaty sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation, and bans military activity on the continent. Today the treaty unites 53 parties, with Switzerland joining in 1990.

The Antarctic Treaty stipulates that Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only, thus dedicating an entire continent to scientific research and international cooperation. Results from Antarctic research have to be exchanged and made widely available. The first project of the Swiss Polar Institute underlines and strengthens these endeavours.

Switzerland's involvement in the Polar Regions is part of its foreign policy objectives: Swiss science diplomacy endeavours to open doors for our researchers abroad, to contribute to the worldwide promotion of Swiss expertise in research and innovation and to create new scientific cooperation schemes worldwide.

Both the Antarctic Treaty and the Arctic Council embody objectives shared by Swiss foreign policy, namely, to actively contribute to stability and peace in the world. Science has no borders.

Raising of the Swiss flag at Concordia Station in Antarctica. Photo Credit: Jessica Studer

## REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

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|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1-January  | Mon, 06.01         | Fri, 31.01     |
| 2-April    | Mon, 17.03         | Fri, 11.04     |
| 3-July     | Mon, 23.06         | Fri, 18.07     |
| 4-October  | Mon, 08.09         | Fri, 03.10     |
| 5-December | Mon, 17.11         | Fri, 19.12     |

Visit the umbrella organisations in New Zealand and Australia for community news and information, as well as links to Swiss Clubs, Community Groups, Professional Organisations and Consular Representations in Oceania:



**The Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.**  
Established 1935

[www.swiss.org.nz](http://www.swiss.org.nz)



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