

REGIONAL NEWS

OCEANIA

Editorial: Elections of CSA delegates in Australia

It's time to vote! Campaigning has begun for the election of the four Australian* representatives on the Council of Swiss Abroad for the term 2025–2029. Voters have the choice between nine candidates (including yours truly!). A short version of each candidate's profile is published here in alphabetical order, starting with the current delegates that are seeking re-election. To read their full profile go to www.swissallianceaustralia.org/candidates. LOOK OUT FOR THE EMAIL WITH VOTING INSTRUCTIONS SENT BY THE FDFA ON 12 APRIL.

ROLAND ISLER REGIONAL EDITOR OCEANIA



Election of Australian* delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the term 2025–2029



ROLAND ISLER

Place of Residence: Melbourne, VIC

Profession: Graphic Designer – Head of Print Services, Caulfield Grammar School

Interests:

- Politics and Current Affairs
- History and the Arts
- The Swiss in Australia – early immigration to present
- Archery

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Hon. Life Member and Past-President of the Swiss Club of Victoria
- Life Member of the Swiss Society of Victoria Inc.
- Elected member of the CSA since 2009
- *Swiss Review* Regional Editor for Oceania since 2017
- Founding Vice-President of the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Profile/Motivation

I represent the Swiss in Australia with commitment and passion, focusing on strengthening connections and relationships, information exchange and finding solutions for issues that are important to Swiss Abroad.

See also: <https://roland62342.wixsite.com/election>



BEAT KNOBLAUCH

Place of Residence: Sydney, NSW

Profession: Company Director, Financial & Business Consultant

Interests: Political affairs in Switzerland and Australia. Geopolitics. History. Collector of early views of Sydney and Australian Aboriginal art. Follower of all matters concerning Swiss Abroad.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Past-President of Swiss University Graduates Australia
- Past President & Vice President Swiss-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Vice President Swiss Community Care Society
- Speaker and Participant on various Seminars in Switzerland and Australia on Migration and Direct Investment (via Austrade)
- Attaché to Swiss Paralympic Team, Sydney, 2000.

Profile/Motivation

Delegate since 2009. Support electronic voting and access to Swiss Banking. Promote value-added function generated by Swiss Abroad. Initiated Umbrella Organisation for Australian-Swiss clubs for better impact. Plans to digitize all Swiss Club Archives.

See also: <https://knoblauch.com.au/>



CARMEN TROCHSLAR

Place of Residence: Adelaide, SA

Profession: Business Consultant & Swiss Lawyer, MLaw (St Gallen) MBA (Adelaide)

Interests: Exploring Australia with family & friends, outdoor sport, photography, reading, politics & current affairs.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Member of the Swiss Club of South Australia
- Board Director Swiss Chamber of Commerce
- Co-Founder and Committee Member Swiss Alliance Australia
- Elected Member of the CSA & OSA Board Member, representing Australia
- Through my roles I engage in various ways with individuals, Swiss Clubs, companies & representations across the country and have built strong personal and working relationships.

Profile/Motivation

I am passionate about reducing challenges and creating positive outcomes for the Swiss Abroad. My legal background, extensive experience and networks in both countries, and my open approach help drive change.

See also: <https://bit.ly/4bAF1xm>

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 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.



THOMAS HOFER

Place of Residence: Perth, WA

Profession: Security Specialist, Entrepreneur, Former Police Detective

Interests:

- International Relations and Community Development
- Security and Risk Management
- Geo-politics and Global Policy Trends
- Cultural Exchange and Swiss-Australian Networking

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

Since relocating to Australia, I have actively engaged with Swiss-Australian networks to foster cultural exchange. I am a member of the Swiss Club in Perth and actively participate in its events, strengthening connections within the community. Additionally, I am a member of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

Profile/Motivation

Proud of my Swiss heritage and the values of precision, excellence, and innovation, I am passionate about representing and advocating for the interests of Swiss citizens in Australia. With a strong background in law enforcement, security, and leadership, I am well-equipped to address the needs and challenges of the Swiss community.

See also: <https://bit.ly/43N1TaK>



JOHANNES LE COUTRE

Place of Residence: Sydney, NSW

Profession: Professor

Interests:

- Academia: Science, Education, Community building
- Food Science, Nutrition, Food Security
- Economy in all three sectors
- Personal: Family, Friends, (regatta) sailing

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

Since 2019 I am a Member of SwissCham. Through my professional activities we started to build a teaching interaction between Nestlé and UNSW. In 2024 the CEO of Nestlé Oceania gave a guest lecture to food science students. Moreover, we are building a collaboration with Swiss based Sail & Explore Association to address microplastics in sea water and food. Finally, by now we have many Swiss Friends in Australia.

Profile/Motivation

Combining Switzerland's world-leading innovation and manufacturing with Australia's resource-driven economy presents vast opportunities. I'm passionate about building collaboration for mutual benefit.

See also: <https://bit.ly/428uFBp>



NICOLAS MACK

Place of Residence: Kiribati

Profession: Retired Professional

Interests:

- Politics
- Cooking
- Guests hosting
- Music
- Reading
- Movies and Series

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

Two other Swiss citizens (including my wife) live here in Kiribati. Sometimes we all celebrate August 1st together on our terrace above the lagoon with a fondue. In our guesthouse we have already been able to accommodate and feed some family members, tourists and sailors from Switzerland. In Australia, I only have contact with two families that I know from the time when we were all still living in Switzerland.

Profile/Motivation

I would like to support the needs for Swiss living abroad. For example fight against the rip-off banking fees and make the E-Voting finally possible.

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.

Election timeline

- **12 April:** Email with voting instructions sent by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (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

➔ www.swissallianceaustralia.org/csa-election-2025 or from the election coordinator, Claude Alain Staub, on info@shiftingnirvana.com

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



Check out the full profile of each candidate here

➔ <https://bit.ly/4hBYZcc>



MICHAEL MATTHEY

Place of Residence: Sydney, NSW

Profession: Software Engineer

Interests:

Sailing, Windsurfing, Winging, Kiting, Surfing, Swimming, Skiing, Snowboarding, Tennis, Rugby League, Maths, Physics, Quantum Physics, AI, Quantum computing, Electronics, Software development & Cloud computing, Science & education

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

I came at the same time as four other Swiss friends in 1985 and then immigrated in 1991 and have met numerous European & Swiss people since.

Profile/Motivation

I am a 60 year old Swiss and Australian citizen who loves the beach, sea and sun. I am also an experienced Software developer with my own Software development company, mainly developing websites and mobile phone apps these days.



MARTIN SCARPINO

Place of Residence: Sydney, NSW

Profession: CEO SwissCham

Interests:

- Swiss and International Politics
- Swiss Culture
- Swiss Societies
- Jass
- Travel
- Motorbike Riding

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

- Board member of Swiss Alliance, Founding Member
- Board member of the Swiss Community Care Society NSW, since 2022
- Member of the Swiss Yodellers, since 1999, (president from 2002 to 2008)
- CEO of the Swiss Australian Chamber of Commerce, since 2017

Profile/Motivation

I am involved with the Swiss Community, have multiple touchpoints with the other OSA members, was the Vote OSA Coordinator in 2021 and I am interested to represent Switzerland in Australia.

See also: <https://bit.ly/4kp4PQZ>



BARBARA ZINGG

Place of Residence: Broome, WA

Profession: I have a background in marketing and advertising. But in Broome I work as a clinical administrator

Interests: Living in the Kimberleys has allowed me to embrace nature, but also stay engaged with the community here, where I enjoy sharing my love for the outdoors, cooking, and making lasting memories with people who share similar passions.

What is your connection and/or involvement in the Swiss community in Australia?

My connection to the Swiss community in Australia is based on both personal and professional ties. Having lived in Australia for several years, I've actively sought to maintain and strengthen my Swiss heritage through cultural events and by connecting with fellow Swiss expatriates. I also engage with local networks, promoting cross-cultural exchange and supporting initiatives that bring the Swiss-Australian community closer together.

Profile/Motivation

I moved from Zürich to Broome, enhancing my appreciation for genuine connections and simplicity. My Swiss government experience offers insights into e-voting and cultural connectivity.

Community News and Events

NZ: Taranaki Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

The Taranaki Swiss Club held its' annual picnic on 9 February with a huge crowd enjoying beautiful, sunny weather as well as the schwingen, bottle fishing, pony rides, face painting and our little playground. As always, the schwingen is the highlight of the day with 32 children and adults participating.



We held our Annual General Meeting on 3 March, and thankfully all committee members were re-elected. We heard about our events held over the past year, and what we can look forward to in the coming year. Our President, Othmar, thanked everyone who helps in any way to the running of our club events; we do appreciate all your support.



Members of our club participated in the parade at the Hawera Show and also the Multi-ethnic parade in New Plymouth, with a great muster at both. It is always wonderful to see children in beautiful costumes participating, and we thank their parents and grandparents for encouraging them to come along. This is another way to positively promote our club, and the culture and traditions we foster.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

13&27/04: Jassen recommences for the season, so come along and give it a go!

17/04: Kegeln starts at 7.30pm. Do join this fun-loving group of people who love a chat, fun, laughter, a bit of sport and a lovely supper!

27/04: Society and Championship Shoots will be held from 11.00am. Please come along and support our small bore shooting group!

01&15/05: Kegeln again, from 7.30pm.

07/05: Our popular Senior's Social Day will be held with the hall open from 11.00am. Enjoy a lovely lunch, entertainment and then afternoon tea, and a chat with friends is always a pleasure!

17/05: Our fabulous Fondue Evening – the delectable Fondue or cervelas and a huge variety of salads will be served from 6pm to 8pm.

18/05: The Swiss Society sports competitions will be held from 11.00am, with shot put, shooting, kegeln and jassen.

25/05: Jassen again ... please come and join this group of avid card players, who I'm sure will help you along!

31/05: We will heading to Hamilton to attend the Swiss Society Cowbell Competition and the Swiss Society of New Zealand Incorporated Annual General Meeting. This is always a great weekend to meet fellow Kiwi-Swiss from throughout NZ!

NZ: Hamilton Swiss Club

Member, Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc.

JASS TOURNAMENT

The downunder Jass Tournament took place on 15 February ... wow what a day we had! After months of planning and organising we had 76 Jassers arriving to the Hamilton Working Men's Club, 32 Australians, 42 New Zealanders and 2 from Switzerland. With all our



competitiveness, the Kiwis could not pick up the top prizes!!! We congratulate the Aussies top-seated Doris Conrad (VIC) with 7032 points, followed by Martin Weber (VIC) with 7010 points and 3rd Walter Muller (QLD) with 6858 points. Willy Felder (QLD) was awarded the highest score of the day. Well done to the winners and all the participants!

Shall let you all know when I hear news of the next Tournament happening in Australia. Until then, keep jassing!

WILLETTA STAHELI

NZ: Otago/Southland

In early March, we held a lunch gathering in Dunedin. Thanks to a great summer's day, we were able to spend the time outside basking in the sunshine. The venue was formerly a bowling club which also gave us a nice flat lawn on which to play a few games (Kubb, anyone?).

The firepit meant we were able to give the cervelas their deserved "brätle" treatment. Accompanied by fresh bread, salads and with fruit chueche/wähe for dessert, we had a feast! We hope to make this event an annual one.

At the same time, we were fortunate to

host Zita Ballaman from the Embassy. Good timing meant she was in town for a Dunedin Symphony Orchestra concert the night before the picnic which was superb. Thank you for travelling down south!

SA: Swiss Club of South Australia

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

For something new this year, we will start with a reflection on one of the highlights of 2024... A weekend spent representing the Swiss Club of South Australia at the SAA Oceania Swiss Clubs Conference in Sydney. Here is an overview:

Firstly, to the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc. organising committee – thank you for bringing us all together. As a group, we are uniquely positioned to appreciate exactly how much effort goes into organising events, so thank you, truly. As well as a great excuse to dust off the Swiss language skills, being invited to be a part of the conference wearing many hats – as a community leader, a thought provocateur and a workshop facilitator – made it all the more fun! My key conference takeaway was our unpacking of the question, “What has changed (what have we observed) since the early days of Swiss Clubs?” Here is what we found:

1. Technology. Love it or hate it, technology has fundamentally disrupted the way in which we connect with each other. It now sometimes replaces the social connections that clubs once provided, and allows us to stay in touch with those back in CH more easily.

2. Ease of travel. With changes in work-visa requirements and work packages, the number of Swiss migrating to AUS appears to have decreased, while the number of 2nd and 3rd generation Swausies is increasing.

3. Shorter commitments. We are more hesitant to commit ahead of time, and have changed our expectations about what we are willing to give / get from a club, in our time poor lives.

4. Globalisation is challenging traditional concepts of patriotism, as many people identify with more than one culture.

Whilst this might sound like a long list of challenges, the energy in the room was one of collective relief – “it’s not just me, others are seeing this shift too”. A big thank you to all who participated for being

open to sharing their experiences and observations, so that we can collectively benefit and follow this insight into action. My contemplation going forward: How do we accept this and ‘roll with resistance’ (to borrow from the psychological phrasing) to re-establish new expectations of our communities, clubs and committees? One to ponder!

JESS GYSIN-WEBSTER

QLD: Fraser Coast Swiss Group

Hervey Bay had a no warning ‘surprise’ flood due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Starting Sunday, 9 March from 4am non-stop heavy rain caused the esplanade areas and roads outside town to get flooded. No damage to Swiss properties was reported.

Jassers still meet Saturdays and irregularly on Thursdays.

Easter bunny date to be announced ‘under construction’. Hoping to see coloured eggs for egg popping.

Congratulations to New Zealand Taranaki and Hamilton Swiss Club Presidents, wives and helpers, who organised a wonderful Jass Tournament, provided warm hospitality and cared for us Aussie participants for 10 days with sightseeing, farming information, picnics etc. with lots of Swiss music performances. Alphorn wake up in alpine region etc. Great memories for everyone. So good to see 3rd and 4th generation Swiss actively participating.

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



QLD: Swiss Society of Queensland

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The Swiss Society of Queensland (Swiss Club Qld) is a meeting place for the QLD Swiss community and anyone with a connection to Switzerland.

The QLD Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS) will now operate as a separate group under the umbrella of the Swiss Club Qld.

Our club member and website administrator James Schmidli has been elected as the new President of the Swiss Alliance Australia Inc. Congratulations!

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Our thanks go to our New Zealand friends of the Taranaki and Hamilton Swiss Clubs for organising a great Jass Tournament, with QLD players Walter Muller and Willy Felder achieving great results.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

27/04: Jass Meisterschaft in Brisbane; who will be this year's champion? The social Jass group also meets every 2nd Wednesday evening at the Gallopers Sports Club in Brisbane.

10/05: Fondue Evening, this is a very popular event, please book early.

01/06: Senior Citizens Lunch in Buderim. Our Baerg-Roeseli Yodel group will be entertaining the guests. Email care@swissclubqld.org.au for more info.

21/06: Raclette Evening.

Please refer to our website for more info about our club and events www.swissclubqld.org.au

WA: Swiss Club of WA

We would like to invite you to the traditional Easter Picnic. The picnic is held on Easter Sunday, 20 April, on the club's property in Louisa Circle, Gidgegannup from 10am onwards.

There will be Easter Egg colouring for the children and of course an Easter Egg hunt.

Easter is also a great opportunity for campers to come and enjoy a long weekend on the property and pitch a tent or set up the caravan. There are toilet facilities, a shower, gas BBQ's and the shelter with tables and benches. You will love the tranquillity of the 25-acre bush property.

Toodyay is only a 20-minute drive away and if you have not visited their outdoor pool, you must definitely do so. Lake Leschenaultia is also only 20 minutes away and if you want to experience the freshwater of a Swiss Lake, a swim in the lake is an absolute must.

We are pleased to let you know that the Committee was able to secure the Inglewood Bowling & Sporting Club for

the Fondue on Saturday, 17 May. Bookings will be open closer to the date.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

20/04: Easter Picnic at Gidgegannup.

17/05: Fondue, Inglewood Bowling & Sporting Club.

Please save these dates and look out for upcoming newsletters and information regarding the events closer to the date of each event. If you would like more information on any events visit our website <https://swissclubwa.org/> and follow us on Facebook @ Swiss Club of Western Australia.

Non-members are always welcome to join our events.

NSW: Cercle Romand

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Thank you to all members and friends who participated and contributed to our 'Brunch and Pétanque' event in February. We enjoyed many Swiss specialities, 'gâteau au pruneaux', 'croissants au jambon', 'tresse', 'pissaladière' and many more delighting foods.

We were able to make up 10 teams to compete in the pétanque tournament. As usual it was a friendly competition played with good humour. Congratulation to the winning team, Suzanne and Felix/Christian. In second place, team Claudie and Marcel and in third place, team Katja and Serge.

Our second event for this year will be on 30 March in Leichhardt. To celebrate the French film festival in Sydney, we will go and see a French movie at the Palace Norton Street Cinemas, followed by a late lunch at a local restaurant.

With autumn approaching fast, the 'Raclette at the Park' will take place on 25



May at Fagan Park in Galston. This event is always favoured by our members and we look forward to share a traditional Swiss meal with you.

More information of our scheduled events can be found on our website: www.cercleromand.com.au

NSW: Swiss Club of NSW

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

ADVANCED NOTICE:

100 YEARS SWISS CLUB OF NSW



The Swiss Club of NSW is thrilled to invite all members, honorary, and life members to join us in celebrating the 100th anniversary of our club.

This special celebration will take place on:

Thursday, 5 February 2026
Stranger Room of Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Enjoy an afternoon with refreshments and finger food throughout the event.

Cost is free for members and \$95 for non-members.

The celebration will feature presentations from key State and Government leaders, along with displays showcasing Swiss Club artefacts, historical photos, and other documents from our rich history.

Bookings for this event are now open – please contact our Club President Daniel Frutiger, 0403 502 048, dan.mar04@bigpond.com

We expect a full house and encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to commemorating this historic occasion with you!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

25/05: Buure z'Morge

22/06: AGM, Royal Hotel Leichhardt

NSW: Swiss Yodlers of Sydney

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The Swiss Yodlers of Sydney returned to their weekly singing practices on 10 February, after a successful 2024.

2025 hopes to bring bigger and brighter things, with more performances for the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney. So far, we plan to

have our annual Swiss National Day Celebration at the Castle Hill Showground, Castle Hill, NSW, on Sunday 3 August. More information to be announced at a later date.

Should you wish to learn more about the Swiss Yodlers of Sydney, please refer to our website: <https://swissyodlersofsydney.org/>

NSW: Swiss Community Care Society (SCCS NSW)

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

As I write this, our society, especially the committee, is going through an exciting time and a challenge which some of us haven't experienced for a long time. We are in the process of renovating our house in Berowra. Some people know that this house was a bequest to SCCS in the 1990s. It is a four-bedroom family home which was built by a Swiss stone mason and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Naegeli. A plaque at the entry gate dedicates the place to "Mutter Helvetia", and its address is "Helvetia Avenue". We felt that it was apt to renovate, rather than rebuild, when it became obvious, that something had to be done. After about 60 years of constant use, the many little repairs needed here and there became a burden.

We are so lucky that we found a most sympathetic builder, and an inspection with him just a few days ago revealed that we will end up with a great place, adapted to modern living standards. There will be an en-suite bathroom/toilet upstairs, another additional toilet, new kitchen, reconfigured bathrooms and laundry downstairs and more. Insulation of the roof, well working windows, new balcony and stair case rails (of legal height), fresh paint and more will soon make us feel really proud of what we own.

Once finished, our members will get a chance to look at the house, as an excursion is planned to show them around. This will of course be combined with a nice lunch somewhere. So, watch out for the invitation in about April.

Our events of the year have started with an excursion to Watsons Bay and Lunch at Dunbar House. With 40 people attending we can call it a great success. Please look up our website if you would like to

know what else is planned for the year – www.swissccs.org.au

REGULA SCHEIDEGGER

VIC: Matterhorn Yodel Choir

Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

The year has started well for our Yodel Group! Enthusiastically around 14 singers meet weekly at the home of Beny and Madeline in Upper Ferntree Gully. We are extremely grateful for their continued and valued support. As well as the weekly practice sessions, the ladies in the choir have chosen to have extra practice sessions at the home of Chris, the conductor. As with most things, the more work you put in, the better you get. It's not all hard work. After the voice sessions there is always time for socialising.

Our next Jass Abig is 3rd of May at the Horticulture Centre Jolimont Rd. Forest Hill. Bookings are necessary through Sepp 0425 791 036.

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.

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 animated by members of the Groupe Romand.

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, they meet at 6.30pm at the Swiss Club, in the new restaurant 'Edelwyss' on the first floor, where they converse in French for an hour before enjoying a meal (optional).

For further details, please contact: Remy Favre, 9571 2835, 0412 135 095, remy@favrecranage.com

SwissAward SWISS BUSINESS AWARDS 2024

The SwissCham Business Award Night was held on 20 February at the NSW State Library. It was an exceptional evening celebrating innovation, business success, and the ongoing efforts of Swiss businesses and entrepreneurs in Australia. The event brought together distinguished guests from various sectors including business leaders, entrepreneurs, diplomats, and industry professionals, highlighting Switzerland's integral role in the Australian economy.

The evening commenced with an opening speech by Allison Rossiter, the new Chair of SwissCham, who warmly welcomed all attendees. HE Swiss Ambassador to Australia Nikolas Stürchler held an excellent speech and highlighted the appreciation of the Swiss Government for the Business Awards Night.

The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony. The awards were divided into three key categories, and the Winners for 2024 are:

- **Rising Star Award:** Joshua Houston, MD of Kyburz Electric Vehicles was honoured for their exceptional growth and outstanding reach in the electric vehicle technology industry in Australia
- **Newcomer Award:** Roxane Bandini Maeder, MD and founder of Geoneon for their groundbreaking work in leveraging Earth Observation, AI and Data Fusion to map climate risks and monitor vegetation.
- **Established and overall Swiss Business Winner Award:** Thomas White, PM from Schindler Australia was receiving the Award for the ground breaking robot based R.I.S.E. technology, which allows a safer, faster and more efficient building process in a hightech construction environment.

Congratulations to the winners!

MARTIN SCARPINO
CEO SWISSCHAM


Member, Swiss Alliance Australia Inc.

Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country



In May 2025, the exhibition *Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country* will open in Sydney. Museums of History NSW (MHNSW, considered ‘the home of history’ in NSW) is presenting an overview and examination of the development of the NSW colony after the arrival of British

colonists in the late 18th century and the start of the dispossession of First Nations peoples and their displacement from the land they had been custodians of for 60,000 years.

An important part of this exhibition is a large selection of early Sydney views from the **Beat Knoblauch Collection**, in addition to other significant historical maps, plans, sketches, artworks and various objects.

Beat is well-known in the Swiss community, most notably he is a current delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. His genuine interest in the history and development of Sydney, his new home, started soon after arriving in Australia and he is now the proud owner of a unique private collection of more than 300 engravings, prints, water colours, paintings, photographs and postcard souvenir books, some very rare.

The exhibition *Seeing Sydney, Knowing Country* opens in May at Museum of Sydney, corner Phillip and Bridge streets, Sydney. More on the MHNSW website ➔ <https://bit.ly/4kwcsFd>

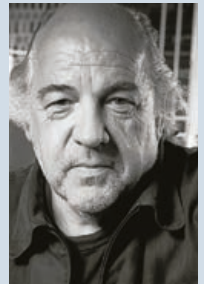


New Zealand relaxed its visa rules in order to attract a larger number of visitors by giving them the possibility to work remotely while touring the country. As of 27 January 2025, visitors can visit New Zealand and work remotely for an overseas employer or client. Making New Zealand more attractive for ‘digital nomads’ should boost the economy, tourism and all the various hospitality related sectors.

More details regarding this change to visitor work rules and the process ➔ <https://bit.ly/4izVpjp>

Honour for Swiss artist

Artist Edmond Thommen is Swiss-born and Sydney-based, and describes himself, first and foremost, as a Photographic Artist. His name now stands alongside some of Australia’s most celebrated painters, photographers, and sculptors making art in 2025.



Edmond has been included on the list of ‘**Top 100 Hottest Collectable Artists**’ showcasing leading collectable artists, who are excelling in today’s art scene. These artists have made a significant impact through recent exhibitions, award nominations, and a strong presence in mainstream and social media, gaining both commercial success and critical recognition in a competitive art market.

➔ www.thommenart.com.au

➔ www.top100artists.com/our-year-s-hottest-artists



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REGIONAL NEWS OCEANIA

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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:



www.swiss.org.nz



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

www.swissallianceaustralia.org